

the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: February 9, 2015.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2015-03106 Filed 2-13-15; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC15-1-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-598 & FERC-716); Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

**ACTION:** Comment request.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is submitting its information collections FERC-598 (Self-Certification for Entities Seeking Exempt Wholesale Generator Status or Foreign Utility Company Status) and FERC-716 [Good Faith Requests for Transmission Service and Good Faith Responses by Transmitting Utilities Under Sections 211(a) and 213(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA)] to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review of the information collection requirements. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission previously issued a Notice in the **Federal Register** (79 FR 68424, 11/17/2014) requesting public comments. The Commission received no comments on either the FERC-598 or the FERC-716 and is making this notation in its submittal to OMB.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by March 19, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments filed with OMB, identified either by the OMB Control No. 1902-0166 (FERC-598) or 1902-0170 (FERC-716) should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs: *oira\_submission@omb.gov*. Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. The Desk Officer may also be reached via telephone at 202-395-4718.

A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Commission, in Docket

No. IC15-1-000, by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's Web site:* <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/e-filing.asp>.
- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

**Instructions:** All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submit-guide.asp>. For user assistance contact FERC Online Support by email at *ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov*, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

**Docket:** Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ellen Brown may be reached by email at *DataClearance@FERC.gov*, by telephone at (202) 502-8663, and by fax at (202) 273-0873.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Type of Request:** Three-year extension of the information collection requirements for all collections described below with no changes to the current reporting requirements. Please note that each collection is distinct from the next.

**Comments:** Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the collections of information are necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collections of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collections; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

#### FERC-598 (Self-Certification for Entities Seeking Exempt Wholesale Generator Status or Foreign Utility Company Status)

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-0166.

**Abstract:** The Commission uses the data in the FERC-598 information collection to implement the statutory provisions of Title XII, subchapter F of

the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005).<sup>1</sup>

EPAct 2005 repealed the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (PUHCA 1935) in its entirety, and adopted in its place the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005 (PUHCA 2005). This change enabled the Commission to exempt from the requirements of PUHCA 2005 the holding companies that hold responsibility over wholesale generators from PUHCA 2005 on a case-by-case basis. The Commission amended its regulations (in Order No. 667<sup>2</sup>) to add procedures for self-certification by entities seeking exempt wholesale generator (EWG) and Foreign Utility Company (FUCO) status. This self-certification is similar to the process available to entities that seek qualifying facility status.

An EWG is a "person engaged directly, or indirectly through one or more affiliates . . . and exclusively in the business of owning or operating, or both owning and operating, all or part of one or more eligible facilities and selling electric energy at wholesale."<sup>3</sup> A FUCO is a company that "owns or operates facilities that are not located in any state and that are used for the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale or the distribution at retail of natural or manufactured gas for heat, light, or power, if such company: (1) Derives no part of its income, directly or indirectly, from the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale or the distribution at retail of natural or manufactured gas for heat, light, or power, within the United States; and (2) neither the company nor any of its subsidiary companies is a public-utility company operating in the United States."

An EWG, FUCO, or its representative seeking to self-certify its status must file with the Commission a notice of self-certification demonstrating that it satisfies the definition of EWG or FUCO. In the case of EWGs, the person filing a notice of self-certification must also file a copy of the notice of self-certification with the state regulatory authority of the state in which the facility is located and that person must also represent to the Commission in its

<sup>1</sup> Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law 109-58, 119 Stat. 594 (2005).

<sup>2</sup> *Repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 and Enactment of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005*, 70 FR 75592 (2005), order on rehearing, Order 667-A, 71 FR 28446 (2006), order on rehearing, Order 667-B, 71 FR 42750 (2006), order on rehearing, Order 667-C, 71 FR 61133 (2007).

<sup>3</sup> 18 CFR 366.1.

submission that it has filed a copy of the notice with the appropriate state regulatory authority.<sup>4</sup>

Submission of the information collected by FERC-598 is necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under EPAct 2005.<sup>5</sup> The

Commission implements its responsibilities through the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 18 Part 366. These filing requirements are mandatory for entities seeking to self-certify their EWG or FUCO status.

*Type of Respondent:* EWGs and FUCOs.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

**FERC-598 (SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR ENTITIES SEEKING EXEMPT WHOLESALE GENERATOR STATUS OR FOREIGN UTILITY COMPANY STATUS)**

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1)*(2) = (3)	Average burden & cost per response <sup>6</sup> (4)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (3)*(4) = (5)	Cost per respondent \$ (5) ÷ (1)
EWGs/FUCOs .....	102	1	102	6 \$423	612 \$43,146	\$423

<sup>6</sup> The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response.

\* \$70.50 per Hour = Average Cost per Response. The cost per hour figure is the FERC average salary plus benefits. Subject matter experts found that industry employment costs closely resemble FERC's regarding the FERC-598 information collection.

**FERC-716, [Good Faith Requests for Transmission Service and Good Faith Responses by Transmitting Utilities Under Sections 211(a) and 213(a) of the Federal Power Act (FPA)]<sup>7</sup>**

*OMB Control No.:* 1902-0170.

*Abstract:* The Commission uses the information collected under the requirements of FERC-716 to implement the statutory provisions of Sections 211 and Section 213 of the Federal Power Act as amended and added by the Energy Policy Act 1992. FERC-716 also includes the requirement to file a Section 211 request

if the negotiations between the transmission requestor and the transmitting utility are unsuccessful. For the initial process, the information is not filed with the Commission. However, the request and response may be analyzed as a part of a Section 211 action. The Commission may order transmission services under the authority of FPA 211.

The Commission's regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 18 CFR 2.20, provide standards by which the Commission determines if and when a valid good faith request for transmission has been made under

section 211 of the FPA. By developing the standards, the Commission sought to encourage an open exchange of data with a reasonable degree of specificity and completeness between the party requesting transmission services and the transmitting utility. As a result, 18 CFR 2.20 identifies 12 components of a good faith estimate and 5 components of a reply to a good faith request.

*Type of Respondent:* Transmission Requestors and Transmitting Utilities.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:* The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

**FERC-716 (GOOD FAITH REQUESTS FOR TRANSMISSION SERVICE AND GOOD FAITH RESPONSES BY TRANSMITTING UTILITIES UNDER SECTIONS 211(a) AND 213(a) OF THE FEDERAL POWER ACT (FPA))**

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average burden and cost per response <sup>8</sup> (4)	Total annual burden hours and total annual cost (3)*(4)=(5)	Cost per respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)
Information exchange between parties .....	3	1	3	100 \$7050	300 \$21,150	7050
Application submitted to FERC if parties' negotiations are unsuccessful .....	3	1	3	2.5 \$176.25	7.5 \$528.75	176.25
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>307.5 \$21,678.75</b>	<b>7,226.25</b>

Dated: February 11, 2015.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

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<sup>4</sup> 18 CFR 366.7.

<sup>5</sup> 42 U.S.C. 16451 *et seq.*

<sup>7</sup> Previously titled "Transmission Services (Good Faith Request, Response by Transmitting Utility,

and Application) under Sections 211 and 213a of the Federal Power Act".

<sup>8</sup> The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response \* \$70.50 per Hour = Average Cost per

Response. The cost per hour figure is the FERC average salary plus benefits. Subject matter experts found that industry employment costs closely resemble FERC's regarding the FERC-716 information collection.