

on its Web site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/Cotton>. Importers who favor the conduct of a continuance referendum can download a form from the Web site, or request a sign-up form by contacting [CottonRP@ams.usda.gov](mailto:CottonRP@ams.usda.gov) or (540) 361-2726 and one will be provided to them. Importers may participate in the sign-up period by submitting a signed, written request for a continuance referendum, along with a copy of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection form 7501 showing payment of a cotton assessment for calendar year 2014. The USDA, AMS, Cotton and Tobacco Program, Attention: Cotton Sign-Up, P.O. Box 23181, Washington, DC 20077-8249 shall be considered the polling place for all cotton importers. All requests and supporting documents must be received by August 14, 2015.

(c) Each person on the county FSA office lists may participate in the sign-up period. Eligible producers must date and sign their name on the "County FSA Office Sign-up Sheet." A person whose name does not appear on the county FSA office list may participate in the sign-up period. Such person must be identified on FSA-578 during the representative period or provide documentation that demonstrates that the person was a cotton producer during the representative period. Cotton producers not listed on the FSA-578 shall submit at least one sales receipt for cotton they planted during the representative period. Cotton producers must make requests to the county FSA office where the producer's farm is located. If the producer's land is in more than one county, the producer shall make request at the county office where FSA administratively maintains and processes the producer's farm records. It is the responsibility of the person to provide the information needed by the county FSA office to determine eligibility. It is not the responsibility of the county FSA office to obtain this information. If any person whose name does not appear on the county FSA office list fails to provide at least one sales receipt for the cotton they produced during the representative period, the county FSA office shall determine that such person is ineligible to participate in the sign-up period, and

shall note "ineligible" in the remarks section next to the person's name on the county FSA office sign-up sheet. In lieu of personally appearing at a county FSA office, eligible producers may request a sign-up form from the county FSA office where the producer's farm is located. If the producer's land is in more than one county, the producer shall make the request for the sign-up form at the county office where FSA administratively maintains and processes the producer's farm records. Such request must be accompanied by a copy of at least one sales receipt for cotton they produced during the representative period. The appropriate FSA office must receive all completed forms and supporting documentation by August 14, 2015.

■ 5. In § 1205.28, the first sentence is revised to read as follows:

**§ 1205.28 Counting.**

County FSA offices and FSA, Deputy Administrator for Field Operations (DAFO), shall begin counting requests no later than August 14, 2015. \* \* \*

■ 6. Section 1205.29 is revised to read as follows:

**§ 1205.29 Reporting results.**

(a) Each county FSA office shall prepare and transmit to the state FSA office, by August 21, 2015, a written report of the number of eligible producers who requested the conduct of a referendum, and the number of ineligible persons who made requests.

(b) DAFO shall prepare, by August 21, 2015, a written report of the number of eligible importers who requested the conduct of a referendum, and the number of ineligible persons who made requests.

(c) Each state FSA office shall, by August 21, 2015, forward all county reports to DAFO. By August 28, 2015, DAFO shall forward its report of the total number of eligible producers and importers that requested a continuance referendum, through the sign-up period, to the Deputy Administrator, Cotton and Tobacco Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, 100 Riverside Parkway, Suite 101, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22406.

**Authority:** 7 U.S.C. 2101-2118.

Dated: June 18, 2015.

**Rex A. Barnes,**

*Associate Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2015-15423 Filed 6-23-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-02-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**18 CFR Part 385**

[Docket No. RM15-5-000; Order No. 811]

**Revised Exhibit Submission Requirements for Commission Hearings**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** In this Final Rule, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is amending Rule 508 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure to eliminate the requirement that participants in Commission trial-type evidentiary hearings must provide paper copies of all exhibits introduced as evidence. The Final Rule will facilitate a shift toward electronic hearing procedures which should improve the efficiency and administrative convenience of the Commission hearing process, reduce the burden and expense associated with paper exhibits, and facilitate the compilation and transmittal of the hearing record to the Commission in electronic format.

**DATES:** This rule will become effective July 24, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karin Herzfeld, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426, Telephone: (202) 502-8459.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Order No. 811**

**Final Rule**

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Paragraph Nos.

1. In this Final Rule, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is amending Rule 508 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure<sup>1</sup> to eliminate the requirement that participants in Commission trial-type evidentiary hearings must provide paper copies of all exhibits introduced as evidence. The Commission is amending section 385.508 of the Commission's regulations by removing paragraph (a)(2) and redesignating paragraph (a)(3) as paragraph (a)(2). While still retaining the option to provide exhibits in paper form, the Final Rule will facilitate a shift toward electronic hearing procedures which should improve the efficiency and administrative convenience of the Commission hearing process, reduce the burden and expense associated with paper exhibits, and facilitate the compilation and transmittal of the hearing record to the Commission in electronic format.

### I. Background

2. The Federal government has set a goal to substitute electronic means of communication and information storage for paper. For example, the Government Paperwork Elimination Act directed agencies to provide for the optional use and acceptance of electronic documents and signatures, and electronic record-keeping, where practical.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130 required agencies to use electronic information collection techniques, where such means will reduce the burden on the public, increase efficiency, reduce costs, and help provide better service.

3. On September 21, 2000, the Commission issued Order No. 619, which implemented the use of the Internet for submission of certain documents to the Commission for filing.<sup>3</sup> The eFiling system plays an important role in the Commission's efforts to comply with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act's requirement that agencies provide the option to submit information electronically, when practicable, as a substitute for paper.<sup>4</sup> Filing via the Internet is optional for eligible documents.<sup>5</sup> Since issuing Order No. 619, the Commission has greatly expanded its ability to accept electronically filed material, including interventions, protests, rehearings,

complaints, and applications for certificates and licenses.<sup>6</sup> In 2008, the Commission further implemented a system for electronic tariff filing.<sup>7</sup> Consistent with these prior efforts to provide electronic filing options, on March 19, 2015, the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to eliminate the requirement that all exhibits introduced at Commission hearings must be provided in paper form. In response to the NOPR, the Commission received comments from the New York Transmission Owners,<sup>8</sup> stating that they support the Commission's proposed elimination of the requirement to provide paper copies of exhibits introduced during evidentiary hearings, and that they agree with the Commission that this would improve the efficiency and administrative convenience of the Commission hearing process as well as reduce the substantial burden and expense associated with providing paper copies of exhibits.

### II. Discussion

4. Section 385.508 of the Commission's regulations currently requires that "[a]ny participant who seeks to have an exhibit admitted into evidence must provide one copy of the exhibit to the presiding officer and two copies to the reporter, not later than the time that the exhibit is marked for identification."<sup>9</sup> Under current practice, the court reporter assigns Exhibit Numbers to the paper copies and provides the paper copies to the Commission's Docket Branch to be scanned into the Commission's eLibrary system. Copies of all exhibits and motions that are not pre-filed must also be provided to all participants at the hearing.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See *Electronic Registration*, Order No. 891, 67 FR 52,406 (Aug. 12, 2002), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,132 (2002); *Electronic Filing of FERC Form 1, and Elimination of Certain Designated Schedules in Form Nos. 1 and 1F*, Order No. 626, 67 FR 36,093 (May 23, 2002), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,130 (2002); *Electronic Service of Documents*, 66 FR 50,591 (Oct. 4, 2001), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 35,539 (2001); *Revised Public Utility Filing Requirements*, Order No. 2001, 67 FR 31,043 (May 8, 2002), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,127 (2002); *Filing Via the Internet*, Order No. 703, 72 FR 65,659 (Nov. 23, 2007), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,259 (2007).

<sup>7</sup> *Electronic Tariff Filings*, Order No. 714, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,276 (2008).

<sup>8</sup> The New York Transmission Owners consist of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., New York Power Authority, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid, Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc., Power Supply Long Island, and Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

<sup>9</sup> 18 CFR 385.508(2).

<sup>10</sup> 18 CFR 385.510(d).

5. The administrative law judges recently adopted a revised practice for handling exhibits and creating the Exhibit List that removes the need for providing paper copies at the hearing. Under this policy, within seven days of the end of the hearing, participants must file (via eFiling) a "Joint Exhibit List" and each sponsoring party must file (via eFiling) the "Official Copies" of each exhibit that was offered into evidence and admitted or rejected.<sup>11</sup> Thus, it is no longer necessary or efficient to require all participants to provide the presiding judge and court reporter with paper copies of each exhibit introduced at the hearing.

6. In this Final Rule, the Commission is therefore eliminating the requirement that participants provide one paper copy of each exhibit to the presiding officer and two paper copies to the court reporter.<sup>12</sup> This Final Rule represents a continuation of the Commission's efforts to implement the goal of substituting electronic means of communication and information storage for paper means. The Final Rule should save resources because participants will no longer be required to make multiple paper copies of all exhibits that they intend to submit into evidence. The Final Rule also will facilitate the presiding judge's compilation and transmittal of the hearing record to the Commission in electronic format.

### III. Information Collection Statement

7. Certain collections of information are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under section 3507(d) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).<sup>13</sup> OMB's regulations require OMB to approve certain information collection requirements imposed by agency rule.<sup>14</sup> This Final Rule does not contain any information collection requirements, as defined under section 3502(3) of the

<sup>11</sup> See *Notice to the Public, Procedures for Handling Exhibits and Developing the Electronic Hearing Record* (issued December 12, 2014), <http://www.ferc.gov/media/headlines/2014/2014-4/12-12-14-notice.pdf>.

All electronically-filed exhibits must comply with eFiling file format requirements. See *Filing Via the Internet*, Order No. 703, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,259 at P 33.

For exhibits that have not previously been provided to the participants, such exhibits must still be provided to the participants at the hearing. See 18 CFR 385.510(d).

<sup>12</sup> Most participants file pre-filed testimony and exhibits electronically via the eFiling system before the hearing. The presiding judge in each case will continue to determine how participants exchange exhibits brought to the hearing. See 18 CFR 385.504(b)(1), (4).

<sup>13</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3507(d).

<sup>14</sup> 5 CFR 1320.12.

<sup>1</sup> 18 CFR 385.508.

<sup>2</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3504.

<sup>3</sup> *Electronic Filing of Documents*, Order No. 619, 65 FR 57088 (Sept. 21, 2000), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,107 (2000).

<sup>4</sup> 44 U.S.C. 3504.

<sup>5</sup> 18 CFR 385.2001(a).

PRA, and compliance with the OMB regulations is thus not required.

#### IV. Environmental Analysis

8. The Commission is required to prepare an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement for any action that may have a significant adverse effect on the human environment.<sup>15</sup> This action has been categorically excluded under section 380.4(a)(2)(ii), addressing procedural rules.<sup>16</sup>

#### V. Regulatory Flexibility Act

9. The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA)<sup>17</sup> generally requires a description and analysis of rules that will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This Final Rule concerns procedural matters and is expected to reduce the burden and expense associated with paper exhibits and improve the efficiency and administrative convenience of the Commission hearing process.

10. Accordingly, the Commission certifies that this Final Rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. An analysis under the RFA is not required.

#### VI. Document Availability

11. In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the Internet through the Commission's Home Page (<http://www.ferc.gov>) and in the Commission's Public Reference Room during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time) at 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426.

12. From the Commission's Home Page on the Internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field.

13. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the Commission's Web site during normal business hours from the Commission's Online Support at (202) 502-6652 (toll free at 1-866-208-3676) or email at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov),

or the Public Reference Room at (202) 502-8371, TTY (202) 502-8659. Email the Public Reference Room at [public.referenceroom@ferc.gov](mailto:public.referenceroom@ferc.gov).

#### VII. Effective Date and Congressional Notification

14. This Final Rule is effective July 24, 2015. The Commission has determined, with the concurrence of the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, that this rule is not a "major rule" as defined in section 351 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.<sup>18</sup> This Final Rule is being submitted to the Senate, House, and Government Accountability Office.

#### List of Subjects in 18 CFR Part 385

Exhibits.

By the Commission.  
Issued: June 18, 2015.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

In consideration of the foregoing, the Commission amends Part 385, Chapter I, Title 18, *Code of Federal Regulations*, as follows.

#### PART 385—RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

■ 1. The authority citation for Part 385 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 551-557; 15 U.S.C. 717-717z, 3301-3432; 16 U.S.C. 792-828c, 2601-2645; 28 U.S.C. 2461; 31 U.S.C. 3701, 9701; 42 U.S.C. 7101-7352, 16441, 16451-16463; 49 U.S.C. 60502; 49 App. U.S.C. 1-85 (1988).

■ 2. Section 385.508 is amended by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

#### § 385.508 Exhibits (Rule 508).

(a) *General rules.* (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) through (e) of this section, any material offered in evidence, other than oral testimony, must be offered in the form of an exhibit.

(2) The presiding officer will cause each exhibit offered by a participant to be marked for identification.

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2015-15431 Filed 6-23-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### 22 CFR Part 238

#### Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Loan Guarantees Issued Under the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015—Standard Terms and Conditions

**AGENCY:** Agency for International Development (USAID).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This regulation prescribes the procedures and standard terms and conditions applicable to loan guarantees to be issued for the benefit of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan pursuant to Section 7034(r) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015.

**DATES:** Effective June 23, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** D. Bruce McPherson, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, DC 20523-6601; tel. 202-712-1611, fax 202-216-3055.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Section 7034(r) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (Div. J, Pub. L. 113-235), the United States of America, acting through the U.S. Agency for International Development, may issue certain loan guarantees applicable to sums borrowed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (the "Borrower"), not exceeding an aggregate total of U.S. \$1.5 billion in principal amount. Upon issuance, the loan guarantees shall ensure the Borrower's repayment of 100% of principal and interest due under such loans, and the full faith and credit of the United States of America shall be pledged for the full payment and performance of such guarantee obligations.

This rulemaking document is not subject to rulemaking under 5 U.S.C. 553 or to regulatory review under Executive Order 12866 because it involves a foreign affairs function of the United States. The provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) do not apply.

#### List of Subjects in 22 CFR Part 238

Foreign aid, Foreign relations, Guaranteed loans, Loan programs—foreign relations.

<sup>15</sup> *Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, Order No. 486, 52 FR 47897 (Dec. 17, 1987), FERC Stats. & Regs. Preambles 1986-1990 ¶ 30,783 (1987).

<sup>16</sup> 18 CFR 380.4(a)(2)(ii).

<sup>17</sup> 5 U.S.C. 601-12.

<sup>18</sup> 5 U.S.C. 804(2).