DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC17–1–000]

Commission Information Collection Activities; Comment Request for Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Commission Service Delivery

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Comment request.

SUMMARY: As part of a Federal Government-wide effort to streamline the process to seek feedback from the public on service delivery, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the Commission or FERC) is coordinating the development of the following proposed Generic Information Collection Request (ICR): FERC–153, “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Commission Service Delivery” for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). This notice announces that FERC intends to submit this collection to OMB for approval and solicits comments on specific aspects for the proposed information collection.

Previously, the Commission previously published a 60-day notice in the Federal Register on October 12, 2016 and received no comments.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by February 3, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Comments filed with OMB, identified by the Docket No. IC17–1–000, 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. IC17–1–000, by either of the following methods:


Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp. For user assistance contact

1 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces that FERC intends to submit this collection to OMB for approval and solicits comments on specific aspects for the proposed information collection. Previously, the Commission previously published a 60-day notice in the Federal Register (81 FR 70402, 10/12/2016) and received no comments.

Title: FERC–153, Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Commission Service Delivery.

OMB Control No.: To be determined.

Type of Request: New generic information collection.

Abstract: The proposed information collection provides a means to garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Administration’s commitment to improving service delivery. By qualitative feedback, we mean data that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences, and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. This collection will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between FERC and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as: Timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses will be assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Commission’s services will be unavailable.

The Commission will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

• The collections are voluntary;

• The collections are low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;

• The collections are non-controversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;

• The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;

• Personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained;

• Information gathered is intended to be used only internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for release outside of the Commission (if released, the Commission must indicate the qualitative nature of the information);

• Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and

• Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collections will not be designed or expected to yield statistically reliable results or used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance provides useful information, but it does not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior to fielding the study.

As a general matter, this information collection will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. The Commission generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by the OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information which does not display a valid OMB Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320. OMB authorization for an information collection cannot be for more than three years without renewal.

Type of Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals and households; Businesses or other for-profit and not-for-profit organizations; State, Local, or Tribal government.

Estimate of Annual Burden: The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden and cost for the information collection as:
Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the collection of information is 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 estimate of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.


Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016–31662 Filed 1–3–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Southwestern Power Administration

Integrated System Rate Schedule

AGENCY: Southwestern Power Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Notice of Rate Order.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Secretary has approved and placed into effect on an interim basis Rate Order No. SWPA–71, which provides the following Integrated System Non-Federal Transmission Service (NFTS) Rate Schedule: Rate Schedule NFTS–13A. Wholesale Rates for Non-Federal Transmission Service.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Marshall Boyken, Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Corporate Operations, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103, (918) 595–6646, marshall.boyken@swpa.gov, or facsimile transmission (918) 595–6646.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Delegation Order Nos. 00–037.00A, effective October 25, 2013, and 00–001.00F, effective November 17, 2014, Rate Order No. SWPA–71, is approved and placed into effect on an interim basis for the period January 1, 2017, through September 30, 2017, pursuant to the following rate schedule: Rate Schedule NFTS–13A, Wholesale Rates for Non-Federal Transmission Service, which supersedes the existing Rate Schedule NFTS–13, Wholesale Rates for Non-Federal Transmission Service.

Southwestern Power Administration’s (Southwestern) Administrator has determined that an additional section within Southwestern’s Integrated System NFTS Rate Schedule is necessary to better align Southwestern’s rate schedule with standard practices utilized by the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) Regional Transmission Organization. The new section 2.3.6 establishes a procedure for determining an Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) for customers that choose to contract for Network Integration Transmission Service (NITS) on Southwestern’s transmission system pursuant to the SPP Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT).

The NFTS–13 Rate Schedule included a stated rate for NITS that is calculated by dividing Southwestern’s monthly revenue requirement, derived from Southwestern’s NFTS ARR identified within the Southwestern 2013 Integrated System Power Repayment Studies (PRS), by the net transmission capacity available for NITS. Modifying Southwestern’s rate schedule to include an ARR for SPP NITS, rather than applying a stated rate better aligns with standard practices utilized by SPP. Therefore, in place of applying the NITS stated rate for SPP NITS on Southwestern’s transmission system, the proposed Section 2.3.6 includes a procedure for determining and updating an SPP NITS ARR, as a portion of Southwestern’s NFTS ARR, based on the amount of revenue assumed to be recovered on an annual basis from NITS customers in each approved PRS. If additional customers choose to contract for SPP NITS on Southwestern’s transmission system, the new Section 2.3.6 methodology updates the SPP NITS ARR. The title of the NFTS–13 Rate Schedule was changed to NFTS–13A to reflect the addition of Section 2.3.6.

The Southwestern 2013 PRS indicated that rates (total Southwestern NFTS ARR) prescribed by NFTS–13, Wholesale Rates for Non-Federal Transmission Service, as approved in Docket No. EF14–1–000, for the period October 1, 2013, through September 30, 2017, are sufficient to meet repayment criteria and will have no impact on the amortization or status of repayment forecasted in the Southwestern 2013 PRS and will not require rate changes. Revenues based on current rates remain sufficient to meet repayment criteria.

The Southwestern Administrator has followed Title 10, Part 903, Subpart A of the Code of Federal Regulations, “Procedures for Public Participation in Power and Transmission Rate Adjustments and Extensions,” in connection with the rate schedule revisions. The public was advised by notice published in the Federal Register (81 FR 75814), November 1, 2016, of the proposed rate schedule change and of the opportunity to provide written comments for a period of 30 days ending December 1, 2016. One customer provided comments during the period of public participation related to the proposed rate schedule change, which consisted of some clarifying questions that Southwestern answered and one comment on phrasing that Southwestern acknowledged.

Information regarding this rate proposal, including studies and other supporting material, and comments received is available for public review in the offices of Southwestern Power Administration, Williams Tower I, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103.

Following review of Southwestern’s proposal within the Department of Energy, I approve Rate Order No. SWPA–71.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL BURDEN FOR GENERIC CLEARANCE

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