

time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf>. For other information, call (866) 208-3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502-8659.

Dated: March 28, 2017.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2017-06467 Filed 3-31-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP17-76-000]

#### Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

Take notice that on March 15, 2017, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern), 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, filed in Docket No. CP17-76-000 a prior notice request pursuant to sections 157.205, 157.208, and 157.216 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) and Northern's blanket authorizations issued in Docket No. CP82-401-000. Northern seeks authorization to (1) install and operate a compressor station and (2) abandon segments of pipeline, all as more fully set forth in the application which is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection. The filing may also be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or call toll-free, (866) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659.

Northern proposes to install and operate a new 15,900-horsepower (HP) compressor station (Lake Mills Compressor Station) in Worth County, Iowa. Additionally, Northern proposes to abandon approximately 60 feet of pipe from both the D- and E-lines to facilitate tie-ins. Northern states that the facilities proposed herein constitute a discrete, stand-alone project under the large umbrella of the Northern Lights

expansion plan. The total cost is approximately \$30,500,000.

Any questions regarding this Application should be directed to Michael T Loeffler, Senior Director, Certificates and External Affairs for Northern, 1111 South 103rd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, by phone (402) 398-7103, by fax (402) 398-7592, or by email at [mike.loeffler@nngco.com](mailto:mike.loeffler@nngco.com).

Any person or the Commission's Staff may, within 60 days after the issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and, pursuant to section 157.205 of the Commission's Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefore, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to section 7 of the NGA.

Pursuant to section 157.9 of the Commission's rules, 18 CFR 157.9, within 90 days of this Notice the Commission staff will either: Complete its environmental assessment (EA) and place it into the Commission's public record (eLibrary) for this proceeding, or issue a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review. If a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review is issued, it will indicate, among other milestones, the anticipated date for the Commission staff's issuance of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) or EA for this proposal. The filing of the EA in the Commission's public record for this proceeding or the issuance of a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review will serve to notify federal and state agencies of the timing for the completion of all necessary reviews, and the subsequent need to complete all federal authorizations within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff's FEIS or EA.

Persons who wish to comment only on the environmental review of this project should submit an original and two copies of their comments to the Secretary of the Commission. Environmental commenters will be placed on the Commission's environmental mailing list, will receive copies of the environmental documents, and will be notified of meetings associated with the Commission's environmental review process. Environmental commenters will not be required to serve copies of filed

documents on all other parties.

However, the non-party commenters will not receive copies of all documents filed by other parties or issued by the Commission (except for the mailing of environmental documents issued by the Commission) and will not have the right to seek court review of the Commission's final order.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests, and interventions via the internet in lieu of paper. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a) (1) (iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the "e-Filing" link. Persons unable to file electronically should submit an original and 5 copies of the protest or intervention to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Dated: March 24, 2017.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2017-06419 Filed 3-31-17; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC17-9-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-510, FERC-520, FERC-561, and FERC-583); Consolidated Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collections and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the requirements and burden of the information collections described below.

**DATES:** Comments on the collections of information are due June 2, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC17-9-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's Web site:* <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>.

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Please reference the specific collection number and/or title in your comments.

**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 FERC Online Support by email at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto: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](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), telephone at (202) 502-8663, and 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-510 [Application for Surrender of a Hydropower License]**

**OMB Control No.: 1902-0068**

**Abstract:** The information collected under the requirements of FERC-510 is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of sections 4(e), 6 and 13 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 797(e), 799, and 806). Section 4(e) gives the Commission authority to issue licenses for the purposes of constructing, operating and maintaining dams, water conduits, reservoirs, powerhouses, transmission lines or other power project works necessary or convenient for developing and improving navigation, transmission and utilization of power using bodies of water over which Congress has jurisdiction. Section 6 gives the Commission the authority to prescribe the conditions of licenses including the revocation or surrender of the license. Section 13 defines the Commission's authority to delegate time periods for when a license must be terminated if project construction has not begun.

Surrender of a license may be desired by a licensee when a licensed project is retired or not constructed or natural catastrophes have damaged or destroyed the project facilities.

FERC-510 is the application for the surrender of a hydropower license. The information is used by Commission staff to determine the broad impact of such surrender. The Commission will issue a notice soliciting comments from the public and other agencies and conduct a careful review of the application before issuing an order for Surrender of a License. The order is the result of an analysis of the information produced (*i.e.*, dam safety, public safety, and environmental concerns, etc.), which is examined to determine whether any conditions must be satisfied before granting the surrender. The order implements the existing regulations and is inclusive for surrender of all types of hydropower licenses issued by FERC and its predecessor, the Federal Power Commission. The Commission implements these mandatory filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR 6.1 through 6.4.

**Type of Respondent:** Private or Municipal Hydropower Licensees.

**Estimate of Annual Burden:**<sup>1</sup> The Commission estimates the total annual burden and cost<sup>2</sup> for this information collection as follows:

**FERC-510 APPLICATION FOR SURRENDER OF A HYDROPOWER LICENSE**

| Number of respondents | Annual number of responses per respondent | Total number of responses | Average burden and cost per response | Total annual burden hours and total annual cost | Cost per respondent (\$) |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| (1)                   | (2)                                       | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                  | (3) * (4) = (5)                                 | (5) ÷ (1)                |
| 14 .....              | 1   | 14                        | 80 hrs.; <sup>3</sup> \$6,120 .....  | 1,120 hrs.; \$85,680 ...                        | \$6,120                  |

**FERC-520 [Application for Authority To Hold Interlocking Directorate Positions]**

**OMB Control No.: 1902-0083**

**Abstract:** The Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA), mandates federal oversight and approval of certain electric corporate activities to ensure that neither public nor private interests are adversely affected. Accordingly, the FPA proscribes related information

filing requirements to achieve this goal. Such filing requirements are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), specifically in 18 CFR part 45, and serve as the basis for FERC-520.

FERC-520 is divided into two types of applications: Full and informational. The full application, as specified in 18 CFR 45.8, implements the FPA requirement under section 305(b) that it is unlawful for any person to concurrently hold the positions of officer or director of more than one public utility; or a public utility and a

financial institution that is authorized to underwrite or participate in the marketing of public utility securities; or a public utility and an electrical equipment supplier to that public utility, unless authorized by order of the Commission. In order to obtain authorization, an applicant must demonstrate that neither public nor private interests will be adversely affected by the holding of the position. The full application provides the

<sup>1</sup> "Burden" is the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For additional information, refer to Title 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

<sup>2</sup> The Commission staff thinks that the average respondent for this collection is similarly situated to the Commission, in terms of salary plus benefits. Based upon FERC's 2017 annual average of \$158,754 (for salary plus benefits), the average hourly cost is \$76.50/hour.

<sup>3</sup> Based on additional information, we are revising the estimated average burden per response to 80 hours (rather than 10 hours). The reporting requirements have not changed.

Commission with information about any interlocking position for which the applicant seeks authorization including, but not limited to, a description of duties and the estimated time devoted to the position.

An informational application, specified in 18 CFR 45.9, allows an applicant to receive automatic authorization for an interlocked position upon receipt of the filing by the Commission. The informational application applies only to those individuals who seek authorization as: (1) An officer or director of two or more public utilities where the same holding company owns, directly or indirectly, that percentage of each utility's stock (of

whatever class or classes) which is required by each utility's by-laws to elect directors; (2) an officer or director of two public utilities, if one utility is owned, wholly or in part, by the other and, as its primary business, owns or operates transmission or generation facilities to provide transmission service or electric power for sale to its owners; or (3) an officer or director of more than one public utility, if such person is already authorized under part 45 to hold different positions as officer or director of those utilities where the interlock involves affiliated public utilities.

Pursuant to 18 CFR 45.5, in the event that an applicant resigns or withdraws from Commission-authorized

interlocked positions or is not re-elected or re-appointed to such interlocked positions, the Commission requires that the applicant submit a notice of change within 30 days from the date of the change.

*Type of Respondents:* Individuals who plan to concurrently become officers or directors of public utilities and of certain other covered entities must request authorization to hold such interlocking positions by submitting a FERC-520.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>1</sup> The Commission estimates the total annual burden and cost<sup>2</sup> for this information collection as follows:

#### FERC-520 APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO HOLD INTERLOCKING DIRECTORATE POSITIONS

|                        | Number of respondents | Annual number of responses per respondent | Total number of responses | Average burden and cost per response | Total annual burden hours (total annual cost) | Cost per respondent (\$) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|                        | (1)                   | (2)                                       | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                  | (3) * (4) = (5)                               | (5) ÷ (1)                |
| Full .....             | 16                    | 1   | 16                        | 50 hrs.; \$3,825 .....               | 800 hrs.; \$61,200 .....                      | \$3,825                  |
| Informational .....    | 500                   | 1   | 500                       | 8 hrs.; \$612 .....                  | 4,000 hrs.; \$306,000 .....                   | 612                      |
| Notice of Change ..... | 200                   | 1   | 200                       | 0.25 hrs.; \$19.13 .....             | 50 hrs.; \$3,825 .....                        | 19.13                    |
| Total .....            |                       |   |                           |                                      | 4,850 hrs.; \$371,025 .....                   |                          |

#### FERC-561 [Annual Report of Interlocking Positions]

OMB Control No.: 1902-0099

*Abstract:* The FERC Form 561 responds to the FPA requirements for annual reporting of similar types of positions which public utility officers and directors hold with financial institutions, insurance companies, utility equipment and fuel providers, and with any of an electric utility's 20 largest purchasers of electric energy (i.e., the 20 entities with high expenditures of electricity). The FPA

specifically defines most of the information elements in the Form 561 including the information that must be filed, the required filers, the directive to make the information available to the public, and the filing deadline.

The Commission uses the information required by 18 CFR 131.31 and collected by the Form 561 to implement the FPA requirement that those who are authorized to hold interlocked directorates annually disclose all the interlocked positions held within the prior year. The Form 561 data identifies persons holding interlocking positions

between public utilities and other entities, allows the Commission to review these interlocking positions, and allows identification of possible conflicts of interest.

*Type of Respondents:* Public utility officers and directors holding financial positions, insurance companies, security underwriters, electrical equipment suppliers, fuel provider, and any entity which is controlled by these.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>1</sup> The Commission estimates the total annual burden and cost<sup>2</sup> for this information collection as follows:

#### FERC FORM 561—ANNUAL REPORT OF INTERLOCKING POSITIONS

| Number of respondents | Annual number of responses per respondent | Total number of responses | Average burden and cost per response | Total annual burden hours and total annual cost | Cost per respondent (\$) |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| (1)                   | (2)                                       | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                  | (3) * (4) = (5)                                 | (5) ÷ (1)                |
| 2,700 .....           | 1   | 2,700                     | 0.25 hrs.; \$19.13 .....             | 675.00 hrs.; \$51,637.50.                       | \$19.13                  |

#### FERC-583 [Annual Kilowatt Generating Report (Annual Charges)]

OMB Control No.: 1902-0136

*Abstract:* The FERC-583 is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of section 10(e) of

the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 803(e)), which requires the Commission to collect annual charges from hydropower licensees for, among other things, the cost of administering part I of the FPA and for the use of United States dams. In addition, section 3401 of

the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (OBRA) authorizes the Commission to "assess and collect fees and annual charges in any fiscal year in amounts equal to all of the costs incurred by the Commission in that fiscal year." The information is

collected annually and used to determine the amounts of the annual charges to be assessed licensees for reimbursable government administrative costs and for the use of government dams. The Commission implements

these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 11.1 through 11.8.<sup>4</sup>

*Type of Respondent:* FERC-regulated private and public hydropower licensees.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>1</sup> The Commission estimates the total annual burden and cost<sup>2</sup> for this information collection as follows:

**FERC-583—ANNUAL KILOWATT GENERATING REPORT**  
[Annual Charges]

| Number of respondents <sup>5</sup> | Annual number of responses per respondent | Total number of responses | Average burden and cost per response | Total annual burden hours and total annual cost | Cost per respondent (\$) |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| (1)                                | (2)                                       | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                  | (3) * (4) = (5)                                 | (5) ÷ (1)                |
| 520 .....                          | 1   | 520                       | 2 hrs.; \$153 .....                  | 1,040 hrs.; \$79,560 ...                        | \$153                    |

Dated: March 24, 2017.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-06420 Filed 3-31-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2221-038]

#### **Empire District Electric Company; Notice of Intent To File License Application, Filing of Pre-Application Document (PAD), Commencement of Pre-Filing Process, and Scoping; Request for Comments on the PAD and Scoping Document, and Identification of Issues and Associated Study Requests**

a. *Type of Filing:* Notice of Intent to File License Application for a New License and Commencing Pre-filing Process.

b. *Project No.:* 2221-038.

c. *Dated Filed:* January 26, 2017.

d. *Submitted By:* Empire District Electric Company.

e. *Name of Project:* Ozark Beach Hydroelectric Project.

f. *Location:* On the White River near the Town of Forsyth, in Taney County, Missouri. The project occupies 5.1 acres of United States lands administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

g. *Filed Pursuant to:* 18 CFR part 5 of the Commission's Regulations.

h. *Potential Applicant Contact:* Blake Mertens, Vice President of Energy Supply and Delivery Operations, Empire District Electric Company, P.O.

Box 127, Joplin, MO 64802, (417) 625-6587 or [bmertens@empiredistrict.com](mailto:bmertens@empiredistrict.com); and Randy Richardson, Plant Manager, Empire District Electric Company, 2537 Fir Road, Sarcosie, MO 64862, (417) 625-6138 or [RRichardson@empiredistrict.com](mailto:RRichardson@empiredistrict.com).

i. *FERC Contact:* Colleen Corballis at (202) 502-8598 or email at [colleen.corballis@ferc.gov](mailto:colleen.corballis@ferc.gov).

j. *Cooperating agencies:* Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item o below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. See 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. With this notice, we are initiating informal consultation with: (a) The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 CFR, Part 402 and (b) the State Historic Preservation Officer, as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR 800.2.

l. With this notice, we are designating Empire District Electric Company as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section

106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

m. Empire District Electric Company filed with the Commission a Pre-Application Document (PAD; including a proposed process plan and schedule), pursuant to 18 CFR 5.6 of the Commission's regulations.

n. A copy of the PAD is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site (<http://www.ferc.gov>), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCONlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCONlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in paragraph h.

Register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filing and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. With this notice, we are soliciting comments on the PAD and Commission's staff Scoping Document 1 (SD1), as well as study requests. All comments on the PAD and SD1, and study requests should be sent to Randy Richardson at the address above in paragraph h. In addition, all comments on the PAD and SD1, study requests, requests for cooperating agency status, and all communications to and from Commission staff related to the merits of

<sup>4</sup> As discussed in 18 CFR part 11, selected federal agencies (such as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service) submit annual reports to the Commission on their federal costs in administering part I of the Federal Power Act. The filing requirements

imposed on those federal agencies are not collected for general statistical purposes and are not a "collection of information" as defined by 5 CFR 1320.3(c)(3). (The form and additional information on the information provided by those agencies is

posted at <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/forms.asp#ofa>.)

<sup>5</sup> Based on data from Fiscal Year 2016, there were 520 projects, owned by 242 FERC-regulated private and public licensees. Many of the licensees owned multiple projects.