

consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 305(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and consultation pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

m. Hackett Mills Hydro Associates filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD; including a proposed process plan and schedule) with the Commission, 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 website (<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, (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.

o. 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.

Dated: October 28, 2019.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-23982 Filed 11-1-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP19-500-000]

Northern Natural Gas Company; Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review of the Palmyra to South Sioux City A-Line Abandonment Project

On August 15, 2019, Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) filed an application in Docket No. CP19-500-000 requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity pursuant to Sections 7(b) and Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act to abandon, construct, and operate certain natural gas pipeline facilities. The proposed project is known as the Palmyra to South Sioux City A-Line Abandonment Project (Project) and would ensure safe and efficient operation of Northern's existing pipeline system.

On August 29, 2019, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

(Commission or FERC) issued its Notice of Application for the Project. Among other things, that notice alerted agencies issuing federal authorizations of the requirement to complete all necessary reviews and to reach a final decision on a request for a federal authorization within 90 days of the date of issuance of the Commission staff's Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project. This instant notice identifies the FERC staff's planned schedule for the completion of the EA for the Project.

Schedule for Environmental Review

Issuance of EA—December 13, 2019
90-day Federal Authorization Decision
Deadline—March 12, 2020

If a schedule change becomes necessary, additional notice will be provided so that the relevant agencies are kept informed of the Project's progress.

Project Description

The Project involves the abandonment in place of a total of approximately 118 miles of 20-inch-diameter and 16-inch-diameter pipeline on its A-Line pipeline system in Otoe, Lancaster, Saunders, Dodge, Burt, Thurston, and Dakota Counties, Nebraska. In addition, Northern would construct and operate approximately 4.2 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline loop¹ and associated appurtenances in Otoe and Dodge Counties, Nebraska. Northern states that after Commission approval of the Project, the abandoned pipeline would be purchased and removed by a third-party salvage company.

Background

On September 18, 2019, the Commission issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Palmyra to South Sioux City A-Line Abandonment Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues (NOI)*. The NOI was sent to affected landowners; federal, state, and local government agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. In response to the NOI, the Commission received comments from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, and one landowner. The primary issues raised by the commentors are cultural resources; surface waters and wetlands; land use; and floodplains. All

¹ A loop is a pipeline that is constructed adjacent to another pipeline for the purpose of increasing capacity in this portion of the system.

substantive comments will be addressed in the EA.

Additional Information

In order to receive notification of the issuance of the EA and to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Additional information about the Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (866) 208-FERC or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov). Using the "eLibrary" link, select "General Search" from the eLibrary menu, enter the selected date range and "Docket Number" excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP19-500), and follow the instructions. For assistance with access to eLibrary, the helpline can be reached at (866) 208-3676, TTY (202) 502-8659, or at FERCONlineSupport@ferc.gov. The eLibrary link on the FERC website also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rule makings.

Dated: October 28, 2019.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019-23986 Filed 11-1-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC19-34-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-725J); Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of information collection 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 submitting its information collection FERC-725J (Definition of the Bulk Electric System) 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 published a Notice in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 40038, August 13, 2019) requesting public comments. The Commission received no comments and is making this notation in its submittal to OMB.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by December 4, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Comments filed with OMB, identified by the OMB Control No. 1902–0259, should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs: *oira_submission@omb.gov*, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer.

A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Commission, in Docket No. IC19–34–000, by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission’s Website:* <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.

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*, 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:

Title: FERC–725J (Definition of the Bulk Electric System).

OMB Control No.: 1902–0259.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC–725J with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: On December 20, 2012, the Commission issued Order No. 773, a Final Rule approving the North

American Electric Reliability Corporation’s (NERC) modification to the definition of “bulk electric system” and the Rules of Procedure exception process, effective July 1, 2013. On April 18, 2013, in Order No. 773–A, the Commission largely affirmed its findings in Order No. 773. In Order Nos. 773 and 773–A, the Commission directed NERC to modify the definition of bulk electric system in two respects: (1) Modify the local network exclusion (exclusion E3) to remove the 100 kV minimum operating voltage to allow systems that include one or more looped configurations connected below 100 kV to be eligible for the local network exclusion; and (2) modify the exclusions to ensure that generator interconnection facilities at or above 100 kV connected to bulk electric system generators identified in inclusion I2 are not excluded from the bulk electric system.¹

Type of Respondents: Generator owners, distribution providers, other NERC-registered entities.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*² The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden and cost³ for the information collection as follows.

FERC–725J (DEFINITION OF THE BULK ELECTRIC SYSTEM)

	Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden (hrs.) 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)
Generator Owners, Distribution Providers, and Transmission Owners (Exception Request).	20	1	20	94 hrs.; \$7,708 ..	1,880 hrs.; \$154,160.	\$7,708
All Registered Entities (Implementation Plans and Compliance).	186	1	186	350 hrs.; \$28,700	65,100 hrs.; \$5,338,200.	28,700
Local Distribution Determinations ...	1	1	1	92 hrs.; \$7,544 ..	92 hrs.; \$7,544 ..	7,544
Total .....	.....	.....	207	.....	67,072 hrs.; \$5,499,904.	

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 estimates 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.

¹ *Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of Procedure*, Order No. 773, 141 FERC ¶ 61,236 (2012); *order on reh’g*, Order No. 773–A, 143 FERC ¶ 61,053 (2013); *order on reh’g and clarification*, 144 FERC ¶ 61,174 (2013); *aff’d sub nom., People of the State of New York and the Pub. Serv. Comm’n of New York v. FERC*, No. 13–2316 (2d. Cir. 2015). On June 13, 2013, the Commission granted NERC’s request for extension of time and extended the effective date for the revised definition of bulk electric system and the Rules of Procedure exception process to July 1, 2014. *Revisions to Electric Reliability Organization Definition of Bulk Electric System and Rules of*

Procedure, 143 FERC ¶ 61,231, at P 13 (2013). On March 20, 2014, the Commission approved NERC’s revisions to the definition of bulk electric system and determined the revisions either adequately address the Commission’s Order Nos. 773 and 773–A directives or provide an equally effective and efficient approach. See *order approving revised definition*, 146 FERC ¶ 61,199 (2014).

² Burden is defined as 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. See 5 CFR 1320 for additional information on the definition of information collection burden.

³ The estimated hourly cost (salary plus benefits) is based on the figures for May 2018 posted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Utilities sector (available at http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm) and updated March 2019 for benefits information (at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>). The hourly estimates for salary plus benefits are:

- Legal (code 23–0000), \$142.86.
- File Clerks (code 43–4071), \$34.50.
- Electrical Engineer (code 17–2071), \$68.17.

The average hourly burden cost for this collection is \$81.84 [(\$142.86 + \$34.50 + \$68.17)/3 = \$81.84] and is rounded to \$82.00 an hour.

Dated: October 28, 2019.
Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.
 [FR Doc. 2019-23984 Filed 11-1-19; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC20-2-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-577); Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.
ACTION: Notice of information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved requirements and burden in information collection, FERC-577 (Natural Gas Facilities: Environmental Review and Compliance).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due January 3, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC20-2-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's Website:* <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>.
 - Mail: 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/submission-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, telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Title: FERC-577, Natural Gas Facilities: Environmental Review and Compliance.
OMB Control No.: 1902-0128.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-577 with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The FERC-577 contains the Commission's information collection pertaining to regulations which implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as well as the reporting requirements for landowner notifications. These requirements are contained in 18 CFR parts 2, 157, 284, and 380. The information to be submitted includes draft environmental material in accordance with the provisions of Part 380 of FERC's regulations in order to implement the Commission's procedures under NEPA. Without such information, the Commission would be unable to fulfill its statutory responsibilities under the Natural Gas Act (NGA), NEPA, and the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Specifically, these responsibilities include ensuring company activities remain consistent with the public interest, which is specified in the NGA and inherent in the other statutes.

Type of Respondents: Companies proposing Natural Gas Projects under section 7 and Jurisdictional Gas Pipeline and Storage Companies.

*Estimate of Annual Burden.*¹ The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden and cost² for the information collection as follows.

FERC-577, NATURAL GAS FACILITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE

	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden hours & average cost per response (\$) (rounded)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (\$) (rounded)	Cost per respondent (\$) (rounded)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1) = (6)
Gas Pipeline Certificates ³	101	16	1,616	193.518 hours; \$15,481.	312,725 hours; \$25,018,007.	\$247,703
Landowners Notification ⁴	164	144	23,616	2 hours; \$160	47,232 hours; \$3,778,560.	23,040
Total .....	.....	.....	25,232	.....	359,957 hours; \$28,796,567.	.....

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.

Dated: October 28, 2019.
Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.
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¹ Burden is defined as 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. See 5 CFR 1320 for additional information on the definition of information collection burden.

² The Commission staff estimates that industry is similarly situated in terms of hourly cost (for wages plus benefits). Based on the Commission's FY (Fiscal Year) 2019 average cost (for wages plus benefits), \$80.00/hour is used.

³ Requirements are found in 18 CFR Parts 2, 157, and 380.

⁴ Requirements are found in 18 CFR 157(d), 157(f), 2.55(a), 2.55(b), 284.11, and 380.15.