

k. *Project Description:* The existing Scopan Hydroelectric Project consists of: (1) A 750-foot-long dam that includes: (a) A 330-foot-long, 45-foot-high earthen embankment section (north embankment) with a 194-foot-long, 49-foot-high concrete retaining wall at the downstream end of the embankment; (b) a 24-foot-long, 45-foot-high concrete gravity spillway section with a crest elevation of 590 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD) and a single 13.5-foot-high spillway gate with two 10-inch-diameter minimum flow butterfly valves; (c) a 26-foot-long, 48-foot-high concrete intake and powerhouse section that includes: (i) Two 12-inch-wide head gates and trashracks with 3-inch clear-bar spacing; and (ii) a 26-foot-long, 49-foot-high concrete powerhouse with a single 1.5-megawatt vertical propeller turbine-generator unit; and (d) a 370-foot-long, 45-foot-high earthen embankment section (south embankment) with a 135.5-foot-long, 45-foot-high concrete retaining wall at the downstream end of the embankment; (2) an approximately 15-mile-long, 5,000-acre impoundment (Scopan Lake) with a useable storage volume of 57,920 acre-feet between elevations 590.5 and 603.2 feet NGVD; (3) three 13.45/2.4-kilovolt transformers and switch gear that connect the generator to Emera, Maine's regional transmission line; and (4) appurtenant facilities.

The project operates in a store and release mode in which the impoundment is drawdown from January through March of each year to meet electricity demand in the winter. During the spring and summer, the impoundment is maintained at or near

the full pond levels to protect and enhance fisheries, wetlands, wildlife and recreational resources. Algonquin manages the project to augment flows in the Aroostook River downstream of the project for generation at the Aroostook River Project No. 2367 and the Tinker Falls Project, the latter of which is located in New Brunswick Canada and is not a FERC-licensed project. The Scopan Project had an average annual generation of approximately 878,913 kilowatt-hours from 2012 through 2018.

*The project's current license requires Algonquin to:* (1) To maintain Scopan Lake water levels as follows: (a) From May 15 to July 31, fluctuate Scopan Lake by no more than one foot; (b) from July 16 to Labor Day, target Scopan Lake between 601.0 to 603.0 feet NGVD; and (c) from October 1 to November 15, maintain Scopan Lake at or above 601.0 feet NGVD; (2) release minimum flows of 21 cubic feet per second (cfs) from December 1 through May 15, and 25 cfs from May 16 through November 30; (3) close one of the two minimum flow valves if Scopan Lake falls below 601.5 feet NGVD; (4) close both minimum flow valves if Scopan Lake falls below 601 feet NGVD; and (5) limit the maximum discharge from the project to not more than 600 cfs from April 1 to November 30.

*Algonquin proposes to:* (1) Maintain Scopan Lake water surface elevations as follows: (a) From June 1 to July 31 limit water level fluctuations in Scopan Lake to no more than 0.5 vertical foot upward or 1.0 vertical foot downward within any 28-day period from June 1 through July 31; (b) from August 1 through Labor Day, maintain the water elevation of Scopan Lake between 601.0 and 603.0 feet NGVD; (c) from October 1 through

November 15, maintain the water elevation of Scopan Lake above 601.0 feet NGVD; (d) limit winter drawdowns of Scopan Lake to no lower than 595.3 feet NGVD from November 16 to May 14; (2) limit the maximum discharge from the project to not more than 600 cfs from June 1 to November 30; and (3) continue to release a continuous minimum flow of 21 cfs including leakage from the minimum flow valves unless water levels in Scopan Lake fall below 601.5 feet NGVD from May 16 through November 30, in which case one valve would be closed.

l. *Locations of the Application:* A copy of the application is available for review at the Commission in the Public Reference Room or may be viewed on the Commission's website 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, please 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 the Ashland Community Library, 57 Exchange Street, Ashland, Maine 04732.

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

n. *Procedural Schedule:* The application will be processed according to the following preliminary Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

Milestone	Target Date
Notice of Acceptance/Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis .....	April 2020.
Filing of recommendations, preliminary terms and conditions, and fishway prescriptions .....	June 2020.
Commission issues Environmental Assessment .....	September 2020.
Comments on the EA .....	October 2020.
Modified terms and conditions .....	December 2020.

o. Final amendments to the application must be filed with the Commission no later than 30 days from the issuance date of the notice of ready for environmental analysis.

Dated: December 17, 2019.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. IC20-5-000]

**Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-923); Comment Request; Extension**

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

**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 soliciting public comment on the requirements and burden of the information collection described below.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due February 28, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC20-5-000) 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.

Please identify the specific information 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 described below with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

*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.

**FERC-923, Communication of Operational Information between Natural Gas Pipelines and Electric Transmission Operators**

*OMB Control No.:* 1902-0265.

*Abstract:* In 2013, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) revised its regulations to provide explicit authority to interstate natural gas pipelines and public utilities that own, operate, or control facilities used for the transmission of electric

energy in interstate commerce to voluntarily share non-public, operational information with each other for the purpose of promoting reliable service and operational planning on either the pipeline's or public utility's system. This helped ensure the reliability of natural gas pipeline and public utility transmission services by permitting transmission operators to share with each other the information that they deem necessary to promote the reliability and integrity of their systems. FERC removed actual or perceived prohibitions to the information sharing and communications between industry entities. The communications of information are not submitted to FERC. Rather, the non-public information is shared voluntarily between industry entities. FERC does not prescribe the content, medium, format, or frequency for the information sharing and communications. Those decisions are made by the industry entities, depending on their needs and the situation.

*Type of Respondent:* Natural gas pipelines and public utilities.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>1</sup> The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden and cost<sup>2</sup> for FERC-923 as:

**FERC-923**

	Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden hours & cost (\$) per response	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (\$)	Cost per respondent (\$)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
Public Utility Transmission Operator, communications.	<sup>3</sup> 165	12	1,980	0.5 hrs.; \$40 .....	990 hrs.; \$79,200 ..	\$480
Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines, communications.	<sup>4</sup> 181	12	2,172	0.5 hrs.; \$40 .....	1,086 hrs.; \$86,880	480
Total .....	.....	.....	4,152	.....	2,076 hrs.; \$166,080.	.....

Dated: December 20, 2019.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
Secretary.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Commission staff estimates that the industry's skill set (wages and benefits) for FERC-923 is

comparable to the Commission's skill set. The FERC 2019 average salary plus benefits for one FERC full-time equivalent (FTE) is \$167,091/year (or \$80/hour [rounded]).

<sup>3</sup> The estimate for the number of respondents is based on the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Compliance Registry as of

December 6, 2019, minus the Transmission Operators within ERCOT.

<sup>4</sup> The estimate is based on the number of respondents to the 2018 FERC Forms 2 and 2A (Major and Non-major Natural Gas Pipeline Annual Reports).