

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RM16–17–000]

Data Collection for Analytics and Surveillance and Market-Based Rate Purposes; Notice Providing Update on Market-Based Rate Database

On July 18, 2019, the Commission issued a final rule in Docket No. RM16–17–000 that, among other things, adopted a proposal to collect market-based rate information through a relational database (MBR Database).¹ The final rule indicated that:

After issuance of this final rule, documentation for the relational database will be posted to the Commission's website, including XML, XSD, the MBR Data Dictionary, and a test environment user guide. Additionally, after issuance of this final rule, a basic relational database test environment will be available to submitters and software developers. The Commission intends to add to the new test environment features on a prioritized, scheduled basis until complete. We note that the Commission will inform the public of when releases will be made publicly available. This will allow internal and external development to occur contemporaneously as new features are made available for outside testing.²

Consistent with the final rule, please be advised that updated versions of the XML, XSD, and MBR Data Dictionary are available on the Commission's website.

Additionally, please be advised that the test environment for the MBR Database is now available and can be accessed on the MBR Database web page. At launch, this test environment will be available to users that are eRegistered with the Commission. eRegistered users will be able to submit test XML submissions into the database, as well as create FERC generated IDs (GID) and Asset IDs. Please note that this is a test environment and that all submissions into the database—specifically XMLs and all created GIDs and Asset IDs—will not be part of the official record and will be cleared from the database before it officially goes live. Further, as indicated in the final rule, the Commission intends to add features to this test environment periodically until complete.³ Interested parties can obtain notice of these new features by monitoring the market-based rate page on the Commission's website. The

Commission will issue an additional notice prior to clearing the database shortly before the database goes live.

Lastly, please be advised that Company Registration has been updated to reflect MBR as a filing type. Unlike GIDs and Asset IDs, any updates to Company Registration will remain permanent. Entities that will need to make submissions to the database (*i.e.*, all entities that have market-based rate authority) must include MBR as a filing type and assign account managers to make the submissions.

For more information about the MBR Database, please send an email to MBRDatabase@ferc.gov.

Dated: January 10, 2020.

Kimberly D. Bose,

Secretary.

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FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

[No. 2020–N–1]

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Agency.

ACTION: Notice and Request for Input.

SUMMARY: The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), as regulator for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as well as the Federal Home Loan Banks, seeks public input on residential energy retrofitting programs financed through special state legislation enabling a “super-priority lien” over existing and subsequent first mortgages. In particular, FHFA seeks input on potential changes to its policies for its regulated entities based on safety and soundness concerns. These state programs, termed Property Assessed Clean Energy or PACE, address residential properties and commercial applications. FHFA's primary focus is on residential PACE programs in this Request for Input (RFI).

DATES: Written input must be received by March 16, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit your response on the Notice identified by “PACE Request for Input, Notice No. 2020–N–1,” by any one of the following methods:

- *Agency Website:* www.fhfa.gov/open-for-comment-or-input.
- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting input. If you submit your response to the Federal eRulemaking Portal, please also send it

by email to FHFA at RegComments@fhfa.gov to ensure timely receipt by the agency.

• *Mail/Hand Delivery:* Federal Housing Finance Agency, Eighth Floor, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20219, ATTENTION: “PACE Request for Input, Notice No. 2020–N–1.”

FHFA will post all public responses received without change, including any personal information you provide, such as your name and address, email address, and telephone number, on the FHFA website at <http://www.fhfa.gov>. In addition, copies of all responses received will be available for examination by the public through the electronic docket for this Notice also located on the FHFA website.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alfred M. Pollard, General Counsel, Alfred.Pollard@fhfa.gov, (202) 649–3050 (this is not a toll-free number), Federal Housing Finance Agency, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20219. The Telecommunications Device for the Deaf is (800) 877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Request for Input***A. PACE Programs*

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), as regulator for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the Enterprises) as well as the Federal Home Loan Banks, seeks public input on residential energy retrofitting programs financed through special state legislation enabling a “super-priority lien” over existing and subsequent first mortgages. In particular, FHFA seeks input on potential changes to its policies for its regulated entities based on safety and soundness concerns. These state programs, termed Property Assessed Clean Energy or PACE, address residential properties and commercial applications. FHFA's primary focus is on residential PACE programs in this Request for Input (RFI).

These state initiatives authorize counties, municipalities and other government entities to create a financing scheme with, in the majority of cases, private parties administering the home energy retrofit programs. The programs lend to consumers for defined products and services and approved contractors. To attract private capital, the loans impose a tax assessment on the property so that the loan is repaid under a locality's taxing structure to the benefit of bond holders or lenders. This assures priority status over any first lien mortgage at any tax sale or foreclosure sale. PACE is not traditional second mortgage or home equity lending.

¹ *Data Collection for Analytics and Surveillance and Market-Based Rate Purposes*, Order No. 860, 168 FERC 61,039 (2019).

² *Id.* P. 309.

³ *Id.*