

MOD-032-1—Continued

[Verification of models and data for turbine/governor and load control or active power/frequency control functions]

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1) * (2) = (3)	Average burden & cost per response (4)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (3) * (4) = (5)	Cost per respondent (\$) (5) ÷ (1)
Evidence Retention .....	1,418 (BA, GO, PA/PC, RP, TO, TP, and TSP).	1	1,418	1 hr.; \$34.79 <sup>18</sup> .....	1,418 hrs.; \$49,332.22.	34.79
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,762 hrs.; \$998,484.70.	.....

MOD-033-2 (FORMERLY MOD-033-1)

[Steady-state and dynamics system model validation]

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1) * (2) = (3)	Avg. burden & cost per response (4)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (3) * (4) = (5)	Cost per respondent (\$) (5) ÷ (1)
Data Submittal .....	178 (RC and TOP).	1	178	8 hrs.; \$669.36 <sup>20</sup> ...	1,424 hrs.; \$119,146.08.	\$669.36
Evidence Retention .....	243 (PA/PC, RC, and TOP).	1	243	1 hr.; \$34.79 <sup>18</sup> .....	243 hrs.; \$8,453.97	34.79
MOD-033-2 Net Changes in RD20-4 (in the first table above).	.....	.....	-28	.....	-126 .....	.....
New Total for MOD-033-2 Renewal.	.....	.....	393	.....	1,541 hrs.; \$128,935.47.	.....

The total annual estimated burden and cost for the FERC-725L information collection is 38,724 hours and \$2,960,375.60 respectively.

<sup>12</sup> The estimates reflect a program decrease of 63 de-registered LSEs (and corresponding program decrease of 504 hrs.) related to Docket No. RD20-4-000, and an adjustment/clarification (decrease) of 498 DPs, TPs, and BAs (and corresponding decrease of 3,984 hrs.), not related to Docket No. RD20-4-000. The updated number of 381 DPs, TPs and BAs is listed in a new row clarifying their applicability with Requirements R2 and R4. Requirement R2 requires applicable entities to develop and provide data pursuant with Requirement R1.

<sup>13</sup> The 113 PCs and BAs were originally estimated in FERC-725A due to Order No. 693. However, the estimates and descriptions were not clearly spelled out, so we are clarifying them. [Some of this burden may still be in FERC-725A (and double counted temporarily).]

<sup>14</sup> The estimate is changing to 174 (from 188) due to normal industry fluctuation.

<sup>15</sup> The estimate is changing to 188 (from 194) due to normal industry fluctuation.

<sup>16</sup> The number of respondents for MOD-025-2/ MOD-026-1/MOD-027-1/MOD-31-3/MOD-032-/ MOD-033-2 are from the NERC compliance registry February 5, 2021.

<sup>17</sup> This wage figure uses the average hourly wage (plus benefits) for electrical engineers (Occupation Code: 17-2071, \$70.19/hour) and managers (Occupation Code: 11-0000, \$97.15/hour) obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) from [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2\\_22.htm](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm).

*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

The average used the following calculation: [ $\$70.19/\text{hour} + \$97.15/\text{hour}$ ] ÷ 2 = \$83.67/hour.

<sup>18</sup> The estimate uses the hourly average wage (plus benefits) for file clerks obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics: \$34.79/hour (BLS Occupation Code: 43-4071).

<sup>19</sup> It is estimated that the applicable numbers of generator owner respondents used to calculate the public reporting burden for these standards MOD-026-1, MOD-027-1, MOD-032-1 and MOD-033-1 is half of total numbers of GO (501=1003/2) due to the higher applicability threshold for those Reliability Standards.

<sup>20</sup> The estimate uses the average hourly wage (plus benefits) of \$70.19/hour for electrical engineers (Occupation Code: 17-2071) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: June 8, 2021.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2021-12376 Filed 6-11-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. IC21-12-000]

**Commission Information Collection Activities (Ferc-725x); 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 soliciting public comment on a renewal of

currently approved information collection FERC 725X (Mandatory Reliability Standards: Voltage and Reactive (VAR) Standards), which will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due July 14, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on FERC-725X to OMB through [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. Please identify the OMB Control Number (1902-0278) in the subject line of your comments. Comments should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain).

Please submit copies of your comments to the Commission. You may submit copies of your comments (identified by Docket No. IC21-12-000) by one of the following methods:

Electronic filing through <http://www.ferc.gov>, is preferred.

- *Electronic Filing:* Documents must be filed in acceptable native applications and print-to-PDF, but not in scanned or picture format.

- For those unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery.

- *Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only:* Addressed to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

- *Hand (including courier) delivery:* Deliver to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

**Instructions:** OMB submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Using the search function under the “Currently Under Review” field, select Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; click “submit,” and select “comment” to the right of the subject collection.

**FERC submissions** must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov>. 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).

**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 <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ellen Brown may be reached by email

at [DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), telephone at (202) 502-8663.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** FERC 725X (Mandatory Reliability Standards: Voltage and Reactive (VAR) Standards).

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-0278.

**Type of Request:** Three-year extension of the FERC-725X information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

**Abstract:** Pursuant to Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA),<sup>1</sup> North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) established the Voltage and Reactive (“VAR”) group of Reliability Standards, which consists of two continent-wide Reliability Standards, VAR-001-5 and VAR-002-4.1. NERC conducts periodic reviews of Reliability Standards in accordance with Section 317 of the NERC Rules of Procedure and Section 13 of the NERC Standard Processes Manual. In accordance with these authorities and the NERC *Reliability Standards Development Plan: 2017-2019*, NERC recently completed Project 2016-EPR-02 Enhanced Periodic Review of Voltage and Reactive Reliability Standards. This project conducted a periodic review of mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards VAR-001-4.1 (Voltage and Reactive Control)<sup>2</sup> and VAR-002-4 (Generator Operation for Maintaining Network Schedules).<sup>3</sup> These two standards were designed to maintain voltage stability on the Bulk-Power System, protect transmission, generation, distribution, and customer equipment, and support the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System. Voltage stability is the ability of a power system to maintain acceptable voltage levels throughout the system under normal operating conditions and following a disturbance. Failure to maintain acceptable voltage levels (*i.e.*, voltage levels become too high or too low) may cause violations of System Operating Limits (“SOLs”) and Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits (“IROLs”), result in damage to Bulk-Power System equipment, and

<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o (2012).

<sup>2</sup> The Commission approved Reliability Standard VAR-001-4 (Voltage and Reactive Control) on August 1, 2014. See *North American Electric Reliability Corp.*, Docket No. RD14-11-000 (Aug. 1, 2014) (delegated letter order). The Commission approved errata version VAR-001-4.1 on November 13, 2015. See *North American Electric Reliability Corp.*, Docket No. RD15-6-000 (Nov. 13, 2015) (delegated letter order).

<sup>3</sup> The Commission approved Reliability Standard VAR-002-4, which clarified the applicability of the VAR-002 standard to dispersed generation resources, on May 29, 2015. See *North American Electric Reliability Corp.*, 151 FERC ¶ 61,186 (May 29, 2015).

thereby threaten the reliable operation of the Bulk-Power System.

**Reliability Standard VAR-001-5**

This Reliability Standard requires Transmission Operators to:

- Specify a system-wide voltage schedule (which is either a range or a target value with an associated tolerance band) as part of its plan to operate within SOLs and IROLs, and to provide the voltage schedule to its Reliability Coordinator and adjacent Transmission Operators upon request (Requirement R1);

- Schedule sufficient reactive resources to regulate voltage levels (Requirement R2);

- Operate or direct the operation of devices to regulate transmission voltage and reactive flows (Requirement R3);

- Develop a set of criteria to exempt generators from certain requirements under Reliability Standard VAR-002-4.1 related to voltage or Reactive Power schedules, automatic voltage regulations, and notification (Requirement R4);

- Specify a voltage or Reactive Power schedule (which is either a range or a target value with an associated tolerance band) for generators at either the high or low voltage side of the generator step-up transformer, provide the schedule to the associated Generator Operator, direct the Generator Operator to comply with that schedule in automatic voltage control mode, provide the Generator Operator the notification requirements for deviating from the schedule, and, if requested, provide the Generator Operator the criteria used to develop the schedule (Requirement R5); and

- Communicate step-up transformer tap changes, the time frame for completion, and the justification for these changes to Generator Owners (Requirement R6).

**Reliability Standard VAR-002-4.1**

This Reliability Standard includes an information collection activity for “Requirement R1” and a separate information collection activity for “Requirements R2 through R6.”

This Reliability Standard requires Generator Operators to:

- Operate each of its generators connected to the interconnected transmission system in automatic voltage control mode or in a different control mode as instructed by the Transmission Operator, unless the Generator Operator (1) is exempted pursuant to the criteria developed under VAR-001-5, Requirement R4, or (2) makes certain notifications to the Transmission Operator specifying the

reasons it cannot so operate (Requirement R1);

- Maintain the Transmission Operator's generator voltage or Reactive Power schedule, unless the Generator Operator (1) is exempted pursuant to the criteria developed under VAR-001-5, Requirement R4, or (2) complies with the notification requirements for deviations as established by the Transmission Owner pursuant to VAR-001-5, Requirement R5 (Requirement R2);
- Notify the Transmission Operator of a change in status of its voltage

- controlling device within 30 minutes, unless the status is restored within that time period (Requirement R3); and
- Notify the Transmission Operator of a change in reactive capability due to factors other than those described in VAR-002-4.1, Requirement R3 within 30 minutes unless the capability has been restored during that time period (Requirement R4).
- Provide information on its step-up transformers and auxiliary transformers within 30 days of a request from the Transmission Operator or Transmission Planner (Requirement R5); and

- Comply with the Transmission Operator's step-up transformer tap change directives unless compliance would violate safety, an equipment rating, or applicable laws, rules or regulations (Requirement R6).

The 60-day notice was published to the **Federal Register** on March 31, 2021 and received no comments.

*Type of Responses:* Generator operators and Transmission Operators.  
*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>4</sup>  
 The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

**FERC-725X—MANDATORY RELIABILITY STANDARDS: VOLTAGE AND REACTIVE (VAR) STANDARDS**

	Number of respondents <sup>5</sup>	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden & cost per response <sup>6</sup>	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost	Cost per respondent (\$)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
VAR-001-5 (Requirements R1-R6).	167 (TOP) .....	1	167	160 hrs.; \$11,230.40	26,720 hrs.; \$1,875,476.80.	\$11,230.40
VAR-002-4.1 (Requirement R1).	937 (GOP) .....	1	937	80 hrs.; \$5,615.20 ....	74,960 hrs.; \$5,261,442.4.	5,615.20
VAR-002-4.1 (Requirements R2-R6).	937 (GOP) .....	1	937	120 hrs.; \$8,422.80 ..	112,440 hrs.; \$7,892,163.6.	8,422.80
Total .....	.....	.....	2,041	.....	214,120 hrs.; \$15,029,082.80.	.....

The burden for the FERC-725X information collection includes estimates related to both of the previously approved Reliability Standards (VAR-001-4.2 and VAR-002-4.1). The total annual burden and cost of the FERC-725X information collection is 214,120 hours and \$15,029,083 (rounded).

*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: June 8, 2021.  
**Kimberly D. Bose,**  
*Secretary.*  
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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**Southwestern Power Administration**  
**Integrated System, Sam Rayburn Dam, and Robert D. Willis Rate Schedules**

**AGENCY:** Southwestern Power Administration, DOE.  
**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rate schedules extension and opportunity for public review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern), is proposing a two-year extension to the currently approved rate schedules for the Integrated System, the Sam Rayburn Dam, and the Robert Douglas Willis Hydropower Project (Robert D. Willis) for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023. Southwestern's current Integrated

System rate schedules (P-13A, NFTS-13A, and EE-13), the Sam Rayburn Dam rate schedule (SRD-15), and the Robert D. Willis rate schedule (RDW-15), expire September 30, 2021.

**DATES:** The consultation and comment period will begin on June 14, 2021 and will end on July 14, 2021. Written comments are due on or before July 14, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted to Ms. Fritha Ohlson, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Southwestern Power Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, One West Third Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Fritha Ohlson, Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Office of Corporate Operations, (918) 595-6684, [fritha.ohlson@swpa.gov](mailto:fritha.ohlson@swpa.gov), or facsimile transmission (918) 595-6684.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Originally established by Order 1865, Secretary of the Interior, dated August 31, 1943 and effective September 1, 1943 (8 FR 12142 (Sept. 3, 1943)), Southwestern is

<sup>4</sup> The Commission defines burden 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. For further explanation of what is included in the

information collection burden, reference 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

<sup>5</sup> TOP = transmission operator; GOP = generator operators. Respondent counts based of the NERC Compliance Registry numbers February 5, 2021.

<sup>6</sup> The estimate for hourly cost is \$70.19/hour. This figure is the average salary plus benefits for an electrical engineer (Occupation Code: 17-2071) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (May 2020) at [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2\\_22.htm](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm).