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
  • 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 Respondents: Generator operators and Transmission Operators.

Estimate of Annual Burden: The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

FERC–725X—Mandatory Reliability Standards: Voltage and Reactive (VAR) Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual number of respondents per respondent</th>
<th>Total number of respondents</th>
<th>Average burden &amp; cost per response</th>
<th>Total annual burden hours &amp; total annual cost</th>
<th>Cost per respondent ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) * (2) = (3)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>(3) * (4) = (5)</td>
<td>(5) + (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAR–001–5 (Requirements R1–R6)</td>
<td>167 (TOP)</td>
<td>160 hrs.; $11,230.40</td>
<td>26,720 hrs.; $1,875,476.80</td>
<td>$11,230.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAR–002–4.1 (Requirement R1)</td>
<td>937 (GOP)</td>
<td>80 hrs.; $5,615.20</td>
<td>74,960 hrs.; $5,261,442.4</td>
<td>$5,615.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAR–002–4.1 (Requirements R2–R6)</td>
<td>937 (GOP)</td>
<td>120 hrs.; $8,422.80</td>
<td>112,440 hrs.; $7,892,163.6</td>
<td>$8,422.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,041</td>
<td></td>
<td>214,120 hrs.; $15,029,083.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 collected;
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.

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.


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.

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 rates 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.

Dated: June 8, 2021.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

The estimate for hourly cost is $0.19/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/oesh/current/naics2_22.htm.

Southwestern markets power from 24 multi-purpose reservoir projects with hydroelectric power facilities constructed and operated by the Corps. These projects are located in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Southwestern’s marketing area includes these states, plus Kansas and Louisiana. The costs associated with 22 of these 24 hydropower projects are repaid with revenues received under Southwestern’s Integrated System rates. These rates also cover the costs of Southwestern’s transmission facilities that consist of 1,380 miles of high voltage transmission lines, 27 substations, and 46 microwave and VHF radio sites. Additionally, Southwestern markets power from two hydropower projects in southeastern Texas, Sam Rayburn Dam and Robert D. Willis. These projects are isolated hydrologically, electrically, and financially from the Integrated System and are repaid via separate rate schedules.


Southwestern’s current Integrated System rate schedules (P–13A, NFTS–13A, and EE–13) are based on its 2013 Power Repayment Study (PRS). Southwestern has conducted PRSs annually thereafter through 2021. Each PRS indicated a need for a revenue adjustment that fell within a plus or minus two percent range of the revenue estimate based on the current rate schedules. It is Southwestern’s practice for the Administrator to defer, on a case-by-case basis, revenue adjustments for the Integrated System within plus or minus two percent from the revenue estimate based on the current rate schedules. The deferral of a revenue adjustment (rate change) provides for rate stability and savings on the administrative cost of implementation. Thus, the Administrator has deferred revenue adjustments annually through 2021.

Southwestern’s current rate schedules for the Sam Rayburn Dam and Robert D. Willis isolated rate systems, SRD–15 and RDW–15, are based on their respective 2015 PRS. Each subsequent annual PRS, including the 2021 PRS, indicated the need for a revenue adjustment within a plus or minus five percent range of the current revenue estimate. It is Southwestern’s practice for the Administrator to defer, on a case-by-case basis, revenue adjustments for isolated rate systems that are within plus or minus five percent of the revenue estimated from the current rate schedule. Therefore, the Administrator deferred revenue adjustments annually for Sam Rayburn Dam and Robert D. Willis through 2021.

Legal Authority

By Delegation Order No. 00–037.00B, effective November 19, 2016, the Secretary of Energy delegated: (1) The authority to develop power and transmission rates to Southwestern’s Administrator; (2) the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Deputy Secretary of Energy; and (3) the authority to confirm, approve, and place into effect on a final basis, or to remand or disapprove such rates, to FERC. By Delegation Order No. S1–DEL–S4–2021, effective February 25, 2021, the Acting Secretary of Energy also delegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Under Secretary for Science (and Energy). By Redelegation Order No. S4–DEL–OE1–2021, effective March 25, 2021, the Acting Under Secretary for Science (and Energy) redelegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Assistant Secretary for Electricity.
And by Redelegation Order No. 00–002.10–04, effective July 8, 2020, the Assistant Secretary for Electricity further redelegated the authority to confirm, approve, and place such rates into effect on an interim basis to the Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration. This redelegation order, despite predating the February 2021 and March 2021 redelegations, remains valid. By these delegations, and in accordance with 10 CFR 903.22(h) and 10 CFR 903.23(a), as amended (84 FR 5347, 5350 (Feb. 21, 2019)), Southwestern’s Administrator may approve and extend, on an interim basis, rates previously confirmed and approved by FERC beyond the period specified by FERC.

Environmental Impact

Southwestern previously determined that the rate change actions, placed into effect on October 1, 2013 for the Integrated System and on January 1, 2016 for Sam Rayburn Dam and Robert D. Willis, fit within the class of categorically excluded actions as listed in Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR part 1021, DOE’s Implementing Procedures and Guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321–4347): Categorical exclusions applicable to B4.3: Electric power marketing rate changes, which does not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). On May 27, 2021, Southwestern determined that categorical exclusion B4.3 applies to the current action.

Determination Under Executive Order 12866

Southwestern has an exemption from centralized regulatory review under Executive Order 12866; accordingly, no clearance of this notice by the Office of Management and Budget is required.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on June 4, 2021, by Mike Wech, Administrator for Southwestern Power Administration, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document, with the original signature and date, is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of DOE. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the Federal Register.

Signed in Washington, DC, on June 9, 2021.

Treena V. Garrett,
Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

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BILLING CODE 6450–01–P