

Initial Policy Statement and Revised Policy Statement, to benefit from a rebuttable presumption that they have submitted their transactions accurately,

timely, and in good faith (also known as the safe harbor policy).<sup>6</sup>

*Type of Respondents:* Wholesale natural gas market participants (FERC–552), price index data providers and developers (FERC–549E).

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>7</sup> The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

	Number of respondents (1)	Annual number of responses per respondent (2)	Total number of responses (1) * (2) = (3)	Average burden & cost per response <sup>8</sup> (4)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (3) * (4) = (5)	Cost per respondent (\$) (5) ÷ (1)
<b>FERC–552: Annual Report of Natural Gas Transactions<sup>9</sup></b>						
Wholesale natural gas market participants .....	671	1	671	20 hrs.; \$2,060 .....	13,420 hrs.; \$1,382,260 ..	\$2,060
<b>FERC 549E: Price Index Data Providers<sup>10</sup> and Developers<sup>11</sup></b>						
Data providers (and their affiliates) report Next Day Transactions.	76	249	18,924	4 hrs.; \$412 .....	75,696 hrs.; \$7,796,688 ..	102,588
Data Providers-perform biennial self-audit (not annual).	96	.5	48	80 hrs.; \$8,240 .....	3,840 hrs.; \$395,520 .....	4,120
Data Providers (and their affiliates) report Next Month Transactions.	70	12	840	4 hrs.; \$412 .....	3,360 hrs.; \$346,080 .....	4,944
Price Index Developers—code of conduct & confident.; & inform customers.	6	1	6	80 hrs.; \$8,240 .....	480 hrs.; \$49,440 .....	8,240
Price Index Developers—identify assessed index price vs. calculated.	6	1	6	80 hrs.; \$8,240 .....	480 hrs.; \$49,440 .....	8,240
Price Index Developers—re-certify every 7 yrs..	6	.14	1	269 hrs.; \$27,707 ..	269 hrs.; \$27,707 .....	4,618
TOTAL FERC 549E .....			19,825		84,125; \$8,664,875 .....	132,750

**Comments Received on 60 Day Comment Period**

The Commission received one comment from Public Citizen, Inc. (Public Citizen) regarding FERC–552 and FERC–549E. Public Citizen suggests what it describes as “needed enhancements” to reporting under FERC–552 and FERC–549E to address increasing price volatility. Public Citizen proposes revisions to the FERC–552 to increase transparency into the natural gas price index formation process. Specifically, Public Citizen recommends that the Commission: shift from annual to quarterly reporting with geographic hub-level data; require respondents to clearly identify affiliates filing separate reports; and create a publicly accessible electronic information system based on actual transactions.

The requirements related to the FERC–552 and FERC–549E information collections are governed by 18 CFR 260.401 and the Commission’s Revised Policy Statement, which include the frequency, content, scope, and availability of the collections.<sup>12</sup> In this

information collection renewal proceeding, the Commission is not currently considering changes to these regulations or to the Revised Policy Statement. Because Public Citizen’s comment proposes changes to those regulations and/or the Revised Policy Statement, its comments are outside of the scope of this information collection renewal process.

**30 Day Notice Comments**

*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.

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

<sup>8</sup>The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response \* \$103 per Hour = Average Cost per Response. The hourly cost figure comes from FERC’s average annual cost of salary plus benefits in FY25 of \$214,093. We believe this estimate is comparable to respondents salaries.

Dated: March 26, 2026.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2026–06203 Filed 3–30–26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717–01–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. IC26–1–000]

**Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC–725Z) 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 comments on the currently approved information collection, FERC–725Z (Mandatory Reliability Standards:

<sup>6</sup>Initial Policy Statement, 104 FERC ¶ 61,121 at P 37 and Revised Policy Statement, 179 FERC ¶ 61,036 at P 45.

<sup>7</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

<sup>9</sup>The number of natural gas market participants is based on CY 2024 FERC Form 552 data.

<sup>10</sup>The number of price index data providers is based on CY 2024 FERC Form 552 data.

<sup>11</sup>The number of price index developers is based on the number of entities that received FERC approval after the issuance of the 2022 Revised Policy Statement.

<sup>12</sup>Revised Policy Statement, 179 FERC ¶ 61,036.

IRO Reliability Standards). There are no changes to the reporting requirements with this information collection. No comments were received on the 60-day notice that ended on March 16, 2026.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due April 30, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on FERC-725Z to OMB through [https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/icrPublicCommentRequest?ref\\_nbr=202603-1902-008](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/icrPublicCommentRequest?ref_nbr=202603-1902-008). You can also visit <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain> and use the drop-down under “Currently under Review” to select the “Federal Energy Regulatory Commission” where you can see the open opportunities to provide comments. Comments should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Please submit a copy of your comments to the Commission via email to [DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov). You must specify the Docket No. (IC26-1-000) and the FERC Information Collection number (FERC-725Z) in your email. If you are unable to file electronically, comments may be filed by USPS mail or by hand (including courier) delivery:

- *Mail via U.S. Postal Service Only:*

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

- *All other delivery methods:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852.

**Docket:** To view comments and issuances in this docket, please visit <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>. Once there, you can also sign up for automatic notification of activity in this docket.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kayla Williams, (202) 502-6468.

[DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** FERC-725Z (Mandatory Reliability Standards: IRO Reliability Standards).

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-0276.

**Type of Request:** Extension to this currently approved information collection.

**Abstract:** On August 8, 2005, The Electricity Modernization Act of 2005, which is Title XII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAc 2005), was enacted into law.<sup>1</sup> Under section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) implemented in 18 CFR 40, the Commission requires a Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) to

develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards,<sup>2</sup> which are subject to Commission review and approval. In 2006, the Commission established a process to select and certify an ERO and, subsequently, certified the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) as the ERO.<sup>3</sup>

The ERO develops proposed Reliability Standards<sup>4</sup> and, if approved by NERC, submits them to the Commission for review and approval. When the standards are approved by the Commission, the Reliability Standards become mandatory and must be enforced by the ERO, subject to Commission oversight.

NERC established the following IRO standards within FERC-725Z:

**IRO-001-4 (Reliability Coordination—Responsibilities)** purpose is to establish the responsibility of Reliability Coordinators to act or direct other entities to act. Applicable transmission operator, balancing authority, generator operator and distribution provider shall follow the operating instructions from their reliability coordinator or inform the reliability coordinator why they cannot comply.

**IRO-002-7 (Reliability Coordination, Monitoring and Analysis)** purpose is to provide system operators with the capabilities necessary to monitor and analyze data needed to perform their reliability functions. The requirements of IRO-002-7 define data exchange capabilities, testing functionality, notifications when those capabilities are not available, monitor status at facilities, and some personnel functions. IRO-002-7 does have a WECC Variance to develop a methodology that creates models for performing operational

<sup>2</sup> The Federal Power Act (as modified by the EPAc) states “[t]he terms “reliability standard” means a requirement, approved by the Commission under this section, to provide for reliable operation of the bulk-power system. The term includes requirements for the operation of existing bulk-power system facilities, including cybersecurity protection, and the design of planned additions or modifications to such facilities to the extent necessary to provide for reliable operation of the bulk-power system, but the term does not include any requirement to enlarge such facilities or to construct new transmission capacity or generation capacity.”

<sup>3</sup> North American Electric Reliability Corp., 116 FERC ¶ 61,062, order on reh’g and compliance, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), order on compliance, 118 FERC ¶ 61,190, order on reh’g, 119 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2007), aff’d sub nom. *Alcoa Inc. v. FERC*, 564 F.3d 1342 (D.C. Cir. 2009).

<sup>4</sup> The NERC Standard Processes Manual, Appendix 3A of the NERC Rules Of Procedure, (posted at [https://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/RuleOfProcedureDL/SPM\\_Clean\\_Mar2019.pdf](https://www.nerc.com/FilingsOrders/us/RuleOfProcedureDL/SPM_Clean_Mar2019.pdf)) describes the process for developing, modifying, withdrawing, or retiring a Reliability Standard.

planning analyses and real-time assessments.

Currently effective IRO-009-2 applicable to reliability coordinators and the purpose of the standard is to prevent instability, uncontrolled separation, or cascading outages that adversely impact the reliability of the interconnection by ensuring prompt action to prevent or mitigate instances of exceeding Interconnection Reliability Operating Limits (IROLs). The standard mandates that a Reliability Coordinator must have operating processes to prevent IROL exceedance and, if an exceedance is predicted, initiate those processes. It also requires them to mitigate exceedances when they occur and coordinate their actions with neighboring Reliability Coordinators in situations where there is a difference in IROLs.

Additionally, regarding data exchange, NERC cites Reliability Standard IRO-010-5 (Reliability Coordinator Data Specification and Collection) and its stated purpose of preventing instability, uncontrolled separation, or cascading outages “by ensuring the Reliability Coordinator has the data it needs to monitor and assess the operation of its Reliability Coordinator Area.” In IRO-010-5 required in the standard that the reliability coordinator must specify the data necessary for it to perform its operational planning analyses and provide the specifications to the entities from which it needs data who then must comply with the data request using a mutually agreeable format and security protocols.

**IRO-014-3** purpose is to ensure that each Reliability Coordinator’s operations are coordinated such that they will not adversely impact other Reliability Coordinator Areas and to preserve the reliability benefits of interconnected operations. IRO-014-3 standard requires Reliability Coordinators (RCs) to coordinate operating procedures and handle emergencies to ensure interconnected operations remain reliable and do not negatively impact neighboring RC areas.

**IRO-017-1 (Outage Coordination)** purpose is to ensure that outages are properly coordinated in the Operations Planning time horizon and Near-Term Transmission Planning Horizon. IRO-017-1, known as “Outage Coordination,” establishes requirements for coordinating generation and transmission outages to maintain bulk electric system reliability. Reliability coordinators, planning coordinators, balancing authorities, transmission owners and transmission planners are applicable entities for IRO-017-1.

<sup>1</sup> The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAc), Public Law 109-58, Title XII, Subtitle A, 119 Stat. 594, 941 (2005), codified at 16 U.S.C. 824o (2000).

IRO-018-1(i) (Reliability Coordinator Real-time Reliability Monitoring and Analysis Capabilities), submitted by North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). IRO-018-1(i) mandates that Reliability Coordinators (RCs) possess real-time monitoring and analysis tools to ensure bulk electric system reliability. This standard, which includes requirements for RCs, aims to enhance system operators' awareness of monitoring tools and data quality. In this order, the Reliability Standards build on monitoring, real-time assessments and support effective situational awareness. The Reliability Standards accomplish this by requiring applicable entities to: (1) provide notification to operators of real-time monitoring alarm failures; (2) provide operators with indications of the quality of information being provided by their monitoring and analysis capabilities;

and (3) address deficiencies in the quality of information being provided by their monitoring and analysis capabilities.

NERC observes that the performance of the requirements it cites is premised on the existence of data exchange capabilities, regardless of whether a separate requirement expressly requires the reliability coordinator to have data exchange capabilities in place.

In review this 725Z collection for the IRO Reliability Standards, the number of entities/respondents was checked and broken down into the applicable type of entity for each reliability standard. As we continue to combine various work projects associated with the 725Z collection there was an increase in the number of responses from 953 to 2,687. The increase is largely associated with capturing all the reliability standard applicable entities into this single

collection and the single largest contributor was the addition of generator owners in reliability standard IRO-001-4. These adjustments in response count will provide a more accurate representation of all the entities under the 725Z collection. Staff looked at each reliability standard as its own unique project and in doing so eliminated the multiple entity count by making a more accurate representation of the number of responses.

*Type of Respondents:* Reliability coordinators (RC), Planning Coordinators (PC), Balancing authorities (BA), Transmission Owners (TO), Transmission Planners (TP), Transmission Operators (TOP), Distribution Planners (DP) are included entities for *Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>5</sup> The Commission estimates the changes in the annual public reporting burden and cost<sup>6</sup> as follows.

**FERC-725Z—REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS FOR RELIABILITY STANDARDS IRO-001, IRO-002, IRO-008, IRO-009, IRO-010, IRO-014, IRO-017, AND IRO-018**

Information collection requirements	Number of respondents & type of entity	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden hours & cost per response (\$)	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost (\$)	Total annual burden cost
	(1) <sup>7</sup>	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5)/(1)
IRO-001-4 .....	12 (RC)	1	12	24 hrs., \$1,524.48 .....	288 hrs., \$18,293.76 .....	\$1,524.48
	97 (BA)	1	97	4 hrs., \$254.08 .....	388 hrs., \$24,645.76 .....	254.08
	1,314 (GO)	1	1,314	4 hrs., \$254.08 .....	5,256 hrs., \$333,861.12 .....	254.08
	298 (DP)	1	298	4 hrs., \$254.08 .....	1,192 hrs., \$75,715.84 .....	254.08
	166 (TOP)	1	166	12 hrs., \$762.24 .....	1,992 hrs., \$126,531.84 .....	762.24
IRO-002-7 .....	12 (RC)	1	12	24 hrs., \$1,524.48 .....	288 hrs., \$18,293.76 .....	1,524.48
IRO-008-3 .....	12 (RC)	1	12	160 hrs., \$10,163.2 .....	1,920 hrs., \$121,985.4 .....	10,163.2
IRO-009-2 .....	12 (RC)	1	12	12 hrs., \$762.24 .....	144 hrs., \$9,146.88 .....	762.24
IRO-010-5 .....	12 (RC)	1	12	24 hrs., \$1,524.48 .....	288 hrs., \$18,293.76 .....	1,524.48
IRO-014-3 .....	12 (RC)	1	12	12 hrs., \$762.24 .....	144 hrs., \$9,146.88 .....	762.24
IRO-017-1 .....	12 (RC)	1	12	1,200 hrs., \$76,224 .....	14,400 hrs., \$914,688 .....	76,224
IRO-018-1(i) .....	62 (PC)	1	62	96 hrs., \$6,097.92 .....	5,704 hrs., \$362,318.08 .....	6,097.92
	211 (TP)	1	211	96 hrs., \$6,097.92 .....	20,256 hrs., \$1,286,661.12 .....	6,097.92
	337 (TO)	1	337	8 hrs., \$508.12 .....	2,696 hrs., \$1,712,499.2 .....	508.12
IRO-018-1(i) .....	97 (BA)	1	97	8 hr., \$508.16 .....	776 hrs., \$49,291.52 .....	508.16
	12 (RC)	1	12	34 hrs., \$2,159.68 .....	408 hrs., \$25,916.16 .....	2,159.68
<b>Total for FERC-725Z .....</b>			<b>2,678</b>		<b>55,218 hrs., \$3,538,599.16 .....</b>	

*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: March 26, 2026.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Secretary.*

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<sup>5</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. For further explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, refer to 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

<sup>6</sup> The estimated hourly cost (salary plus benefits) is a combination of the following categories from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website, May

2025 [http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2\\_22.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm): 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071) \$71.19/hr., x .75 = 53.3925 (\$53.39-rounded) (\$53.39/hour); and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43-4199) \$40.51/hr., \$40.51 x .25 = 10.1275 (\$10.13 rounded) (\$10.13/hour), for a total (\$53.39 + \$10.13 = \$63.52/hour).

<sup>7</sup> The NERC Compliance Registry, as of July 11, 2025, identifies the following NERC unique U.S. entities that are subject to mandatory compliance

with Reliability Standard IRO-001-4, IRO-002-7, IRO-008-3, IRO-009-2, IRO-010-5, IRO-014-3, IRO-017-1, IRO-018-1(i). The number of respondents below is based on an estimate of the NERC compliance registry US only Unique Entities; for balancing authority, transmission operator (TOP), transmission Planners (TP), distribution planners (DP), generator owner (GO) and reliability coordinator (RC).