

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC26–8–000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC–538) 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, 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is submitting its information collection FERC–538 (Gas Pipeline Certificates: Section 7(a) Mandatory Initial Service) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review of the information collection requirements. No comments were received on the 60-day notice.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due May 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on FERC–538 to OMB through https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/icrPublicCommentRequest?ref_nbr=202602-1902-003. 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. You must specify the Docket No. (IC26–8–000) and the FERC Information Collection number (FERC–538) 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>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kayla Williams may be reached by email at DataClearance@FERC.gov, or by telephone at (202) 502–6468.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Gas Pipeline Certificates: Section 7(a) Mandatory Initial Service. *OMB Control No.:* 1902–0061.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC–538 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The purpose of FERC–538 is to implement the information collections pursuant to sections 7(a), 10(a) and 16 of Natural Gas Act¹, and part 156 of the Commission Regulations.² These statutes and regulations allow for the Commission, after receiving an application, to order a natural gas company to extend or improve its transportation facilities and sell natural gas to the municipality or person and, for such purpose, to extend its transportation facilities to communities immediately adjacent to such facilities or to territories served by the natural gas pipeline company. The Commission uses the application data in order to be fully informed concerning the applicant and the service the applicant is requesting.

Type of Respondents: Persons or municipalities authorized to engage in the local distribution of natural gas.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*³ The Commission estimates the annual reporting burden and cost for the information collection as:

| | Number of respondents | Annual number of responses per respondent | Total number of responses | Average burden hours & cost (\$) per response ⁴ | Total annual burden hours & total annual Cost (\$) | Cost per respondent (\$) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| | (1) | (2) | (1) * (2) = (3) | (4) | (3)* (4) = (5) | (5) ÷ (1) |
| Gas Pipeline Certificates | 1 | 1 | 1 | 255 hrs. ⁵ ; \$26,265 | 255 hrs.; \$26,265 | \$26,265 |

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: April 2, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–06705 Filed 4–6–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2454–088]

ALLETE, Inc.; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

¹ 15 U.S.C. 717f–w.

² 18 CFR part 156 (2005).

³ “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, reference 5 CFR 1320.3.

⁴ Commission staff estimates that the industry’s hourly cost for wages plus benefits is similar to the Commission’s \$103 FY 2025 average hourly cost for wages and benefits.

⁵ The burden has been corrected from the 60-day notice. That notice correctly stated that the burden did not change from the previously approved information collection request. However, the incorrect figures were included in the table.

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.
 b. *Project No.:* 2454–088.
 c. *Date filed:* March 24, 2026.
 d. *Applicant:* ALLETE, Inc. (ALLETE).
 e. *Name of Project:* Sylvan Hydroelectric Project (project).
 f. *Location:* The project is located on the Crow Wing River in Cass, Crow Wing, and Morrison Counties, Minnesota.
 g. *Filed Pursuant to:* Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791(a)–825(r).
 h. *Applicant Contact:* Mr. Greg Prom, Senior Environmental Compliance Specialist, Minnesota Power/ALLETE, Inc., 30 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802–2093; Phone at (218) 355–3191 or email at gprom@allete.com.
 i. *FERC Contact:* David Graefe at (202) 502–6137; or email at david.graefe@ferc.gov.
 j. This application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.
 k. *Project Description:* the project consists of: (1) a 1,211-acre reservoir; (2) a 78.0-foot-long left earth embankment with a concrete core wall; (3) a powerhouse with three 600-kilowatt

generating units with a total installed capacity of 1.8 megawatts; (4) a 243.8-foot-long spillway with four vertical slide gates and two inflatable rubber dams; (5) a 41.0-foot-long right earth embankment with a concrete core wall; (6) a 730.0-foot-long earth embankment, approximately 4 to 6 feet tall; (7) an 830.0-foot-long earth embankment, about 4 to 6 feet tall with some sections up to 9 feet tall, with an auxiliary spillway; (8) an approximately 1,211-acre reservoir; and (9) appurtenant facilities.

The project is operated in a run-of-river mode with an estimated annual energy production of approximately 9,963 megawatt hours. ALLETE proposes to continue to operate the project in a run-of-river mode.

l. In addition to publishing the full text of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this notice, as well as other documents in the proceeding (e.g., license application) via the internet through the

Commission’s Home Page (<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 (P–2454). For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208–3676 (toll free), or (202) 502–8659 (TTY).

You may also register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/FERCOnline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

m. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

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

| Milestone | Target |
|---|-----------------|
| Deficiency Letter (if necessary) | July 2026. |
| Additional Information Request (if necessary) | July 2026. |
| Notice of Acceptance/Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis | September 2026. |

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.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: April 2, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,
Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–06706 Filed 4–6–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2545–205]

Avista Corporation; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (Commission or FERC) regulations, 18 CFR part 380, Commission staff reviewed Avista Corporation’s application for non-capacity amendment of the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project No. 2545

and have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project.¹ The licensee proposes to rehabilitate the North Channel Dam by replacing all existing gates on the spillway. The project is located on the Spokane River in Spokane, Lincoln, and Stevens counties, Washington, and in Kootenai and Benewah counties, Idaho. The project occupies federal and tribal lands, including parts of the Coeur d’Alene Reservation.

The EA contains Commission staff’s analysis of the potential environmental effects of the proposed action, alternatives to the proposed action, and concludes that the proposed amendment, with appropriate environmental measures, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The EA may be viewed on the Commission’s website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the “elibrary” link. Enter the docket number (P–2545) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at

¹ The unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX–019–20–000–1762338353.

FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll-free at 1–866–208–3676, or for TTY, (202) 502–8659.

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.

All comments must be filed by May 4, 2026 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments using the Commission’s eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese,