

specific aspects of the information collection described below.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before October 19, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from, and written comments may be submitted to, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 208-2425 and by E-mail at [mike.miller@ferc.fed.us](mailto:mike.miller@ferc.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collected under the requirements of FERC Form No. 423, "Monthly Report of Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Plants" (OMB No. 1902-0024) is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Section 205, of the Federal Power Act,

as amended by Section 208 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (49 Stat. 851; 16 U.S.C. 824d). The Commission describes Form 423 filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR Part 141.61.

FERC Form No. 423 gathers basic cost and quality of fuels for electric plants. The Commission staff uses the Form 423 information to conduct fuel reviews under Section 205(a) and (e) of the FPA, rate investigations, and to track wholesale market changes and trends under emerging competitive forces. Other government agencies use Form 423 to track the supply, disposition and prices of fuel on national and regional levels and for environmental assessments. Electric utilities and other wholesale electric participants use the Form 423 data to assess the competitive marketplace.

#### Action

The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration

date. The Commission staff is currently exploring the filing of Form 423 information electronically (using a web-based application) in lieu of the present system of mailing paper filings to the Commission. If the Commission proposes to convert to electronic filing of Form 423 data, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be issued proposing to amend the Commission's regulations to provide for the electronic filing of FERC 423. Such a proposal may also seek to eliminate the current signature requirement and simply require the identification of a representative at each utility responsible for submitting the data electronically. The representative will be given a password and identification code to ensure system integrity.

#### Burden Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents	Annual responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)×(2)×(3)
702	12	1.5	12,636

The reduction in the number of annual respondents (plants) from 735 to 702 is due to mergers and dispositions of various utilities generating assets and plants that have retired in the last three years. Estimated cost burden to respondents: 12,636 hours/2080 hours per year × \$109,889 = \$667,576; (i.e., 12,636 hours divided by 2,080 hours per full time employee per year multiplied by \$109,889 per year equals \$667,576). Reporting burden includes the total time, effort and financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information. The estimate of respondent cost is based upon salaries for professional and clerical support, as well as direct and indirect

overhead costs. Direct costs include all costs directly attributable to providing this information, such as administrative costs and the cost for information technology. Indirect or overhead costs are costs incurred by an organization in support of its mission. These costs apply to activities which benefit the whole organization rather than any one particular function or activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical applications; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utilization and clarity of the information to be collected; (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including the proposed electronic submission of responses; (5) the magnitude of the impact of the conversion to electronic filing on respondents; (6) the proposed elimination of signature requirement; (7) any existence of a competitive disadvantage caused by publicly providing information in Form 423 to

which competitors would have access (without a corresponding obligation on its competitors not subject to the Commission's reporting requirements); and (8) the relevancy of the information currently collected given the current transition from cost-based to a fully competitive wholesale electric market.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**  
*Acting Secretary.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC99-714-000, FERC Form No. 714]

#### Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

August 16, 1999.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before October 19, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from, and written comments may be submitted to, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC, 20426.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 208-2425, and by E-mail at mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collected under the requirements for FERC Form No. 714, "Annual electric Control and Planning Area Report" (OMB No. 1902-0140), is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Sections 202, 207, 210, 211-213 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended (49 Stat. 838; 16 U.S.C. 791a-825r), and particularly Sections 304, 309, and 311. The Commission describes the Form 714 filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR Part 141.51.

FERC Form No. 714 gathers basic utility operating and planning information, primarily on a control area

basis. The Commission staff uses the Form 714 data for the purpose of evaluating utility operations related to proposed mergers, interconnections, wholesale rate investigations, and wholesale market changes and trends under emerging competitive forces. Such evaluations are made to assess system reliability, costs and other operating attributes. Other government agencies use the Form 714 data to monitor power plant emissions. Electric utilities and other wholesale electric participants use the Form 714 data to identify and monitor economic and capacity constraints in the transmission system.

#### Action

The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed comments during the last OMB recertification process for the FERC Form 714 recommending the following three modifications:

- Development of an electronic filing procedure;
- Submission of monthly data along with the annual reporting of Part II, Schedule 5 information (interchange with neighboring control areas); and
- Change the filing date of Form 714 from June 1, to March 1, in order to provide for a timely analysis of the structural changes in the industry.

Unfortunately, there was not enough time available during the last clearance cycle to address EPA's request. During this cycle, the Commission staff intends to address EPA's suggestions, and invites comments on them. Specifically, the Commission staff is currently exploring the filing of Form 714 information electronically (using a web-based application) in lieu of the present combined system of mailing paper filings and electronic media (diskettes) to the Commission. If the Commission decides to propose to convert to electronic filing of Form 714, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be issued proposing to amend the Commission's regulations to provide for the electronic filing of Form 714. Such a proposal may also seek to eliminate the current signature requirement and simply require the identification of a representative at each utility responsible for submitting the data electronically. The representative will be given a password and identification code to ensure system integrity.

The Commission staff is also considering the adoption of the other suggestions made by EPA: requiring the submission of monthly scheduled and actual Interchange energy data in addition to the annual data reported in Part II, Schedule 5; and moving the filing date to March 1.

#### Burden Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents (1)	Annual responses per respondent (2)	Average burden hours per response (3)	Total annual burden hours (1) × (2) × (3)
237	1	45	10,665

The reduction of annual respondents from 250 to 237 is due to an increase in the number of mergers and a corresponding reduction in the number of Form 714 respondents. In addition, the conversion to electronic filing is estimated to reduce average burden hours per respondent (from 50 hours presently, to 45). The estimated cost burden to respondents: 10,665 hours/2080 hours per year × \$109,889 per year = \$563,445. Reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing

information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information. The estimate of respondent cost is based upon salaries for professional and clerical support, as well as direct and indirect overhead costs. Direct costs include all costs directly attributable to providing this information, such as administrative costs and the cost for information technology. Indirect or overhead costs are costs incurred by an organization in support of its mission. These costs apply to activities which benefit the whole organization rather

than any one particular function or activity.

Comments are invited on: (1) Whether the proposed information collection, including the EPA proposed modifications, is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical applications; (2) the accuracy of the Commission's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utilization and clarity of the collected information; (4) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the proposed electronic submission of responses; (5) the magnitude of the impact of the

conversion to electronic filing on respondents; (6) the proposed elimination of the signature requirement; (7) any existence of a competitive disadvantage caused by publicly providing information in Form 714 to which competitors would have access (without a corresponding obligation on its competitors not subject to the Commission's reporting requirements); (8) the relevancy of the information currently collected given the current transition from cost-based to a fully competitive wholesale electric market; (9) whether the proposed filing date change from June 1 to March 1 is unduly burdensome; and (10) the burden of requiring monthly control area scheduled and actual interchange data.

**Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,**

*Acting Secretary.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC99-715-000, FERC Form No. 715]

#### Proposed Information Collection and Request for Comments

August 16, 1999.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed information collection and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of Section 3506(c)(2)(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described below.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to comments submitted on or before October 19, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained from, and written comments may be submitted to, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Attn: Michael Miller, Office of the Chief Information Officer, CI-1, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 208-1415, by fax at (202) 208-2425, and by E-mail at mike.miller@ferc.fed.us.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collected under the requirements for FERC Form No. 715, "Annual Transmission Planning and Evaluation Report" (OMB No. 1902-0171), is used by the Commission to implement the statutory provisions of Sections 202, 207, 210, 211-213 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended (49 Stat. 838; 16 U.S.C. 791a-825r) and particularly Sections 213(b), 304, 309, and 311. The Commission describes the Form 715 filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR Part 141.300.

FERC Form No. 715 gathers basic electric transmission systems information. The Commission staff uses the Form 715 information to evaluate

available transmission capacity and transmission constraints on electric transmission systems. Electrical transmission system customers use the information to determine transmission availability. Transmission dependent utilities use the information to determine transmission availability from alternative wholesale suppliers. Federal, military and private agencies use the information to simulate various scenarios and test theories in order to improve the current transmission system.

#### Action

The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date. The Commission staff is currently exploring the filing of Form 715 information electronically (using a web-based application) in lieu of the present combined system of mailing paper filings and electronic media (diskettes) to the Commission. If the Commission proposes to convert to electronic filing of Form 715 data, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be issued proposing to amend the Commission's regulations to provide for the electronic filing of Form 715. Such a proposal may also seek to eliminate the current signature requirement and simply require the identification of a representative at each utility responsible for submitting the data electronically. The representative will be given a password and identification code to ensure system integrity.

#### Burden Statement

Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

Number of respondents	Annual responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)×(2)×(3)
117	1	95	11,115

The reduction of annual respondents from 200 to 117 is due to two factors. The first factor is an increase in the number of mergers. The second factor is the increase in the use of a secondary entity to file the Form 715. For example, the data is compiled by individual utilities and submitted to the NERC region. The NERC region consolidates the information of its members into a single response and submits it to the Commission. These two factors resulted in a reduction in the number of Form 715 respondents. In addition, the conversion to electronic filing (if implemented) is estimated to reduce

average burden hours per respondent (from 100 hours presently, to 95). The estimated cost burden to respondents: 11,115/2080 hours per year × \$109,889 per year = \$587,219. Reporting burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting the existing ways to comply with any

previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information. The estimate of respondent cost is based upon salaries for professional and clerical support, as well as direct and indirect overhead costs. Direct costs include all costs directly attributable to providing this information, such as administrative costs and the cost for information technology. Indirect or overhead costs are costs incurred by an