

Trade Commission, the General Accounting Office, Committees of Congress, the IEA, and the European Commission; and invitees of the IAB, the SEQ, the SOM, or the IEA.

Issued in Washington, DC, June 15, 2011.

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*Assistant General Counsel for International and National Security Programs.*

[FR Doc. 2011-15282 Filed 6-17-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Docket No. IC11-523-000]

**Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-523); Comment Request; Extension**

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

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

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 USC 3506(c)(2)(A) (2006), (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the proposed information collection activities described below.

**DATES:** Comments in consideration of the collection of information are due August 19, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be filed either electronically (eFiled) or in paper format, and should refer to Docket No. IC11-523-000. Documents must be prepared in an acceptable filing format and in compliance with Commission submission guidelines at <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>.

[www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp). eFiling instructions are available at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. First time users must follow eRegister instructions at: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eregistration.asp>, to establish a user name and password before eFiling. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgement to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of eFiled comments. Commenters making an eFiling should not make a paper filing. Commenters that are not able to file electronically must send an original of their comments to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket may do so through eSubscription at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp>. (If docket number contains an alpha at the end then the following sentence should be used instead of the previous one: Due to a system issue, eFiling and eSubscription are not available for this docket.) All comments and FERC issuances may be viewed, printed or downloaded remotely through FERC's eLibrary at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>, by searching on Docket No. IC11-523. For user assistance, contact FERC Online Support by e-mail at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov), or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ellen Brown may be reached by e-mail at [DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The information collection is under the requirements of FERC-523,

“Applications for Authorization for Issuance of Securities or the Assumption of Liabilities”, OMB Control No. 1902-0043.

Under Federal Power Act (FPA) section 204, 16 U.S.C. 824c, no public utility or licensee shall issue any security, or assume any obligation or liability as guarantor, endorser, surety, or otherwise in respect of any security of another person, until the public utility applies for and receives Commission approval by order authorizing the issue or assumption of the liability. The Commission issues an order if it finds that such issue or assumption (a) is for lawful object, within the corporate purposes of the applicant and compatible with the public interest, which is necessary or appropriate for or consistent with the proper performance by the applicant as a public utility and which will not impair its ability to perform that service, and (b) is reasonably necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

The Commission uses the information contained in filings to determine its acceptance and/or rejection of applications for authorization to either issue securities or to assume an obligation or liability by the public utilities and their licensees who make these applications.

The Commission implements this statute through its regulations, which are found at 18 CFR Part 34; and 18 CFR sections 131.43 and 131.50. Part 131 prescribes the required filing format. The information is filed electronically.

**Action:** The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

**Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as:

	Number of responses annually	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total annual burden hours
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1) × (2) × (3)
78 .....		1.7	88	11,669

The estimated total cost to respondents is \$798,721 [11,669 hours/2,080 hours<sup>1</sup> per year, times \$142,372<sup>2</sup> equals \$798,721]. The cost per respondent annually is \$10,240. This is an increase from 60 to currently 78

<sup>1</sup> Number of hours an employee works each year.  
<sup>2</sup> Average annual salary per employee (including overhead).

utilities filing annually. An increase from 1 to 1.7 filings per utility annually was also seen. The Commission considers this a normal fluctuation due to market activities and filing times chosen. Utilities files periodically, therefore the number of filings are expected to continue to fluctuate from year-to-year.

The 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, using 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 filing instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to this collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

The cost estimate for respondents 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 utility; (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, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

Dated: June 14, 2011.

**Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr.,**

*Deputy Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2011-15193 Filed 6-17-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC11-519-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-519); Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

**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, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A) (2006), (Pub. L. 104-13), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the proposed information collection activities described below.

**DATES:** Comments in consideration of the collection of information are due August 19, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be filed either electronically (eFiled) or in paper format, and should refer to Docket No. IC11-519-000. Documents must be prepared in an acceptable filing format and in compliance with Commission submission guidelines at <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. eFiling instructions are available at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. First time users must follow eRegister instructions at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eregistration.asp>, to establish a user name and password before eFiling. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgement to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of eFiled comments. Commenters making an eFiling should not make a paper filing. Commenters that are not able to file electronically must send an original of their comments to: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426.

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assistance, contact FERC Online Support by e-mail at [ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov](mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov), or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Brown may be reached by e-mail at [DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Description

The FERC-519, "Application under Federal Power Act section 203," OMB Control No. 1902-0082, is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing the statutory provisions of section 203 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 824b. Section 203 authorizes the Commission to grant approval of transactions in which a public utility disposes of jurisdictional facilities, merges such facilities with the facilities owned by another person or acquires the securities of another public utility. Under this statute, the Commission must find that the proposed transaction will be consistent with the public interest.

Under section 203 of the FPA, FERC must review proposed mergers, acquisitions and dispositions of jurisdictional facilities by public utilities, if the value of the facilities exceeds \$10 million, and must approve these transactions if they are consistent with the public interest. One of FERC's overarching goals is to promote competition in wholesale power markets, having determined that effective competition, as opposed to traditional forms of price regulation, can best protect the interests of ratepayers. Market power, however, can be exercised to the detriment of effective competition and customers, making it necessary for FERC to review and approve or disapprove all jurisdictional mergers, dispositions and acquisitions. The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 33.

**Action:** The Commission is requesting a three-year extension of the current expiration date with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

**Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated as: