

Tuesday, April 17, 2018, to RSVP and to receive specific instructions on how to participate.

Dated: April 6, 2018.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-07552 Filed 4-11-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC18-11-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-585); 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 comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-585 (Reporting of Electric Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans Under PURPA Section 206).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due June 11, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC18-11-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's Website:*
<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>.

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:*
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. For user assistance contact

FERC Online Support by email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

Docket: Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Brown may be reached by email at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-585 (Reporting of Electric Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans Under PURPA ¹ Section 206).

OMB Control No.: 1902-0138.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-585 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission uses the information collected under the requirements of FERC-585 "Reporting of Electric Energy Shortages and Contingency Plans under Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1979" to implement the statutory provisions of Section 206 of PURPA. Section 206 of PURPA amended the Federal Power Act (FPA) by adding a new subsection (g) to section 202, under which the Commission, by rule, was to require each public utility to report to the Commission and any appropriate state regulatory authority:

- Any anticipated shortages of electric energy or capacity which would affect the utility's capability to serve its wholesale customers; and
- a contingency plan that would outline what circumstances might give rise to such occurrences.

In Order No. 575,² the Commission modified the reporting requirements in 18 CFR 294.101(b) to provide that, if a public utility includes in its rates schedule, provisions that during electric energy and capacity shortages:

- It will treat firm power wholesale customers without undue discrimination or preference; and

- it will report any modifications to its contingency plan for accommodating shortages within 15 days to the appropriate state regulatory agency and to the affected wholesale customers, then the utility need not file with the Commission an additional statement of contingency plan for accommodating such shortages.

This revision merely changed the reporting mechanism; the public utility's contingency plan would be located in its filed rate rather than in a separate document.

In Order No. 659,³ the Commission modified the reporting requirements in 18 CFR 294.101(e) to provide that the means by which public utilities must comply with the requirements to report shortages and anticipated shortages is to submit this information electronically using the Office of Electric Reliability's pager system at emergency@ferc.gov in lieu of submitting an original and two copies with the Secretary of the Commission.

The Commission uses the information to evaluate and formulate an appropriate option for action in the event an unanticipated shortage is reported and/or materializes. Without this information, the Commission and State agencies would be unable to:

- Examine and approve or modify utility actions;
- prepare a response to anticipated disruptions in electric energy; and/or
- ensure equitable treatment of all public utility customers under the shortage situations.

The Commission implements these filing requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) under 18 CFR part 294.101.

Type of Respondents: Public Utilities.

Estimate of Annual Burden:⁴ The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

REPORTING OF ELECTRIC ENERGY SHORTAGES AND CONTINGENCY PLANS UNDER PURPA

Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden & cost per response ⁵	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost	Cost per respondent
(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
1	1	1	73 hrs.; \$5,585	73 hrs.; \$5,585	\$5,585

¹ PURPA = Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 95-617, 92 Statute 3117), enacted 11/9/1978.

² Final Rule in Docket RM92-12-000, issued on 1/13/1995.

³ Final Rule in Docket RM05-19-000, issued on 5/27/2005.

⁴ "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 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

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 6, 2018.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018-07555 Filed 4-11-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC18-12-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-566); 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 comment on the currently approved information collection, FERC-566 (Annual Report of a Utility's 20 Largest Purchasers).

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due June 11, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC18-12-000) by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's Website:*
<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>.

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier:*
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. For user assistance contact FERC Online Support by email at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

Docket: Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Brown may be reached by email at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-566 (Annual Report of a Utility's 20 Largest Purchasers).

OMB Control No.: 1902-0114.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-566 information collection requirements with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Federal Power Act (FPA), as amended by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA), mandates federal oversight and approval of certain electric corporate activities to ensure that neither public nor private interests are adversely affected. Accordingly, the FPA proscribes related information filing requirements to achieve this goal. Such filing requirements are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), specifically in 18 CFR 131.31, and serve as the basis for the FERC-566.

FERC-566 implements FPA requirements that each public utility annually publish a list of the 20 purchasers which purchased the largest annual amounts of electric energy sold by such public utility during any of the three previous calendar years. The public disclosure of this information provides the information necessary to determine whether an interlocked position is with any of the 20 largest purchasers of electric energy. Similar to the Form 561,¹ the FPA identifies who must file the FERC-566 report and sets the filing deadline.

Type of Respondents: Public utility.

Estimate of Annual Burden:² The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden for the information collection as:

FERC-566 (ANNUAL REPORT OF A UTILITY'S 20 LARGEST PURCHASERS)

	Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden & cost per response ³	Total annual burden hours & total annual cost	Cost per respondent (\$)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
FERC-566	300	1	300	4 hrs.; \$306	1,200 hrs.; \$91,800 ..	\$306

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.

⁵ The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response * \$76.50 per Hour = Average Cost per Response. The figure comes from the 2017 FERC average hourly cost (for wages and benefits) of \$76.50 (and an average annual salary of \$158,754). Commission staff is using the FERC average salary because we consider any reporting completed in response to the FERC-585 to be compensated at rates similar to the work of FERC employees.

¹ FERC Form No. 561 (Annual Report of Interlocking Directorates), OMB Control No. 1902-0099.

² "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 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

³ The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response * \$76.50 per Hour = Average Cost per Response. The figure comes from the 2017 FERC average hourly cost (for wages and benefits) of \$76.50 (and an average annual salary of \$158,754). Commission staff is using the FERC average hourly cost because we consider any reporting completed in response to the FERC-566 to be compensated at rates similar to the work of FERC employees.