

Dated: November 14, 2018.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC19-5-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-500); 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-
500 (Application for License/Relicense
and Exemption for Water Projects with
More than 5 Megawatt Capacity).

DATES: Comments on the collection of
information are due January 22, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments
(identified by Docket No. IC19-5-000)
by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's website:*
[http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/
efiling.asp](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](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](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-500, Application for
License/Relicense and Exemption for
Water Projects with More than 5
Megawatt Capacity.¹

OMB Control No.: 1902-0058

Abstract: Pursuant to the Federal
Power Act, the Commission is
authorized to issue licenses and
exemptions to citizens of the United
States, or to any corporation organized
under the laws of United States or any
State thereof, or to any State or
municipality for the purpose of
constructing, operating, and
maintaining dams, water conduits,
reservoirs, power houses, transmission
lines, or other project works necessary
or convenient for the development and
improvement of navigation and for the
development, transmission, and
utilization of power across, along, from,
or in any of the streams or other bodies
of water over which Congress has
jurisdiction under its authority to
regulate commerce with foreign nations
and among the several States, or upon
any part of the public lands and
reservations of the United States.

FERC-500 is an application (for water
projects with more than 5 megawatt
capacity) for a hydropower license or
exemption. FERC-500 includes certain
reporting requirements in 18 CFR 4, 5,
8, 16, 141, 154.15, and 292. Depending
on the type of application, it may
include project description, schedule,
resource allocation, project operation,
construction schedule, cost, and
financing; and an environmental report.
After an application is filed, the Federal
agencies with responsibilities under the
Federal Power Act (FPA) and other

¹There is a pending Notice of Proposed
Rulemaking in Docket No. RM18-14-000 which
proposes to make some changes to FERC-500. This
notice does not reflect the proposed changes to
FERC-500 due to Docket No. RM18-14.

statutes,² the States, Indian tribes, and
other participants have opportunities to
request additional studies and provide
comments and recommendations.

Submission of the FERC-500
application is necessary to fulfill the
requirements of the FPA in order for the
Commission to make the required
finding that the proposal is
economically, technically, and
environmentally sound, and is best
adapted to a comprehensive plan for
improving/developing a waterway or
waterways.

Type of Respondent: Applicants for
major hydropower licenses or
exemptions greater than 5 MW

*Estimate of Annual Burden*³:
Applicants for licenses are required to
include an estimate of their cost to
prepare the license application, which
would include nearly all of the
reporting requirements in FERC-500.⁴
Because the requirements for an
exemption application are largely the
same as that of a license application, the
license application costs are a good
estimate of the exemption application
costs and of the overall burden of
preparing license and exemption
applications for projects greater than 5
MW.

To estimate the burden, we used
actual data reported by applicants for
proposed projects greater than 5 MW
filed in fiscal years (FY) 2016 through
2018, and averaged the reported license
application costs. The results are
presented in the table below.

² Statutes include the Electric Consumers
Protection Act (ECPA), the National Environmental
Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, the
Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of
1972 (the Clean Water Act), and the Coastal Zone
Management Act.

³ "Burden" is 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 Title 5 Code of Federal Regulations
1320.3.

⁴ Exceptions would be 18 CFR 2.19, 4.201, 4.202,
4.303, 4.35, 8.1, 8.2, 16.19, 141.15, and 292.208,
none of which directly relate to preparation of a
license or exemption application for a project
greater than 5 MW.

Fiscal year	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Number of applications (Responses)	14	8	6
Average Cost per Response	\$3,571,786	\$3,735,714	\$2,293,413
Total Burden Cost for All Applications (Responses)	50,005,004	29,885,712	13,760,478

The average burden cost per application over the period FY 2016 through FY 2018 was approximately

\$3,344,686⁵. We estimate a cost (salary plus benefits) of \$79/hour.⁶ Using this hourly cost estimate, the average burden

for each application filed from FY 2016 to FY 2018 is 42,338 hours.

FERC-500

Number of respondents	Annual number of responses per respondent	Total number of responses	Average burden hours & cost (\$) per response	Total annual burden hours & total annual cos (\$) ^t	Cost per respondent (\$)
(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
9	1	9	42,337.79 hrs.; \$3,344,685.50	381,040.11 hrs.; \$30,102,169.50	\$3,344,685.50

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: November 14, 2018.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP17-66-000; CP17-67-000]

Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC and Venture Global Gator Express, LLC; Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project, proposed by

Venture Global Plaquemines LNG, LLC and Venture Global Gator Express, LLC (collectively called Venture Global) in the above-referenced dockets. Venture Global requests authorization to construct and operate a new LNG export terminal and associated facilities along the west bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana (LNG Terminal) and to construct and operate two new 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline laterals that would connect to the LNG Terminal. The new liquefaction facilities would have a design production capacity of 20 million metric tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) per annum.

The draft EIS assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Plaquemines LNG and Gator Express Pipeline Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with the mitigation measures recommended in the draft EIS, would have some adverse environmental impacts. These impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of Venture Global's proposed mitigation measures and the additional measures recommended in the draft EIS.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Transportation participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise

with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis.

The draft EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the following project facilities:

- *LNG Terminal:* Construction and operation of various liquefaction, LNG distribution, and appurtenant facilities within the boundaries of the site leased by Venture Global on the Mississippi River, including:
 - Six pretreatment facilities (three in each phase);
 - a liquefaction plant with 18 integrated single-mixed refrigerant blocks and support facilities (otherwise referred to as liquefaction blocks or blocks) to be constructed in two phases (nine blocks in each phase);
 - four 200,000-cubic-meter aboveground LNG storage tanks;
 - three LNG loading docks within a common LNG berthing area; and
 - air-cooled electric power generation facilities.
- *Pipeline System:* Construction and operation of two parallel 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipelines that share one right-of-way corridor for the majority of their respective routes and appurtenant aboveground facilities, including the following:
 - 15.1-mile-long Southwest Lateral Tennessee Gas Pipeline, LLC (TGP) Pipeline;
 - 11.7-mile-long Southwest Lateral Texas Eastern Transmission, LP (TETCO) Pipeline;
 - TGP metering and regulation station; and
 - TETCO metering and regulation station.

⁵ \$93,651,194 (Total burden cost from FY 2016-2018) ÷ 28 (total number of applications received from FY 2016-2018) = \$3,344,686.

⁶ FERC staff estimates that industry is similarly situated in terms of the hourly cost for salary plus

benefits. Therefore, we are using the FERC FY 2018 hourly cost (salary plus benefits) of \$79/hour.