

mandate under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to:

- Establish a schedule for agencies to review requests for federal authorizations required for a project, and

- Compile a record of each agency's decision, together with the record of the Commission's decision, to serve as a consolidated record for the purpose of appeal or review, including judicial review.

Type of Respondent: Agencies with federal authorization responsibilities.

Estimate of Annual Burden: The Commission estimates the annual public reporting burden ³ and cost ⁴ (rounded) for the information collection as follows:

	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 cost	Cost per respondent (\$)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)	(5) ÷ (1)
FERC-606—Notification of Request for Federal Authorization and Requests for Further Information.	1	1	1	4 hrs.; \$408 ...	4 hrs.; \$408 ...	\$408
FERC-607—Report on Decision or Action on Request for Federal Authorization.	1	1	1	1 hr.; 102	1 hr.; 102	\$102
Total	2		2		5 hrs.; 510	

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: August 19, 2026.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026-17258 Filed 8-24-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RD26-5-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-725E); 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-725E (1902-0246), (Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Western Electric Coordinating Council) for the retirement of Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-3 (Contingency Reserves). The comment period ended on July 6, 2026, with no comments received.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due September 24, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on FERC-725E to OMB through https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/icrPublicCommentRequest?ref_nbr=202608-1902-005. 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 Docket No. (RD26-5-000) and the FERC Information Collection number (FERC-725E) 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>. Once there, you can also sign up for automatic notification of activity in this docket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact: Kayla Williams at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-6468.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-725E, Mandatory Reliability Standards for the Western Electric Coordinating Council, Retirement of BAL-002-WECC-3.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0246.

Type of Request: Retirement of BAL-002-WECC-3 from the FERC-725E information collection requirements.

Abstract: FERC-725E is the information collection that is required to implement the statutory provisions of section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824o). Section 215 of the FPA buttresses the Commission's efforts to strengthen the reliability of the interstate grid through the grant of new authority by providing for a system of mandatory Reliability Standards developed by the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO). Reliability Standards that the ERO proposes to the Commission may include Reliability

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, refer to 5 CFR 1320.3.

⁴ FERC estimates that industry hourly costs are similar to the Commission FY 2026 average salary plus benefits of \$213,003 per year (or \$102/hour).

Standards that are proposed to the ERO by a Regional Entity.¹ A Regional Entity is an entity that has been approved by the Commission to enforce Reliability Standards under delegated authority from the ERO.² On June 8, 2008, the Commission approved eight regional Reliability Standards submitted by the ERO that were proposed by WECC.³

WECC promotes bulk electric system reliability in the Western Interconnection and is the Regional Entity responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement. In addition, WECC provides an environment for the development of Reliability Standards and the coordination of the operating and planning activities of its members as set forth in the WECC Bylaws.

There are several regional Reliability Standards in the WECC region. These regional Reliability Standards generally require entities to document compliance

with substantive requirements, retain documentation, and submit reports to WECC.

In RD26–5–000, FERC is retiring Regional Reliability Standard BAL–002–WECC–3 (Contingency Reserve), which requires balancing authorities and reserve sharing groups to document compliance with the contingency reserve requirements. NERC and WECC explain that “Regional Reliability Standard BAL–002–WECC–3 requires applicable WECC entities to maintain reserves at levels that exceed those required under the continent-wide Reliability Standard BAL–002–3—Disturbance Control Standard—Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event. Following a recent review of the regional standard, WECC identified that no technical basis supports the continued applicability of the standard,

and that rather than advance reliability in the Western Interconnection, the regional standard may be presenting unnecessary challenges.

Type of Respondents: Balancing authorities and reserve sharing groups.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*⁴ Our estimates for a reduction in burden under 725E are specific to just BAL–002–WECC–3 entities no longer needing to be compliant with the applicable Requirements. Additionally, the estimate used information from the NERC Compliance Registry Summary of Entities as of February 9, 2026.

The individual burden estimates include the time needed to gather data, run studies, and analyze study results. These are consistent with estimates for similar tasks in other Commission-approved standards. Estimates for the additional average annual burden and cost⁵ as follows:

FERC–725E, MANDATORY RELIABILITY STANDARDS FOR THE WESTERN ELECTRIC COORDINATING COUNCIL, RETIREMENT OF BAL–002–WECC–3 CHANGES IN DOCKET NO. RD26–5–000

Reliability standard or process	Type and number of entities ⁶	Annual number of responses per entity	Total number of responses	Average burden hours & cost per response (\$)	Total annual burden hours & cost (\$) (rounded)
	(1)	(2)	(1) * (2) = (3)	(4)	(3) * (4) = (5)
Annual review and record retention	34 (BA) 1 (RSG)	1 1	34 1	12 hrs.; \$762.24 1 hrs.; \$63.52	408 hrs.; \$25,916.00 1 hrs.; \$64.00
Total for retirement BAL–002–WECC–3			35		409 hrs; \$25,980.00

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: August 20, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2725–076]

Oglethorpe Power Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment

On December 6, 2024, Oglethorpe Power Corporation (OPC) filed an application to relicense the 904-

megawatt (MW) Rocky Mountain Pumped Storage Project No. 2725. The project is located on Heath Creek, near the Town of Rome, Floyd County, Georgia.

In accordance with the Commission’s regulations, on May 13, 2026, Commission staff issued a notice that the project was ready for environmental analysis (REA notice). Based on the information in the record, including comments filed on the REA Notice, staff does not anticipate that relicensing the project would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, staff intends to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) on the application to relicense the project.¹

¹ 16 U.S.C. 824o(e)(4).

² 16 U.S.C. 824o(a)(7) and (e)(4).

³ *N. Am. Electric Reliability Corp.*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,260 (2007).

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. See 5 CFR 1320 for additional information on the definition of information collection burden.

⁵ The estimated hourly cost (salary plus benefits) is a combination of the following categories from the BLS website, http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm: 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17–2071) \$71.19/hr., × .75 = \$53.3925 (\$53.39-rounded) (\$53.39/hour); and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43–4199) \$40.51/hr., \$40.51 × .25 = \$10.1275 (\$10.13 rounded) (\$10.13/hour), for a total (\$53.39 + \$10.13 = \$63.52/hour).

⁶ The “Number of Entity” data is compiled from the February 9, 2026, edition of the NERC Compliance Registry. “BA” means balancing authority; “RSG” means reserve sharing group.

¹ For tracking purposes under the National Environmental Policy Act, the unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX–019–20–000–1785762214.