

oversight, training, resource planning, funding considerations, and assessment of volunteer contributions and cost avoidance. The collection does not require detailed narratives of individual family cases.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 3,267.

*Number of Respondents:* 3,800.

*Responses per Respondent:* 12 (Active Duty) or 4 (Reserve).

*Annual Responses:* 39,200.

*Average Burden per Response:* 5 minutes.

*Frequency:* Monthly (Active Duty), Quarterly (Reserve).

Dated: October 9, 2026.

**Stephanie J. Bost,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 2026-21025 Filed 10-14-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6001-FR-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RD26-1-000; Docket No. RD26-2-000; Docket No. RD26-3-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-725A, 725L, and 725Z); Comment Request; Revision

**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 three currently approved information collections, Mandatory Reliability Standards within Interconnection Reliability Operations and Coordination (IRO); (1) FERC-725Z (OMB#1902-0276) (RD26-1-000) IRO-010-6 Reliability Coordinator Data and Information Specification and Collection, Modeling, Data, and Analysis (MOD); (2) FERC-725L (OMB#1902-0261) (RD26-2-000) MOD-032-2 MOD-033-3 MOD-026-2 Data for Power System Modeling and Analysis, Bulk-Power System Transmission Operations (TOP); (3) FERC-725A (OMB#1902-0244) (RD26-3-000) TOP-003-8 Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection. There are anticipated changes in the reporting requirements for this information collection for each

of the eight standards. This order was published for 60-day notice period on December 18, 2025, and received no comments.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due November 16, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** Send written comments on FERC-725B to OMB through, (1) FERC-725L [https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/ICRPublicCommentRequest?ref\\_nbr=202610-1902-001](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/ICRPublicCommentRequest?ref_nbr=202610-1902-001); (2) FERC-725A [https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/ICRPublicCommentRequest?ref\\_nbr=202609-1902-002](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/ICRPublicCommentRequest?ref_nbr=202609-1902-002); (3) FERC-725Z [https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/ICRPublicCommentRequest?ref\\_nbr=202610-1902-002](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRA/ICRPublicCommentRequest?ref_nbr=202610-1902-002). 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](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov). You must specify the Docket No. (RD26-1-000, RD26-2-000, RD26-3-000) and the FERC Information Collection number (FERC-725Z, 725L, and 725A) 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:

Kayla Williams, (202) 502-6468.  
[DataClearance@FERC.gov](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** FERC-725Z (Reliability Coordinator Data and information Specification and Collection), 725L (Data for Power System Modeling and Analysis), and 725A (Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection).

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-0276 (725Z), 1902-0261 (725L), and 1902-0244 (725A).

**Type of Request:** Update information collection requirements with changes to the current reporting requirements.

**Abstract:** Section 215 of the FPA provides that the Commission may certify an Electric Reliability Organization (ERO), the purpose of which is to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, subject to Commission review and approval.<sup>1</sup> Reliability Standards may be enforced by the ERO, subject to Commission oversight, or by the Commission independently.<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to section 215 of the FPA, the Commission established a process to select and certify an ERO,<sup>3</sup> and subsequently certified NERC.<sup>4</sup>

In their first petition, (RD26-1-000), NERC seeks approval of: (1) a proposed definition of the term distributed energy resource (DER) for inclusion in the NERC Glossary of Terms Used in NERC Reliability Standards (NERC Glossary); and (2) proposed Reliability Standards MOD-032-2 (Data for Power System Modeling and Analysis), IRO-010-6 (Reliability Coordinator Data and Information Specification and Collection), and TOP-003-8 (Transmission Operator and Balancing Authority Data and Information Specification and Collection).<sup>5</sup> The second petition (RD26-2-000) seeks approval of Reliability Standard MOD-033-3 (Steady-State and Dynamic System Model Validation).<sup>6</sup> The third petition (RD26-3-000) seeks approval of: (1) proposed definitions of model validation and model verification in the NERC Glossary; and (2) proposed Reliability Standard MOD-026-2 (Verification and Validation of Dynamic Models and Data).<sup>7</sup> NERC also seeks approval of the associated implementation plans, violation risk factors, and violation severity levels for Reliability Standards MOD-032-2, IRO-010-6, TOP-003-8, MOD-033-3, and MOD-026-2. In addition, the first petition was for the retirement of currently effective Reliability Standards MOD-032-1, IRO-010-5, and TOP-003-7; the second petition was for the

<sup>1</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o(c).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* 824o(e).

<sup>3</sup> *Rules Concerning Certification of the Elec. Reliability Org.; & Procs. for the Establishment, Approval, & Enft of Elec. Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, 71 FR 8662 (Feb. 17, 2006), 114 FERC ¶ 61,104, order on reh'g, Order No. 672-A, 71 FR 19814 (Apr. 18, 2006), 114 FERC ¶ 61,328 (2006); see also 18 CFR 39.4(b).

<sup>4</sup> *N. Am. Elec. Reliability Corp.*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062, order on reh'g and compliance, 117 FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), *aff'd sub nom. Alcoa, Inc. v. FERC*, 564 F.3d 1342 (D.C. Cir. 2009) (Certification Order).

<sup>5</sup> NERC Petition, Docket No. RD26-1-000 (filed Nov. 4, 2025) (NERC MOD-032-2, IRO-010-6, and TOP-003-8 Petition).

<sup>6</sup> NERC Petition, Docket No. RD26-2-000 (filed Nov. 4, 2025) (NERC MOD-033-3 Petition).

<sup>7</sup> NERC Petition, Docket No. RD26-3-000 (filed Nov. 4, 2025) (NERC MOD-026-2 Petition).

retirement of currently effective Reliability Standard MOD-033-2; and the third petition was for the retirement of currently effective Reliability Standards MOD-026-1 and MOD-027-1.

*Type of Respondents:* Generator owners and generator operator entities registered with NERC that own or operate category 2 resources.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>8</sup> The FERC-725A, FERC-725L, and FERC-725Z information collections requirements are subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under section 3507(d) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. OMB's regulations require approval of certain information collection requirements imposed by agency rules. Respondents subject to the filing requirements will not be penalized for failing to respond to these collections of information unless the collections of information display a valid OMB control number. The Commission

solicits comments on the need for this information, whether the information will have practical utility, the accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected or retained, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondents' burden, including the use of automated information techniques.

The Commission bases its paperwork burden estimates on the additional paperwork burden for balancing authorities, generator owners, planning coordinators, reliability coordinators, transmission planners, transmission owners, and transmission operators presented by Reliability Standards MOD-032-2, IRO-010-6, TOP-003-8, MOD-033-3, and MOD-026-2, as modified, and the NERC Glossary definitions of DER, model validation, and model verification. Reliability Standards are objective-based and allow entities to choose compliance approaches best tailored to their

systems. The new or modified NERC Glossary definitions are not expected to produce any new burden. The number of respondents that are subject to mandatory compliance with Reliability Standards MOD-032-2, IRO-010-6, TOP-003-8, MOD-033-3, and MOD-026-2, in the tables below, are based on the NERC Compliance Registry as of December 3, 2025, and good faith estimates provided by NERC to Commission staff, in August 2025. NERC estimates that there are 491 category 2 generator owners and 310 category 2 generator operators, which will be added to the respective category 1 generator owners and generator operators in the NERC Compliance Registry to reach an estimate of the total number of generator owners and generator operators.

The Commission estimates the annual reporting burden and cost for the information collection as:

#### PROPOSED CHANGES IN BURDEN MOD-032-2 DOCKET NO. RD26-1

| Reliability standard                          | Type and number of entity <sup>9</sup> | Number of annual responses per entity | Total number of responses | Average number of burden hours per response <sup>10</sup> | Total burden hours          |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                               | (1)                                    | (2)                                   | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                                       | (3) * (4) = (5)             |
| <b>Annual Collection MOD-032-2 FERC-725 L</b> |                                        |                                       |                           |                                                           |                             |
| Annual review and record retention            | 97 (BA) .....                          | 1                                     | 97                        | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 776 hrs. \$49,291.52.       |
|                                               | 299 (DP) .....                         | 1                                     | 299                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 2,392 hrs. \$151,939.84.    |
|                                               | 1,834 (GO) <sup>11</sup> .....         | 1                                     | 1,834                     | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 14,672 hrs. \$931,965.44.   |
|                                               | 62 (PC) .....                          | 1                                     | 62                        | 16 hrs. \$1,016.32/hr .....                               | 992 hrs. \$63,011.84.       |
|                                               | 157 (RP) .....                         | 1                                     | 157                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 1,256 hrs. \$79,781.12.     |
|                                               | 341 (TO) .....                         | 1                                     | 341                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 2,728 hrs. \$173,282.56.    |
|                                               | 208 (TP) .....                         | 1                                     | 208                       | 16 hrs. \$1,016.32/hr .....                               | 3,328 hrs. \$211,394.56.    |
|                                               | 70 (TSP) .....                         | 1                                     | 70                        | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 560 hrs. \$35,571.20.       |
| Total for MOD-032-2 .....                     | .....                                  | .....                                 | 3,068                     | .....                                                     | 26,704 hrs. \$1,696,238.08. |

<sup>8</sup> "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, see 5 CFR 1320.3.

<sup>9</sup> The "Number of Entity" data is compiled from the December 3, 2025, edition of the NERC Compliance Registry. "BA" means balancing authority; "DP" means distribution provider; "GO" means generator owner; "PC" means planning coordinator; "RP" means resource planner; "TO" means transmission owner; "TP" means transmission planner; "TSP" means transmission service provider; "GOP" means generator operator;

"RC" means reliability coordinator; and "TOP" means transmission operator."

<sup>10</sup> 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](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm): 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071) \$71.19/hr.,  $\times .75 = 53.3925$  (\$53.39-rounded) (\$53.39/hour); and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43-4199) \$40.51/hr.,  $\times .25 = 10.1275$  (\$10.13 rounded) (\$10.13/hour), for a total (\$53.39 + \$10.13 = \$63.52/hour).

<sup>11</sup> For this collection the GO will include category 1 entities (1,343 entities) from the December 3, 2025, NERC Compliance Registry; and NERC's estimate to Commission staff in August 2025 of

category 2 generator owners registered entities in the United States (491 entities) for a total of (1,343 + 491) = 1,834. The estimate for category 2 generator owner entities is subject to change according to NERC due to: (1) facility cancellations or facilities with an expected commercial operation date delayed past May 15, 2026; (2) identification of type 1 and type 2 wind facilities that do not qualify as category 2 resources; (3) identification of facilities as category 1 resources; and (4) facilities can be inaccurately reported and subsequently removed from the list. NERC, Inverter-Based Resources Work Plan Progress Update, Docket No. RD22-4-001, at 2 n.7 (filed Oct. 31, 2025) (NERC October 2025 Work Plan Update).

## PROPOSED CHANGES IN BURDEN IRO-010-6 DOCKET NO. RD26-1

| Reliability standard                          | Type and number of entity <sup>12</sup> | Number of annual responses per entity | Total number of responses | Average number of burden hours per response <sup>13</sup> | Total burden hours          |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                               | (1)                                     | (2)                                   | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                                       | (3) * (4) = (5)             |
| <b>Annual Collection IRO-010-6 FERC-725 Z</b> |                                         |                                       |                           |                                                           |                             |
| Annual review and record retention            | 12 (RC) .....                           | 1                                     | 12                        | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 96 hrs. \$6,097.92.         |
|                                               | 97 (BA) .....                           | 1                                     | 97                        | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 776 hrs. \$49,291.52.       |
|                                               | 1,834 (GO) .....                        | 1                                     | 1,834                     | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 14,672 hrs. \$931,965.44.   |
|                                               | 1,333 (GOP) <sup>14</sup> .....         | 1                                     | 1,333                     | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 10,664 hrs. \$677,377.28.   |
|                                               | 170 (TOP) .....                         | 1                                     | 170                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 1,360 hrs. \$86,387.20.     |
|                                               | 341 (TO) .....                          | 1                                     | 341                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 2,728 hrs. \$173,282.56.    |
|                                               | 299 (DP) .....                          | 1                                     | 299                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 2,392 hrs. \$151,939.84.    |
| Total for IRO-010-6 .....                     | .....                                   | .....                                 | 4,086                     | .....                                                     | 32,688 hrs. \$2,076,341.76. |

## PROPOSED CHANGES IN BURDEN TOP-003-8 DOCKET NO. RD26-1

| Reliability standard                          | Type and number of entity <sup>15</sup> | Number of annual responses per entity | Total number of responses | Average number of burden hours per response <sup>16</sup> | Total burden hours          |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                               | (1)                                     | (2)                                   | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                                       | (3) * (4) = (5)             |
| <b>Annual Collection TOP-003-8 FERC-725 A</b> |                                         |                                       |                           |                                                           |                             |
| Annual review and record retention            | 170 (TOP) .....                         | 1                                     | 170                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 1,360 hrs. \$86,387.20.     |
|                                               | 97 (BA) .....                           | 1                                     | 97                        | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 776 hrs. \$49,291.52.       |
|                                               | 1,834 (GO) .....                        | 1                                     | 1,834                     | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 14,672 hrs. \$931,965.44.   |
|                                               | 1,333 (GOP) .....                       | 1                                     | 1,333                     | 8 hrs. \$565.36/hr .....                                  | 10,664 hrs. \$677,377.28.   |
|                                               | 341 (TO) .....                          | 1                                     | 341                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 2,728 hrs. \$173,282.56.    |
|                                               | 299 (DP) .....                          | 1                                     | 299                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 2,392 hrs. \$151,939.84.    |
| Total for TOP-003-8 .....                     | .....                                   | .....                                 | 4,074                     | .....                                                     | 32,592 hrs. \$2,070,243.84. |

## PROPOSED BURDEN MOD-033-3 DOCKET NO. RD26-2

| Reliability standard                          | Type and number of entity <sup>17</sup> | Number of annual responses per entity | Total number of responses | Average number of burden hours per response <sup>18</sup> | Total burden hours       |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                               | (1)                                     | (2)                                   | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                                       | (3) * (4) = (5)          |
| <b>Annual Collection MOD-033-3 FERC-725 L</b> |                                         |                                       |                           |                                                           |                          |
| Annual review and record retention            | 62 (PC) .....                           | 1                                     | 62                        | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 496 hrs. \$31,505.92.    |
|                                               | 12 (RC) .....                           | 1                                     | 12                        | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 96 hrs. \$6,097.92.      |
|                                               | 170 (TOP) .....                         | 1                                     | 170                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 1,360 hrs. \$86,387.20.  |
| Total for MOD-033-3 .....                     | .....                                   | .....                                 | 244                       | .....                                                     | 1,952 hrs. \$123,991.04. |

## PROPOSED CHANGES IN BURDEN MOD-026-2 DOCKET NO. RD26-3

| Reliability standard                          | Type and number of entity <sup>19</sup> | Number of annual responses per entity | Total number of responses | Average number of burden hours per response <sup>20</sup> | Total burden hours          |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                               | (1)                                     | (2)                                   | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)                                                       | (3) * (4) = (5)             |
| <b>Annual Collection MOD-026-2 FERC-725 L</b> |                                         |                                       |                           |                                                           |                             |
| Annual review and record retention            | 1,834 (GO) .....                        | 1                                     | 1,834                     | 12 hrs. \$762.24/hr .....                                 | 22,008 hrs. \$1,397,948.16. |
|                                               | 62 (PC) .....                           | 1                                     | 62                        | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 496 hrs. \$31,505.92.       |
|                                               | 341 (TO) .....                          | 1                                     | 341                       | 8 hrs. \$508.16/hr .....                                  | 2,728 hrs. \$173,282.56.    |
|                                               | 208 (TP) .....                          | 1                                     | 208                       | 10 hrs. \$635.20/hr .....                                 | 2,080 hrs. \$132,121.60.    |
| Total for MOD-026-2 .....                     | .....                                   | .....                                 | 2,445                     | .....                                                     | 27,312 hrs. \$1,734,858.24  |

**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

<sup>12</sup> The "Number of Entity" data is compiled from the December 3, 2025, edition of the NERC Compliance Registry.

<sup>13</sup> 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](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm): 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071) \$71.19/hr.,  $\times .75 = 53.3925$  (\$53.39-rounded) (\$53.39/hour); and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43-4199) \$40.51/hr.,  $\$40.51 \times .25 = 10.1275$  (\$10.13 rounded) (\$10.13/hour), for a total (\$53.39 + \$10.13 = \$63.52/hour).

<sup>14</sup> For this collection the generator operators (GOP) will include category 1 entities (1,023 entities) from the December 3, 2025, NERC Compliance Registry; and NERC's estimate to Commission staff in August 2025 of category 2 generator operators registered entities in the United States (310 entities) for a total of (1,023 + 310) = 1,333. The estimate for category 2 generator operator entities is subject to change according to NERC due to: (1) facility cancellations or facilities with an expected commercial operation date delayed past May 15, 2026; (2) identification of type 1 and type 2 wind facilities that do not qualify as category 2 resources; (3) identification of facilities as category 1 resources; and (4) facilities can be inaccurately reported and subsequently removed from the list. NERC October 2025 Work Plan Update at 2 n.7.

<sup>15</sup> The "Number of Entity" data is compiled from the December 3, 2025, edition of the NERC Compliance Registry.

<sup>16</sup> 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](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm): 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071) \$71.19/hr.,  $\times .75 = 53.3925$  (\$53.39-rounded) (\$53.39/hour); and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43-4199) \$40.51/hr.,  $\$40.51 \times .25 = 10.1275$  (\$10.13 rounded) (\$10.13/hour), for a total (\$53.39 + \$10.13 = \$63.52/hour).

<sup>17</sup> The "Number of Entity" data is compiled from the December 3, 2025, edition of the NERC Compliance Registry.

<sup>18</sup> 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](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm): 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071) \$71.19/hr.,  $\times .75 = 53.3925$  (\$53.39-rounded) (\$53.39/hour); and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43-4199) \$40.51/hr.,  $\$40.51 \times .25 = 10.1275$  (\$10.13 rounded) (\$10.13/hour), for a total (\$53.39 + \$10.13 = \$63.52/hour).

<sup>19</sup> The "Number of Entity" data is compiled from the December 3, 2025, edition of the NERC Compliance Registry.

<sup>20</sup> 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](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics2_22.htm): 75% of the average of an Electrical Engineer (17-2071) \$71.19/hr.,  $\times .75 = 53.3925$  (\$53.39-rounded) (\$53.39/hour); and 25% of an Information and Record Clerk (43-4199) \$40.51/hr.,  $\$40.51 \times .25 = 10.1275$  (\$10.13 rounded) (\$10.13/hour), for a total (\$53.39 + \$10.13 = \$63.52/hour).

who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: October 9, 2026.

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2026-21074 Filed 10-14-26; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP26-74-000]

#### Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Viola Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Viola Project, proposed by Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (Southern Star) in the above-referenced docket.<sup>1</sup> Southern Star requests authorization to construct a new meter station, flow station, compressor station, and the 19.3-mile-long 16-inch-diameter Line UA natural gas pipeline in Sumner County, Kansas. The Viola Project would provide up to 116,296 dekatherms per day of natural gas service to the planned 710-megawatt combined cycle power generation Viola Plant located in Sumner County, Kansas, which is owned and operated by Evergy, Inc. (Evergy).

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. To ensure consideration of your comments on the proposal prior to making a decision on the project, it is important that the Commission receive your comments on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on November 9, 2026. Instructions for filing comments are provided on page 3.

FERC is the lead federal agency for authorizing interstate natural gas transmission facilities under the Natural Gas Act of 1938 and the lead federal agency for preparation of the EA. The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the Viola Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act<sup>2</sup> and the

<sup>1</sup> For tracking purposes under the National Environmental Policy Act, the unique identification number for documents relating to this environmental review is EAXX-019-20-000-1774341286.

<sup>2</sup> National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (Public Law [Pub. L.] 91-190, 42 U.S. Code 4321-4347, as amended by Pub. L. 94-52, July 3, 1975; Pub. L. 94-83, August 9, 1975; Pub. L. 97-258, 4(b), September 13, 1982; Pub. L. 118-5, June 3, 2023; Pub. L. 119-21, July 4, 2025).

Commission's implementing regulations.<sup>3</sup> The principal purposes of the EA are to: identify and assess the potential effects on the natural and human environment; describe and evaluate reasonable alternatives; identify and recommend mitigation measures; and facilitate public involvement in the environmental review process. The EA concludes that approval of the proposed project would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

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

- approximately 19.3 miles of new 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline (Line UA), which would connect to Southern Star's existing 20-inch-diameter Line U;
- the new Wellington Compressor Station, sited along existing Line U, consisting of three compressor units totaling 12,375 horsepower, along with ancillary station equipment;
- the Evergy Flow Control Setting, to regulate the flow of natural gas from existing Line U; and
- the Evergy Meter Setting, which would connect Line UA to the new Evergy Viola Plant.

The Commission mailed a copy of the *Notice of Availability* of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; Native American tribes; environmental and public interest groups; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; and libraries and media outlets in the project area. The EA is only available in electronic format. It may be viewed and downloaded from the FERC's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)), on the natural gas environmental documents page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents>). In addition, the EA may be accessed by using the eLibrary link on the FERC's website. Click on the eLibrary link (<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>), select "General Search" and enter the docket number in the "Docket Number" field, excluding the last three digits (*i.e.*, CP26-74). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

The EA is not a decision document. It presents Commission staff's independent analysis of the

<sup>3</sup> Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations Part 380.