

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Linda Bluestein at the address listed above in **ADDRESSES**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information collection request contains: (1) *OMB No.*: {New}; (2) *Information Collection Request Title*: Clean Cities Plug-In Vehicle Community Readiness Scorecard; (3) *Type of Request*: New collection; (4) *Purpose*: DOE's Clean Cities initiative has developed a voluntary scorecard to assist its coalitions and stakeholders in assessing the level of readiness of their communities for plug-in electric vehicles. The principal objective of the scorecard is to provide respondents with an objective assessment and estimate of their respective community's readiness for PEV deployment as well as understand the respective community's commitment to deploying these vehicles successfully. DOE intends the scorecard to be completed by a city/county/regional sustainability or energy coordinator. As the intended respondent may not be aware of every aspect of local or regional PEV readiness, coordination among local stakeholders to gather appropriate information may be necessary.

The scorecard assessment effort will rely on responses to questions the respondent chooses to answer. The multiple-choice questions address the following topic areas: (1) Electric vehicle supply equipment permitting and inspection process; (2) PEV and electric vehicle supply equipment availability and numbers; (3) laws, incentives, and financing; (4) education and outreach; (5) utility interaction; and (6) vehicle and infrastructure planning. Respondents will provide answers through a user-friendly online interface. The answers will then be translated through a simple algorithm that will establish appropriate quantitative criteria, translating the readiness measures across several weighted categories into numeric data. Using a numberless color spectrum, a community will be rated against itself, with the colored spectrum results made available only to the respondent community. The total rankings will be normalized into a "score", and communities will see their own rating and may be compared to other cities.

The scorecard will use one information collection system, an online system. No other data collection system will be employed to support the scorecard. The online scorecard system DOE has developed provides several advantages. First, it avoids the need to download any forms or materials, though respondents may print out the

full list of questions and answers, or a portion thereof if they wish. Second, avoiding downloads also limits potential security threats. Third, the designed system allows respondents to dynamically compare historical records, providing the opportunity to revisit the scorecard however often they like to track progress. Further, employing an online system also eliminates version control concerns, allowing for a single update to ensure that all scorecard users are using the current version.

The voluntary scorecard may be completed at any time, and there is no date by which the scorecard questions must be completed. Calculation of outcomes will be undertaken on an ongoing basis, immediately following completion of the scorecard questionnaire.

While there are approximately 90 Clean Cities Coalitions across the United States, DOE expects that other communities may want to avail themselves of the opportunity to assess their respective community's PEV readiness. Therefore, DOE expects a total respondent population of approximately 100 respondents. Selecting the multiple choice answers in completing a scorecard questionnaire is expected to take under 30 minutes, although additional time of no more than 20 hours may be needed to assemble information necessary to be able to answer the questions, leading to a total burden of approximately 2,050 hours in the first year. Assembling information to update questionnaire answers in future years on a voluntary basis would be expected to take less time, on the order of 10 hours, as much of any necessary time and effort needed to research information would have been completed previously; (5) *Type of Respondents*: Public; (6) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents*: 100; (7) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses*: 100; (8) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours*: 2,050; (9) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden*: There is no cost associated with reporting and recordkeeping.

Statutory Authority: 42 U.S.C. Sec. 13233; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 13252(a)–(b); 42 U.S.C. 13255.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 20, 2012.

Patrick B. Davis,

Program Manager, Vehicle Technologies Program, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 2012–16455 Filed 7–3–12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC12–11–000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC–725); Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, DOE.

ACTION: Comment request.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is submitting the information collection FERC–725, Certification of Electric Reliability Organization; Procedures for Electric Reliability Standards, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review of the information collection requirements. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission issued a Notice in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 24189, 04/23/2012) requesting public comments. FERC received no comments on the FERC–725 and is noting this in its submittal to OMB.

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due by August 6, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Comments filed with OMB, identified by the OMB Control No. 1902–0225, should be sent via email to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs: oir_submission@omb.gov. Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. The Desk Officer may also be reached via telephone at 202–395–4718.

A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, identified by the Docket No. IC12–11–000, by either of the following methods:

- *eFiling at Commission's Web Site:* <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, by telephone at (202) 502-8663, and by fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-725, Certification of Electric Reliability Organization; Procedures for Electric Reliability Standards.

OMB Control No.: 1902-0225.

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the FERC-725 information collection requirements with no changes to the reporting requirements.

Abstract: The Commission uses the information collected under the requirements of FERC-725 to implement the statutory provisions of Section 215 of the Federal Power Act (FPA).¹

Section 215¹ of the FPA aids the Commission's efforts to strengthen the reliability of the interstate grid through the granting of new authority to provide for a system of mandatory Reliability Standards developed by the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO)² and reviewed and approved by FERC.

On February 3, 2006, the Commission issued Order No.672³ certifying a single ERO [the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)], to oversee the reliability of the United

States' portion of the interconnected North American Bulk-Power System, subject to Commission oversight. The ERO is responsible for developing and enforcing the mandatory Reliability Standards. The Reliability Standards apply to all users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System. The Commission has the authority to approve all ERO actions, to order the ERO to carry out its responsibilities under these statutory provisions, and (as appropriate) to enforce Reliability Standards.

The ERO can delegate its enforcement responsibilities to a Regional Entity. Delegation is effective only after the Commission approves the delegation agreement. A Regional Entity can also propose a Reliability Standard to the ERO for submission to the Commission for approval.

The FERC-725 contains the following information collection elements:

Self Assessment and ERO

Application: The Commission requires the ERO to submit to FERC a performance assessment report every five years. Each of regional entity submits a performance assessment report to the ERO. Submitting an application to become an ERO is also part of this collection.⁴

Reliability Assessments: 18 CFR 39.11 requires the ERO to assess the reliability and adequacy of the Bulk-Power System in North America. Subsequently, the ERO must report to the Commission on

its findings. Regional entities perform similar assessments within individual regions.

Reliability Compliance: Reliability Standards are mandatory and enforceable. In addition to the specific information collection requirements contained in each standard, there are general compliance, monitoring and enforcement information collection requirements imposed on applicable entities. Audits, spot checks, self-certifications, exception data submittals, violation reporting, and mitigation plan confirmation are included in this area.

Stakeholder Survey: The ERO used a stakeholder survey to solicit feedback from registered entities in preparation for its three year performance assessment. The Commission assumes that the ERO will perform another survey prior to the 2014 performance assessment.

Other Reporting: This category refers to all other reporting requirements imposed on the ERO or regional entities in order to comply with the Commission's regulations.

The Commission implements its responsibilities through the Code of Federal Regulations in 18 CFR part 39.

Type of Respondents: Electric reliability organization, regional entities, and registered entities.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*⁵ The Commission estimates the total public reporting burden for this information collection as:

FERC-725: CERTIFICATION OF THE ERO⁴; PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY STANDARDS

Type of respondent	Type of reporting requirement ⁴	Number of respondents (A)	Number of responses per respondent (B) ⁶	Total number of responses (A) × (B) = (C)	Average burden hours per response (D)	Estimated total annual burden (C) × (D)
Electric Reliability Organization (ERO).	Self-Assessment ..	.....	0.33	0.33	10,400	3,432
	Reliability Assessments.	.....	11	11	3,120	34,320
	Reliability Compliance.	.....	1	1	76,837	76,837
	Standards Development.	.....	1	1	51,834	51,834
	Other Reporting ...	1	1	1	2,080	2,080
Regional Entities ..	Self-Assessment ..	.....	0.33	2.64	16,640	43,930
	Reliability Assessments.	.....	1	8	16,679	133,432
	Reliability Compliance.	.....	1	8	46,788	374,304

¹ Section 215 was added by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Public Law. 109-58, 119 Stat. 594 (2005) (codified at 16 U.S.C. 824o).

² Section 215 defines "Electric Reliability Organization" or "ERO" to mean the organization certified by the Commission * * * the purpose of which is to establish and enforce reliability standards for the bulk-power system, subject to Commission review.

³ Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards ¶ 31,204 71 FR 8662 (2006) *Order on rehearing*, 71 FR 19,814 (2006), FERC Statutes and Regulations ¶ 31,212 (2006).

⁴ The Commission does not expect any new ERO applications to be submitted in the next three years

and is not including any burden for this requirement in the burden estimate.

⁵ 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.

FERC-725: CERTIFICATION OF THE ERO⁴; PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY STANDARDS—Continued

Type of respondent	Type of reporting requirement ⁴	Number of respondents (A)	Number of responses per respondent (B) ⁶	Total number of responses (A) × (B) = (C)	Average burden hours per response (D)	Estimated total annual burden (C) × (D)
Registered Entities	Standards Development.	.....	1	8	^a 4,142	33,134
	Other Reporting ...	8	1	8	1,040	8,320
	Stakeholder Survey.	.....	0.33	537	4	2,148
	Reliability Compliance.	1,627	1	1,627	^a 483	786,342
Subtotals:						
ERO	N/A ⁷					168,503
Regional						593,120
Registered						788,490
Total .....	.....	1,636	N/A ⁷	N/A ⁷	N/A ⁷	1,550,113

^a Rounded.

The Commission derived the figures above using NERC's Business Plan and Budget Submissions, NERC's Compliance, Enforcement and Monitoring Plans, NERC's Performance Assessments, other information on NERC's Web site (<http://www.nerc.com/>), and internal FERC staff estimates. See the appendix for more details regarding the burden estimates.⁸

The total estimated annual cost burden to respondents is \$115,655,020 (\$15,128,199 + \$46,121,011 + \$54,405,810).

ERO Cost: 168,503 hours @ \$89.78/hr = \$15,128,199.

Regional Entity Cost: 593,120 hours @ \$77.76/hr = \$46,121,011.

Registered Entity Cost: 788,490 hours @ \$69/hr = \$54,405,810.

The hourly cost figures are loaded (i.e. includes salary and other personnel costs). The Commission used NERC's 2012 Business Plan and internal FERC salary estimates for these cost figures.

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;

⁶ In all instances below where the number of responses per respondent is "1" the Commission acknowledges that actual number of responses varies and cannot be estimated clearly.

⁷ N/A = not applicable.

⁸ The appendix will not be published in the **Federal Register**. The appendix is available in FERC's eLibrary system under the notice issuance in Docket No. IC12-11-000.

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: June 27, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-16369 Filed 7-3-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14395-000]

Natural Currents Energy Services, LLC; Notice of Preliminary Permit Application Accepted for Filing and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Competing Applications

On April 24, 2012, Natural Currents Energy Services, LLC filed an application, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act, proposing to study the feasibility of the Fisher's Island Tidal Energy Project, which would be located on the Long Island Sound in Suffolk County, New York. The proposed project would not use a dam or impoundment. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

The proposed project would consist of: (1) Installation of 50 NC Sea Dragon

tidal turbines at a rated capacity of 100 kilowatts, (2) an estimated 12.6 kilometers in length of additional transmission infrastructure, and (3) appurtenant facilities. Initial estimated production would be a minimum of 17,520 megawatt hours per year with the installation of 50 units.

Applicant Contact: Mr. Roger Bason, Natural Currents Energy Services, LLC, 24 Roxanne Boulevard, Highland, New York 12561, (845) 691-4009.

FERC Contact: Woohee Choi
(202) 502-6336.

Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice. Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 CFR 4.36. Comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676, or for TTY, (202) 502-8659. Although the Commission strongly encourages