

Electricity of the Department of Energy (DOE), as required by regulations at 10 CFR 205.320 *et seq.*, requesting DOE to amend or, in the alternative, rescind and reissue Presidential Permit No. PP-362 to enable the transfer of the permit from CHPEI to its affiliate CHPE, LLC.

On October 6, 2014, DOE issued Presidential Permit No. PP-362, authorizing CHPEI to construct, operate, and maintain the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project (Project). As described in PP-362, the Project is a 1,000 Megawatt (MW), high-voltage direct current (HVDC), underground and underwater merchant transmission system that will cross the United States-Canada international border underwater near the Town of Champlain, New York, extend approximately 336 miles south through New York State, and interconnect to facilities located in Queens County, New York owned by the Consolidated Edison Company of New York. The aquatic segments of the transmission line will primarily be submerged in Lake Champlain and the Hudson, Harlem, and East rivers. The terrestrial portions of the transmission line will primarily be buried in existing road and railroad rights-of-way (ROW).

Since the issuance of PP-362 in 2014, the upstream owners of CHPEI have created a new affiliated entity, CHPE, LLC, that will—subject to regulatory approvals—construct, operate, and maintain the Project. The Project's upstream owners intend that the assets of CHPEI will be transferred to CHPE, LLC.

**Procedural Matters:** Any person may comment on this application by filing such comment at the address provided above. Any person seeking to become a party to this proceeding must file a motion to intervene at the address provided above in accordance with Rule 214 of FERC's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214). Two (2) copies of each comment or motion to intervene should be filed with DOE on or before the date listed above.

Comments and other filings concerning this application should be clearly marked with OE Docket No. PP-362-1. Additional copies are to be provided directly to Mr. Donald Jessome, Chief Executive Officer, Transmission Developers Inc., Pieter Schuyler Building, 600 Broadway, Albany, New York 12207-2283, [donald.jessome@transmissiondevelopers.com](mailto:donald.jessome@transmissiondevelopers.com) and Jay Ryan, Baker Botts L.L.P., 700 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, [jay.ryan@bakerbotts.com](mailto:jay.ryan@bakerbotts.com).

Before a Presidential permit may be issued or amended, DOE must determine that the proposed action is in

the public interest. In making that determination, DOE will consider the environmental impacts of the proposed action (*i.e.*, granting the Presidential permit or amendment, with any conditions and limitations, or denying the permit) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and determine the project's impact on electric reliability by ascertaining whether the proposed project would adversely affect the operation of the U.S. electric power supply system under normal and contingency conditions, and any other factors that DOE may also consider relevant to the public interest. DOE also must obtain the favorable recommendation of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense before taking final action on a Presidential permit application.

This application may be reviewed or downloaded electronically at <http://energy.gov/oe/services/electricity-policy-coordination-and-implementation/international-electricity-regulation-2>. Upon reaching the home page, select "Pending Applications."

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 10, 2020.

**Christopher Lawrence,**

*Management and Program Analyst,  
Transmission Permitting and Technical  
Assistance, Office of Electricity.*

[FR Doc. 2020-07971 Filed 4-15-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RD20-3-000]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities FERC-725N(1) Comment Request; Extension

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy.

**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 proposed information collection FERC-725N(1) <sup>1</sup> (Mandatory Reliability TPL

<sup>1</sup> This temporary (placeholder) information collection number is being used for Docket No. RD20-3-000 because FERC-725N is currently pending review at OMB on an unrelated matter. Only one item per OMB Control No. can be pending review at OMB at the same time.

Standards: TPL-007-4, (Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events)).

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due June 15, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. RD20-3-000) 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, at Health and Human Services, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

**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](mailto:ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov), or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free).

**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](mailto:DataClearance@FERC.gov), telephone at (202) 502-8663.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Title:** FERC-725N(1), Mandatory Reliability Standards TPL-007-4, Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events.

**OMB Control No.:** 1902-TBD.

**Type of Request:** Approval of FERC-725N(1) which is a temporary placeholder for FERC-725N which is currently at OMB for an unrelated activity. There are no changes to the current reporting and recordkeeping requirements to FERC-725N.

**Abstract:** The proposed Reliability Standard TPL-007-4 requires owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System to conduct initial and on-going vulnerability assessments of the potential impact of defined geomagnetic disturbance events on Bulk-Power System equipment and the Bulk-Power System as a whole. Specifically, the Reliability Standard requires entities to develop corrective action plans for vulnerabilities identified through supplemental geomagnetic disturbance vulnerability assessments and requires entities to seek approval from the Electric Reliability Organization of any extensions of time for the completion of corrective action plan items.

On August 8, 2005, Congress enacted into law the Electricity Modernization

Act of 2005, which is Title XII, Subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005).<sup>2</sup> EPA 2005 added a new section 215 to the FPA, which required a Commission-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) to develop mandatory and enforceable Reliability Standards, which are subject to Commission review and approval. Once approved, the Reliability Standards may be enforced by the ERO subject to Commission oversight, or the Commission can independently enforce Reliability Standards.<sup>3</sup>

On February 3, 2006, the Commission issued Order No. 672, implementing section 215 of the FPA.<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Order No. 672, the Commission certified one organization, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC),

as the ERO.<sup>5</sup> The Reliability Standards developed by the ERO and approved by the Commission apply to users, owners and operators of the Bulk-Power System as set forth in each Reliability Standard.

On February 7, 2020, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation filed a petition seeking approval of proposed Reliability Standard TPL-007-4 (Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events).

NERC's filed petition was noticed on February 11, 2020, with interventions, comments and protests due on or before March 9, 2020. No interventions or comments were received.

The DLO was issued on March 19, 2020. The standard goes into effect at NERC on October 1, 2020.

*Type of Respondents:* Generator Owner, Planning Coordinator, Distribution Provider and Transmission Owners.

*Estimate of Annual Burden:*<sup>6</sup> Our estimates are based on the NERC Compliance Registry Summary of Entities as of January 31, 2020.

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 cost<sup>7</sup> as proposed in Docket No. RD20-3-000 follow:

#### FERC-725N(1), IN DOCKET NO. RD20-3-000

|                        | Annual number <sup>1</sup> of respondents | Annual number of responses per respondent | Total number of responses | Average burden hrs. & cost (\$) per response | Total annual burden hours & cost (\$) (rounded) | Cost per respondent (\$) |
|------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
|                        | (1)                                       | (2)                                       | (1) * (2) = (3)           | (4)  | (3) * (4) = (5)                                 | (5) ÷ (1)                |
| GO <sup>8</sup> .....  | 969                                       | 1   | 969                       | 40 hours; \$3,200 .....                      | 38,760 hours; \$3,100,800.                      | \$3,200                  |
| PC <sup>9</sup> .....  | 71  | 1   | 71                        | 40 hours; \$3,200 .....                      | 2,840 hours; \$ 227,200                         | \$3,200                  |
| DP <sup>10</sup> ..... | 318                                       | 1   | 318                       | 40 hours & \$3,200 .....                     | 12,720 hours; \$1,017,600.                      | \$3,200                  |
| TO <sup>11</sup> ..... | 321                                       | 1   | 321                       | 40 hours & \$3,200 .....                     | 12,840 hours; \$1,027,200.                      | \$3,200                  |
| TOTAL .....            | .....                                     | .....                                     | 1,679                     | .....  | 67,160 hours; .....<br>\$5,372,800 .....        | .....                    |

*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 10, 2020.

**Kimberly D. Bose,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2020-08033 Filed 4-15-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6717-01-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ER20-588-000]

#### Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.; Notice of Technical Conference

By order dated March 10, 2020,<sup>1</sup> the Commission directed staff to convene a technical conference regarding Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.'s (MISO) filing of proposed revisions to its Open Access Transmission, Energy and Operating Reserve Markets Tariff to allow for the

<sup>2</sup> Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-58, Title XII, Subtitle A, 119 Stat. 594, 941 (codified at 16 U.S.C. 824o).

<sup>3</sup> 16 U.S.C. 824o(e)(3).

<sup>4</sup> *Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards*, Order No. 672, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,204, *order on reh'g*, Order No. 672-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,212 (2006).

<sup>5</sup> *North American Electric Reliability Corp.*, 116 FERC ¶ 61,062, *order on reh'g and compliance*, 117

FERC ¶ 61,126 (2006), *order on compliance*, 118 FERC ¶ 61,190, *order on reh'g*, 119 FERC ¶ 61,046 (2007), *aff'd sub nom. Alcoa Inc. v. FERC*, 564 F.3d 1342 (DC Cir. 2009).

<sup>6</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. See 5 CFR 1320 for additional information on the definition of information collection burden.

<sup>7</sup> Commission staff estimates that the industry's skill set and cost (for wages and benefits) for FERC-

725N(1) are approximately the same as the Commission's average cost. The FERC 2019 average salary plus benefits for one FERC full-time equivalent (FTE) is \$167,091/year (or \$80.00/hour).

<sup>8</sup> Generator Owner.

<sup>9</sup> Planning Coordinator.

<sup>10</sup> Distribution Provider.

<sup>11</sup> Transmission Owner.

<sup>1</sup> *Midcontinent Indep. Sys. Operator, Inc.*, 170 FERC ¶ 61,186 (2020).