

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20426

April 20, 2021

Re: FOIA FY19-30  
Notice of Intent to Release

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY**

James M. McGrane  
Senior Counsel  
North American Electric Reliability Corporation  
1325 G Street N.W. Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
[James.McGrane@nerc.net](mailto:James.McGrane@nerc.net)

Dear Mr. McGrane:

Pursuant to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission or FERC) regulations, 18 C.F.R. § 388.112(e) (2020), you are hereby notified that the Commission intends to release, in part, material requested by Mr. Michael Mabee pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).<sup>1</sup> In this regard, Mr. Mabee is seeking the names of Unidentified Registered Entities (UREs) associated with various FERC dockets including, among other dockets: NP11-149 and NP11-47.

On February 12, 2021, Commission staff notified the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), as well as the relevant URE(s) associated with NP11-149 and NP11-47 of the request and provided an opportunity to comment pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 388.112. On February 22, 2021, NERC provided comments.

Identities of UREs

A case-by-case assessment of the requested information must consider: the nature of the CIP violation(s); whether mitigation is complete; the content of the public and non-public versions of the Notice of Penalty; the extent to which the disclosure of the pertinent URE identity would be useful to someone seeking to cause harm; whether an audit has occurred since the violation(s); whether the violation(s) was administrative or

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<sup>1</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 552, *as amended* by the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-185, 130 Stat. 538 (2016).

technical in nature; and the length of time that has elapsed since the filing of the public Notice of Penalty. An application of these factors will dictate whether a particular FOIA exemption, including 7(F) and/or Exemption 3, is appropriate. *See Garcia v. U.S. DOJ*, 181 F. Supp. 2d 356, 378 (S.D.N.Y. 2002) (“In evaluating the validity of an agency’s invocation of Exemption 7(F), the court should within limits, defer to the agency’s assessment of danger.”) (citation and internal quotations omitted).

Based on application of the various factors discussed above and in consultation with FERC technical staff, I determine that the disclosure of the names of the UREs associated with NP11-149; and NP11-47 is appropriate. A copy of the public versions of the Notice of Penalties with the names of the UREs inserted on the first page will be disclosed to the requestor no sooner than five calendar days from the date of this letter. *See* 18 C.F.R. § 388.112(e).

Sincerely,

**Sarah Venuto**

Digitally signed by Sarah  
Venuto  
Date: 2021.04.20 15:57:53  
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Sarah Venuto  
Director  
Office of External Affairs

Cc Michael Mabee (**WITHOUT ENCLOSURES**)  
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Bcc: (URE(s))  
Enclosures (2)