

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20426

May 21, 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

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).¹ In this regard, Mr. Mabee is seeking the names of Unidentified Registered Entities (UREs) associated with various FERC dockets including, among other dockets: NP11-253.

On April 1, 2021, Commission staff notified the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), as well as certain UREs associated with NP11-253 of the request and provided an opportunity to comment pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 388.112.² On April 8, 2021, NERC provided comments. Additionally, certain UREs provided feedback.

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

² Please note that NP11-253 is a spreadsheet docket and that notification of the FOIA request and this Notice of Intent to Release deals with only certain UREs contained therein.

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 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 four of the names of the UREs associated with NP11-253 is appropriate. A copy of the public version of the spreadsheet Notice of Penalty with the names of the relevant UREs inserted on the relevant pages 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**

Sarah Venuto
Director
Office of External Affairs

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VENUTO
Date: 2021.05.21 12:30:11
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Cc: Michael Mabee (**WITHOUT ENCLOSURES**)
civildefensebook@gmail.com

Peter Sorenson, Esq., Counsel for Mr. Mabee (**WITHOUT ENCLOSURES**)
petesorenson@gmail.com

Bcc Relevant UREs

Enclosures (1)