

# U.S. FERC takes measures on regulatory compliance in response to COVID-19 emergency

3 April 2020

On April 2, 2020, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a policy statement and a series of orders intended to provide relief to regulated entities from certain specified regulatory obligations and to prioritize the reliability of the nation's energy infrastructure during the national emergency caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Chairman Neil Chatterjee emphasized the importance of eliminating regulatory burdens to ensure the "reliability and security" of the country's energy infrastructure.

In [Docket No. PL20-5-000](#), FERC issued a Policy Statement on "Business Continuity of Energy Infrastructure." FERC stated that it will give its "highest priority to process filings made for the purpose of assuring the business continuity of regulated entities' energy infrastructure during this extraordinary time." FERC identified filings to implement new procedures, to update or suspend existing procedures or to take other measures to safeguard the business continuity of affected systems as one category of potential filings covered by this Policy Statement. FERC also stated that it will expeditiously review and act on requests for relief, including requests for cost recovery, necessary to assure business continuity of energy infrastructure.

In [Docket No. EL20-37-000](#), FERC issued an order granting a blanket temporary waiver of all in-person meeting and document notarization requirements in all tariffs, rate schedules, service agreements, and contracts subject to FERC's jurisdiction.

In Docket Nos. [AD20-13-000](#) and [RM20-13-000](#), FERC issued orders (1) to temporarily delegate (until June 1, 2020) to the Director of the Office of Energy Market Regulation authority to act on uncontested requests or petitions filed pursuant to section 4 of the Natural Gas Act, section 205 of the Federal Power Act, and section 6(3) of the Interstate Commerce Act to address waivers of FERC requirements necessary to respond to COVID-19, and (2) to amend its regulations to transfer the delegation of authority to act on uncontested motions for extension of time to file and requests for waiver of the requirements of FERC Form No. 552 and FERC-730 from the Director of the Office of Enforcement to the Director of the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation.

In [Docket No. RM17-2-000](#), FERC issued an order extending to October 20, 2020 the time for the posting of all "Uplift Reports" and "Operator Initiated Commitment Reports" that would

otherwise have been required to be posted between April and September 2020 by FERC-jurisdictional regional transmission operators and independent system operators.

Please contact us for more information.

## Contacts



**Stefan M. Krantz**  
Partner, Washington, D.C.  
T +1 202 637 5517  
[stefan.krantz@hoganlovells.com](mailto:stefan.krantz@hoganlovells.com)



**John R. Lilyestrom**  
Senior Counsel, Washington, D.C.  
T +1 202 637 5633  
[john.lilyestrom@hoganlovells.com](mailto:john.lilyestrom@hoganlovells.com)

**[www.hoganlovells.com](http://www.hoganlovells.com)**

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