Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FY 2026 Congressional Justification

June 20, 2025
Chairman Mark C. Christie

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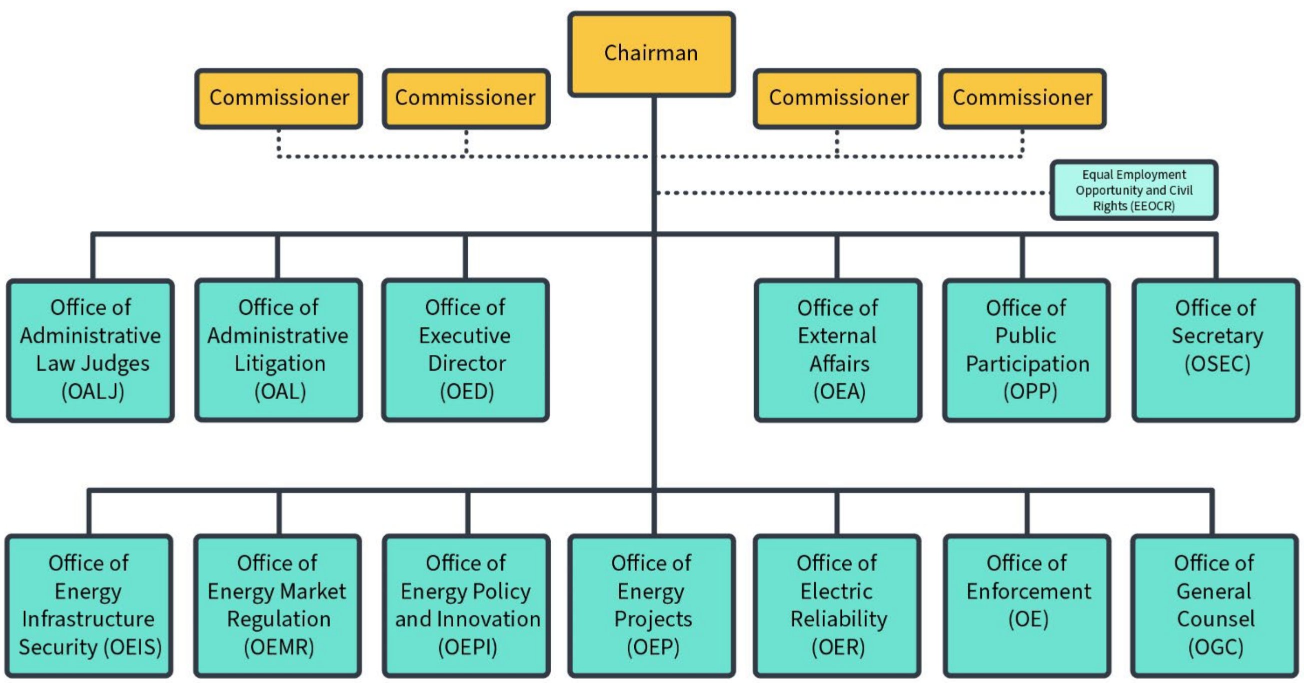
Commission Overview

The Commission is authorized by statute to ensure the cost-effective and reliable transmission and wholesale sale of electricity and natural gas in interstate commerce, as well as the transportation of oil by pipeline in interstate commerce. FERC also reviews for potential approval proposals to build interstate natural gas pipelines, natural gas storage projects, and liquified natural gas (LNG) terminals, and licenses non-federal hydropower projects. Congress assigned these responsibilities to FERC in various laws, including the Federal Power Act (FPA), originally enacted over 100 years ago; the Natural Gas Act (NGA); and the Interstate Commerce Act (ICA). In addition, as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress gave FERC additional responsibilities to protect the reliability and cybersecurity of the Bulk-Power System through the establishment and enforcement of mandatory reliability standards, as well as additional enforcement authority.

FERC is composed of up to five commissioners who are appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. Commissioners serve staggered five-year terms[1] and have an equal vote on the orders through which FERC acts. The President designates one of the commissioners to be the chairman of FERC, the administrative head of the agency. To carry out its authorities, Commission staff are organized into 13 offices.



For more information about FERC's offices, please visit: https://www.ferc.gov/offices

For more information about the members of the Commission, please visit: https://www.ferc.gov/about/commission-members

[1] 42 U.S. Code § 7171 (b)(1) "A Commissioner may continue to serve after the expiration of his term until his successor is appointed and has been confirmed and taken the oath of Office, except that such Commissioner shall not serve beyond the end of the session of the Congress in which such term expires."

The Commission's Funding

Proposed Appropriation Language

For necessary expenses of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, the hire of passenger motor vehicles, and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $3,000, $520,000,000 to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $520,000,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2026 shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during the fiscal year 2026 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated not more than $0.

Full Cost Recovery – Deficit Neutral

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recovers the full cost of its operations through annual charges and filing fees assessed on the industries it regulates as authorized by the Federal Power Act (FPA) and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986. The Commission deposits this revenue into the Treasury as a direct offset to its appropriation, resulting in a net appropriation of zero and therefore does not add to the federal deficit.

	FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 REQUEST	FY 2026 REQUEST vs FY25 ENACTED
Appropriation	$520,000,000	$520,000,000	$520,000,000	$-
Offsetting Collections	($520,000,000)	($520,000,000)	($520,000,000)	($-)
Net Appropriation	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

FY 2026 Request Summary

Resources by Strategic Goal

Strategic Goal *(Dollars in thousands)*			FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 REQUEST	PERCENT CHANGE FY25 TO FY26
GOAL 1	**Ensure Just and Reasonable Rates, Terms, and Conditions**	**Funding**	$241,467	$238,564	$245,581	$246,406	0.3%
		FTE	704	705	700	675	-3.6%
GOAL 2	**Ensure Safe, Reliable, and Secure Infrastructure**	**Funding**	$181,976	$179,204	$179,299	$182,725	1.9%
		FTE	512	495	485	472	-2.7%
GOAL 3	**Mission Support through Organizational Excellence**	**Funding**	$117,557	$118,224	$123,120	$119,869	-2.6%
		FTE	350	355	354	327	-7.6%
SUBTOTAL		**Funding**	**$541,000**	**$535,992**	**$548,000**	**$549,000**	**0.2%**
		FTE	**1,566**	**1,555**	**1,539**	**1,474**	**-4.2%**
Application of Prior Year (PY) Budget Authority			**(21,000)**	-	**(28,000)**	**(29,000)**	
TOTAL		**Funding**	**$520,000**	**$535,992**	**$520,000**	**$520,000**	**0.0%**
		FTE	**1,566**	**1,555**	**1,539**	**1,474**	**-4.2%**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) requests an appropriation of $520,000,000 and 1,474 full-time equivalents (FTEs) to execute its mission in fiscal year (FY) 2026. This appropriation request is consistent with the FY 2025 enacted level. The Commission's full funding requirement to meet base FY 2026 operating requirements is $549,000,000. The Commission will apply $29,000,000 in prior year unobligated balances to support its full operating requirements in FY 2026.

The Commission's highly engaged and dedicated workforce applies its expertise toward achieving its regulatory mission to ensure economically efficient, safe, reliable, and secure energy for consumers. The Commission allocates 63 percent of its budget to directly cover personnel compensation costs of its employees on an annual basis. The Commission's FY 2026 budget requests a decrease of 65 FTEs below the FY 2025 enacted level and a reduction in personnel compensation costs of $10.4 million, or 3.1 percent. The Commission conducted a review of its functions and their alignment with governing statutory requirements and reviewed current operations to identify specific opportunities to lower costs while improving organizational capacity. The result is an optimized workforce that requires fewer resources to execute its statutory obligations. Furthermore, FERC intends to continue use of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds in FY 2026 to ensure efficient permitting of needed energy infrastructure. To continue to improve the way the Commission implements its statutory responsibilities over infrastructure permitting, the Commission will use IRA funds to support 33 FTE in FY 2026.

The request provides continued funding for program contracts associated with statutorily required workload with hydropower and natural gas infrastructure, including environmental reviews, public outreach, stakeholder engagement, construction oversight. In addition, the Commission's request includes funding to support expert witness contractor assistance in the Commission's enforcement program.

The Commission's Request includes $165.5 million in FY 2026 to support information technology (IT) investments. This is an increase of $13.1 million, or 8.6 percent, over the FY 2025 enacted level. This increase provides additional funding to support IT investments for mission delivery and IT infrastructure, cybersecurity, data analytics capabilities, and management. In addition, in FY 2026 the Commission will continue its execution of the remaining targeted Artificial Intelligence (AI) proof of concepts. The utilization of AI promises to enhance efficiencies across various FERC program offices, ultimately leading to substantial benefits in the execution of the Commission's mission.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue modernizing its core suite of mission-critical business applications as a component of the Application Layer Modernization (ALM) initiative, which will automate the process of tracking and reporting of Commission workload activities. In addition, the Commission will continue to modernize the Electric Quarterly Report (EQR) and Forms. These efforts aim to reduce long-term burden for filers, make submissions more consistent by using a common framework and an electronic portal, and improve the ability for analysts to examine data in support of FERC's regulatory mission. FERC will continue to maintain legacy applications through break-fix quarterly releases and decommission systems replaced by modernization.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue its goal of providing a best-in-class IT environment for its stakeholders while proceeding to execute federal mandates for IPv6 requirements, zero-trust and cybersecurity principles. FERC will continue implementing the IPv6 mandates, as outlined in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-21-07, while minimizing impact to current activities and resources. FERC has also requested resources in FY 2026 to ensure that the proposed zero-trust architecture is executed according to each outlined phase of its implementation plan, and that it is in line with our technical approach. FERC will begin automated control testing to boost its existing continuous monitoring program.

In FY 2026, FERC will continue deploying tools to improve its cybersecurity posture to support continuous monitoring of its enterprise infrastructure with a focus on automation. FERC will also continue its maturity and growth of the data analytics platform in alignment with ALM, ensuring the modernized applications align with data standards, and new automated data pipelines from the applications can be enabled to make this new data accessible through the data analytics platform for data science and analytics needs.

Moreover, pursuant to the requirements of the Evidence Act and Federal Data Strategy Action Plans, this increase in funding allows FERC to continue maturing and growing its data infrastructure, evolving its data analytics capabilities with best-in-class data science tools. This supports data driven decision making and offers a public facing data infrastructure in response to Open Data requirements. FERC will continue to mature its delivery of the Enterprise Data Inventory requirements and connection to data.gov and to implement its plan for Data Support Services, Data Governance and Stewardship Services.

To support these digital transformation efforts, the Commission continues to leverage its multi-year contracting vehicles. These vehicles continue to bring leading edge support services that perform routine refreshes of end user devices, infrastructure assets, execute daily IT operations, modernize all core mission applications to cloud-based platforms, and provide services to deliver an enterprise data program and a cloud-based data analytics platform. FERC will also replace the legacy backup solution, which is end of life August 2026, and storage area network. These investments will ensure the Commission continues to drive innovation for effective delivery of IT for its stakeholders, provide for highly secure and resilient applications, make timely data-driven decisions to support mission needs, and provide capabilities across the data value chain to meet the increasing scale and complexity of data analytics challenges.

Additionally, FERC will continue investment in expanding the enterprise program management capability to prioritize IT initiatives and resources, ensure alignment of initiatives to the FERC and IT Strategic Plans, and proactively monitor and report on IT initiatives.

In FY 2026, the Commission will complete its plans to terminate leases of its regional offices, which includes New York City, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Portland Oregon; San Francisco, California; and Houston, Texas. Staff in these locations will be converted to mobile employees, as they perform annually more than 1,000 inspections of jurisdictional hydroelectric facilities and LNG terminals, as well as assist facility operators when related concerns arise. The Commission will realize approximately $2.0 million in rental and support cost savings prospectively after FY 2026.

Funding Tables

Resources by Regulated Industry

Regulated Industry *(Dollars in thousands)*		FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 REQUEST	PERCENT CHANGE FY25 TO FY26
Electric	Funding	$299,016	$306,279	$308,312	$307,611	-0.2%
	FTE	866	899	873	837	-4.1%
Hydro	Funding	$122,413	$117,728	$121,773	$126,295	3.7%
	FTE	353	334	336	329	-2.1%*
Natural Gas	Funding	$104,728	$98,474	$104,625	$101,291	-3.2%
	FTE	303	282	292	270	-7.5%*
Oil	Funding	$14,843	$13,510	$13,290	$13,803	3.9%
	FTE	44	40	38	38	0.0%
Subtotal	**Funding**	**$541,000**	**$535,992**	**$548,000**	**$549,000**	**0.2%**
Application of PY Budget Authority		$(21,000)	-	$(28,000)	$(29,000)	
Total	**Funding**	**$520,000**	**$535,992**	**$520,000**	**$520,000**	**0.0%**
	FTE	**1,566**	**1,555**	**1,539**	**1,474**	**-4.2%**

** While the FY 2026 request reflects a reduction in resources funded for the hydro and natural gas programs, the Commission will not be reducing staff directly assigned to the permitting of hydro and natural gas infrastructure. In FY 2026 The Commission will continue to support FTE consistent with its staffing levels assigned to permitting workload for these programs in FY 2025 by utilizing funding made available via the Inflation Reduction Act, which is not reflected in the above table.*

Comparison of FYs 2025 and 2026 by Major Category

Major Categories *(Dollars in thousands)*	FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 REQUEST	FY26 REQUEST vs FY25 ENACTED ($)	FY26 REQUEST vs FY25 ENACTED (%)
FTE	1,566	1,539	1,474	(65)	-4.2%
Salaries & Benefits	$338,538	$336,258	$325,876	$(10,382)	-3.1%
Rent	33,285	23,777	25,825	2,048	8.6%
Program Support Contracts	12,815	10,460	10,582	122	1.2%
Information Technology	129,685	152,359	165,449	13,090	8.6%
Administrative (including Training and Travel)	26,677	25,146	21,268	(3,878)	-15.4%
Subtotal	**$541,000**	**$548,000**	**$520,000**	**$1,000**	**0.2%**
Application of PY Budget Authority	(21,000)	(28,000)	(29,000)	(1,000)	0.0%
Total	**$520,000**	**$520,000**	**$520,000**	**$-**	**0.0%**

Object Class Summary

Object Class *(Dollars in thousands)*		FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 REQUEST
11.9	Personnel Compensation	$247,759	$241,328	$246,272	$239,110
12.1	Benefits	90,779	87,147	89,913	86,806
13.0	Benefits for Former Personnel	-	17	-	-
	Subtotal, Personnel Compensation & Benefits	**$338,538**	**$328,492**	**$336,185**	**$325,916**
21.0	Travel and Transportation of Persons	4,567	4,189	4,864	4,952
22.0	Transportation of Things	1	1	1	1
23.1	Rental Payments to General Services Administration	33,285	29,120	23,777	25,825
23.2	Rental Payments to Others	1,747	1,093	1,136	1,112
23.3	Communications, Utilities & Misc. Charges	3,376	3,081	3,421	3,004
24.0	Printing and Reproduction	1,387	1,274	1,313	1,341
25.1	Advisory and Assistance	21,777	30,744	29,853	29,651
25.2	Non-Federal	22,260	19,706	20,449	17,509
25.3	Federal	2,062	2,285	2,220	2,348
25.4	Operation & Maintenance of Facilities	2,297	2,426	2,437	2,605
25.7	Operation & Maintenance of Equipment	66,676	75,726	80,923	81,808
26.0	Supplies and Materials	6,196	5,640	6,128	6,433
31.0	Equipment	36,701	22,301	35,065	45,838
32.0	Leasehold Improvements	130	9,721	228	657
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	-	193	-	-
	TOTAL, OBLIGATIONS	**$541,000**	**$535,992**	**$548,000**	**$549,000**
	Application of PY Budget Authority	(21,000)	-	(28,000)	(29,000)
	GROSS BUDGET AUTHORITY	**$520,000**	**$535,992**	**$520,000**	**$520,000**
	Offsetting Receipts	(520,000)	(535,992)	(520,000)	(520,000)
	NET BUDGET AUTHORITY	**$-**	**$-**	**$-**	**$-**

Goal 1: Ensure Just and Reasonable Rates, Terms, and Conditions

Strategic Goal *(Dollars in thousands)*		FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 REQUEST	PERCENT CHANGE FY25 TO FY26
GOAL 1 SUBTOTAL	**FTE**	**704**	**705**	**700**	**675**	**-3.6%**
	Funding	**$241,467**	**$238,564**	**$245,581**	**$246,406**	**0.3%**
Application of PY Budget Authority		(9,373)	-	(12,548)	(13,016)	
GOAL 1 TOTAL	**Funding**	**$232,094**	**$238,564**	**$233,033**	**$233,390**	**0.2%**

The nation's security and economic prosperity depend on maintaining reliable, safe, secure, and economically efficient energy services at a reasonable cost for consumers. FERC's regulations ensure just and reasonable rates, terms, and conditions for jurisdictional services.

In carrying out its regulatory role, FERC uses a range of ratemaking activities as well as market oversight and enforcement. FERC's jurisdiction includes the wholesale sale and transmission of electricity and natural gas in interstate commerce, the interconnection of new electric generation in interstate commerce, and the transportation of oil by pipeline in interstate commerce. FERC's ratemaking activities leverage both regulatory and market means and involve the issuance of orders and the establishment of rules and policies. Its enforcement activities include both increasing compliance and detecting and deterring market manipulation.

Through these efforts, FERC ensures that consumers have access to the energy services they need, and that service providers are reasonably compensated.

Analyze and Act on Filings

FERC's primary authorizing statutes, and specifically the Federal Power Act, are, first and foremost, consumer protection statutes because they require FERC to ensure rates paid by consumers for wholesale electric power are just and reasonable. Ensuring just and reasonable rates under these statutes means doing FERC's part to ensure affordability of electric power for consumers. In FY 2026, FERC will fulfill these statutory responsibilities by both acting promptly on electric utility filings and reviewing policies that affect the cost of electric power for consumers.

The primary way that FERC ensures that energy is affordable is through acting on electric utility filings of rates, terms, and conditions of wholesale sales of electricity and interstate transmission service, including rules governing the operation of electricity markets, to ensure those filings do not result in unjust and unreasonable rates. The Federal Power Act sets deadlines for the Commission to act on those filings or they will go into effect by operation of law. To protect customers from excessive rates or unfair terms of service, FERC acts on these filings in a timely manner. Similarly, FERC must timely act on natural gas and oil pipeline filings of rates, terms, and conditions for transportation service in interstate commerce under the Natural Gas Act and the Interstate Commerce Act.

The table below also shows the estimated number of rate filings for FY 2026. The Commission does not have control over the number of filings from industry or third parties. Moreover, the number of yearly filings is a function of multiple factors that make it difficult to predict how many filings the Commission will receive in future years. Accordingly, the Commission plans to maintain sufficient resources in FY 2026 to process a similar number of filings as in prior years in the gas and oil sectors and an increasing volume of electric sector filings. The Commission will continue to dedicate significant resources to the analysis of rate and tariff filings, including those made pursuant to FPA section 205, NGA section 4, and ICA section 6, consistent with its statutory authority.

RATE FILINGS

	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 ACTUAL	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ESTIMATE	FY 2026 ESTIMATE
Electric	6,279	7,073	6,694	7,200	7,250
Gas	1,509	1,376	1,329	1,500	1,500
Oil	1,109	761	1,073	900	900

The Commission also will pursue the following actions.

In FY 2026, FERC will review its policy on transmission incentives, transmission planning, and efficient use of existing transmission. FERC's current transmission incentives policy is overly generous to prospective transmission developers and does not give consumers an appropriate "bang for the buck" from those incentives. Many of FERC's incentives to developers are products of rent-seeking and past FERC policies attempting to force electric utilities to join federally-regulated regional transmission organizations (RTOs), as part of FERC's agenda of the late 1990s and early 2000s that sought to reduce state authority by transferring that authority to the federal level. These incentives are not designed to provide consumers with reliable power at least cost, but to provide transmission developers with above-market rents and to serve earlier FERC policies to expand federal power over state-regulated utilities. To correct that imbalance, FERC will review its transmission incentives policy, including the return on equity adder it grants for participation in an RTO or Independent System Operator (ISO), as well as wider-ranging, related issues. In addition, transmission planning should be about building transmission to provide consumers with reliable power at least cost, not to serve special interests such as wind and solar generation developers with subsidized interconnection or to force consumers in one state in an RTO to pay for the public policies of another state, such as a state's offshore wind generation to meet its renewable power mandates. FERC should not allow such public policy costs to be socialized across a multi-state RTO unless the states in the RTO have agreed on cost allocation. Transmission Providers must also make cost-effective use of their existing transmission assets – which consumers pay for through transmission rates – by using approved transmission technologies, such as ambient-adjusted line ratings, that can increase transmission capacity and may reduce costly transmission constraints.

Also in FY 2026, FERC will review resource adequacy constructs in the RTO/ISO regions. With unprecedented increases in demand for electricity, it is as important but more challenging than ever to ensure that sufficient generating resources will be available to meet that demand and at reasonable cost. With these challenges in mind, FERC will review resource adequacy constructs in the RTO/ISO regions, including the roles of capacity markets in the RTO/ISO regions that utilize them and alternative constructs in RTO/ISO regions without capacity markets. The capacity markets have been failing to incent the construction of sufficient new dispatchable generation or to prevent the retirements of existing needed dispatchable generation. In June 2025, FERC will host a public conference on these topics with state regulators and a broad range of industry stakeholders. That conference and subsequent comments will inform further FERC action on these challenges.

The Commission will continue its annual review of the justness and reasonableness of interstate natural gas pipeline rates by analyzing cost and revenue information included in the pipelines' FERC Form No. 2 annual reports.

The Commission will address the ongoing proceedings related to the five-year review of the oil pipeline index to determine the methodology to be used for the calculation of the annual oil pipeline index for 2021-2025, and will begin the standardized process for the oil pipeline index for 2026-2030.

FERC will promote needed investment in the energy sector by alleviating the burdens and uncertainty that stem from unnecessary regulations and guidance associated with rates, terms, and conditions of jurisdictional services. In FY 2026, FERC will continue to identify and address unnecessary regulations and guidance.

FERC will identify and address unfinished generic proceedings and unnecessary guidance. FERC is currently reviewing its never-finalized proposed rules and policy statements to identify those that should be terminated, thereby removing uncertainty associated with long-pending proceedings. Similarly, FERC is reviewing its policy statements and other guidance documents to identify items that should be rescinded as unnecessary or out-of-date.

In addition, FERC is preparing for the implementation of the April 9, 2025, Executive Order entitled, "Zero-Based Regulatory Budgeting to Unleash American Energy," which will continue in FY 2026.

Technical Reporting

Among other technical reporting initiatives, Commission staff expects to hold an industry software conference in FY 2026. Commission staff in FY 2026 also will continue to produce public reports such as the Annual State of the Market Report on market performance and long-term trends, as well as the Seasonal Energy Market and Reliability Assessments on short-term outlooks. In addition, Commission staff will continue to conduct regular outreach to RTOs/ISOs and independent market monitors for RTOs/ISOs to review the impact of approved market rule changes or other market events.

Hearing and Settlement Judge Procedures

Although the Commission is able to analyze and resolve the merits of the majority of filings, there are cases where there are disputed issues of material fact that the Commission determines should be set for hearing. However, the Commission encourages settlements where possible, recognizing the value of resolving issues through consensual means. Settlements of disputes greatly reduce the time, expense, and resources the Commission and outside parties would otherwise devote to litigating these cases.

As of May 20, 2025, the Commission has six hearings scheduled to occur in FY 2026. In addition, there are currently three ongoing litigated proceedings that may continue into FY 2026. While the Commission determines the cases that are set for hearing and settlement judge procedures, these decisions are functions of the filings, requests, and issues put before it. Thus, the Commission does not plan for a particular number of cases to be set for hearing and settlement judge procedures. Similarly, although the Commission may encourage settlements, it is up to the parties, with assistance from the Commission's

Dispute Resolution Service or mediation from a settlement judge and participation by Commission Trial Staff, to reach an agreement. Accordingly, in FY 2026, the Commission will monitor its workload to ensure sufficient resources are available.

Audits, Accounting, and Administration of Forms

In FY 2026, the Commission will conduct audits to address accounting practices at energy companies that unduly increase rates to consumers. Major topic areas of the Commission audits anticipated for FY 2026 include transmission formula rates and FERC Form No. 1 reporting, market-based rates, reliability, affiliate transactions, mergers and acquisitions, fuel adjustment clauses, open access transmission tariffs, open access same-time information systems, energy market and trading operations, natural gas tariffs and FERC Form No. 2 reporting, oil pipeline tariffs and FERC Form No. 6 reporting, and other accounting and financial reporting matters. The Commission expects to commence approximately 12 to 15 audits in FY 2026. The Commission will continue to work with entities to facilitate the prompt and effective understanding and implementation of audit recommendations. As such, the Commission expects to see a high success rate of implemented corrective actions continue into FY 2026.

In addition, in FY 2026, the Commission anticipates responding to over 400 accounting requests and inquiries related to various accounting matters with rate implications, such as accounting for mergers and divestitures, leases, asset transactions, allowance for funds used during construction, pensions and other postretirement benefits, asset retirement obligations, regulatory assets and liabilities and income tax matters, among others.

Lastly, the Commission will continue its compliance efforts to ensure the timely submission of EQRs and FERC forms while also promoting the accuracy of the data. The Commission anticipates over 2,000 FERC form filings annually and 3,600 EQR filings each quarter in FY 2026. The Commission will continue to explore ways to modernize data collection systems and streamline requirements to achieve long-term burden reduction.

Market Surveillance and Investigations

The Commission develops surveillance tools, conducts surveillance, and analyzes transactional and market data to detect potential manipulation, anticompetitive behavior, and other anomalous activities in energy markets. The number of surveillance alerts received, and inquiries conducted, is partially dependent on external factors and may vary due to market or weather events. Out of thousands of surveillance alerts, the Commission estimates that it will conduct approximately 60 surveillance inquiries in FY 2026, which, based on prior experience, are likely to result in approximately 7 referrals for investigation. In FY 2026, the Commission anticipates a typical volume of work based on known factors and will be prepared and able to respond effectively to alerts and inquiries should events dictate.

The Commission often reaches out to market participants as part of its surveillance inquiries to discuss trading activities and to obtain additional non-public data. This frequent interaction between Commission staff and market participants often eliminates the need for an investigation, thereby, reducing the burden on industry. Market participants' continued awareness of Commission surveillance activities also should help deter manipulation and other violations of Commission rules. These factors should lead to further efficiency in FY 2026.

The Commission also conducts investigations of potential violations of the statutes, regulations, rules, orders, tariffs, certificates, and licenses administered by the Commission. In FY 2026, the Commission anticipates work on approximately 40 investigations into alleged fraud and market manipulation, serious violations of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards, and other potential violations of the Commission's regulations and approved RTO/ISO tariffs.

The Commission in FY 2026 also expects to process over 200 Enforcement Hotline inquiries and approximately 150 self-reports. The Commission's Penalty Guidelines emphasize the importance of self-reporting by providing credit that can significantly mitigate or entirely eliminate penalties if a self-report is made.

While settlement is the Commission's preferred resolution to investigations that result in remedial action, some investigations do not settle and eventually lead to district court proceedings. The Commission anticipates work on approximately 3 to 5 such proceedings in FY 2026, addressing issues such as alleged manipulation of energy markets.

Goal 2: Ensure Safe, Reliable, and Secure Infrastructure Consistent with the Public Interest

Strategic Goal *(Dollars in thousands)*		FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 REQUEST	PERCENT CHANGE FY25 TO FY26
GOAL 2 SUBTOTAL	**FTE**	**512**	**495**	**485**	**472**	**-2.7%**
	Funding	**$181,976**	**$179,204**	**$179,299**	**$182,725**	**1.9%**
Application of PY Budget Authority		(7,064)	-	(9,161)	(9,652)	
GOAL 2 TOTAL	**Funding**	**$174,912**	**$179,204**	**$170,138**	**$173,073**	**1.7%**

Infrastructure for which FERC approval is required includes interstate natural gas pipelines and storage projects, LNG facilities, and non-federal hydropower that are found to be in the public interest. In addition, the Commission has authority to site electric transmission facilities in certain circumstances. Ensuring the development of safe, reliable, and secure infrastructure that provides energy for consumers at a reasonable cost is a significant, multifaceted challenge.

FERC's role includes the review of proposed infrastructure projects. Additionally, FERC considers the minimization of risks to the public in the operation of jurisdictional energy infrastructure. To promote safe, reliable, and secure infrastructure, FERC must ensure the sustainability and safety of non-federal hydropower projects and LNG facilities throughout their entire life cycle; oversee the development and review of, as well as compliance with, mandatory reliability and security standards for the Bulk-Power System (BPS); and help to secure the BPS from cyber and physical attacks.

Infrastructure Siting

The NGA and the FPA charge FERC with the responsibility to oversee the development of reliable and secure energy infrastructure. FERC's review of proposed energy infrastructure projects must balance the benefits of a proposed project against its adverse impacts. In exercising its authority, FERC must first find that projects are consistent with the legal standards set forth in the NGA, FPA, and pertinent court precedents. If authorized, FERC must ensure the legal durability of the decision so that the safe, reliable, and secure infrastructure can be built. An efficient Commission review process can help facilitate investment in needed energy infrastructure.

As part of its review of applications to develop energy infrastructure, the Commission is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to perform an environmental review assessing and disclosing potential environmental impacts and identifying necessary mitigation measures to lessen these impacts. This review is concurrent with the Commission's review of the proposal for consistency with NGA or FPA. Both reviews serve to provide the Commission the information to assess whether the project is in the public interest and authorize the project.

In FY 2026, the Commission will undertake measures to continue to streamline its processes to ensure efficient energy infrastructure permitting while continuing to issue legally durable authorizations. The Commission has already ceased including an environmental justice analysis in its environmental documents, which has reduced information burdens on project proponents. The Commission also terminated a policy statement proceeding concerning greenhouse gas emissions that had created regulatory uncertainty for project sponsors.

FERC will review its regulations related to energy infrastructure permitting in order to identify and remove any inclusion of outdated and rescinded NEPA regulations. The Commission will also assess its regulations followed by Project sponsors for applications related to non-federal hydropower, natural gas infrastructure, and electric transmission backstop siting. FERC will review and identify categorical exclusions used at other agencies for NEPA to determine if they can be adopted for use by the Commission.

Natural Gas Applications

Prefiling Process: The Commission estimates that between three to seven natural gas pipeline projects will be in the pre-filing stage in FY 2026. In addition, the Commission expects one to three LNG projects will initiate the pre-filing review process in FY 2026.

Application Review: The Commission estimates it will receive 145 applications, project notifications, and extension of time requests for natural gas pipeline, storage, and LNG proposals in FY 2026.

Outreach Efforts: In FY 2026, Commission staff plans to initiate the development of training webinars for natural gas companies and other permitting agencies to educate stakeholders about the FERC environmental review process for natural gas facility applications.

Natural Gas Pipeline, Storage, and LNG Project Inspections/Reviews

In FY 2026, the Commission plans to conduct 270 construction inspections of pipeline, storage, and LNG facilities. Commission staff expects to review 390 annual reports filed under 18 C.F.R. 157.207, 18 C.F.R. 2.55, and 18 C.F.R. 284.11 in FY 2026.

Hydropower Project Applications

Prefiling Process: The Commission anticipates that there will be 25 active Integrated Licensing Process pre-filing processes in FY 2026. In the course of these processes, the Commission expects its staff to conduct approximately 10 scoping meetings in FY 2026. The Commission also expects to issue approximately 5 study plan determinations in FY 2026.

Application Review: By statute, a relicense application must be filed no later than two years prior to current license expiration. In FY 2026, the Commission expects to receive 14 relicense applications for projects with licenses expiring in FY 2028, five original license applications, and one small hydropower exemption application. In FY 2026, the Commission expects to complete approximately 3,000 amendment-related filings and to issue 10 environmental assessments on proposed amendments and 30 final environmental assessments for license and small hydropower exemption applications.

Outreach Efforts: Commission staff expects to host eight license transition meetings in FY 2026. The Commission also expects to conduct additional workshops in FY 2026 to prepare licensing stakeholders for the upcoming relicensing workload and on other hydropower-related topics.

Hydropower Project Inspections/Reviews

For FY 2026, it is projected that the Commission will conduct approximately 60 environmental inspections. The Commission also expects to complete 60 engineering amendments for construction and maintenance activities. The Commission anticipates completing approximately 400 investigations regarding deviations in FY 2026. The Commission will continue to monitor project commencement of construction activities and expects the number of extensions to be 22 in FY 2026.

Infrastructure Safety

LNG Facility Inspections

Between 45 and 65 construction inspections are expected to be conducted in FY 2026, at between seven and 12 LNG terminals and one peak-shaving facility. The ultimate number of inspections will primarily depend on the commencement of facilities' construction at the 12 authorized LNG export terminal projects not yet under construction and commencement of facilities' in-service for the seven LNG terminal and one LNG peak-shaving plant currently under construction. The number of operational inspections is expected to be 13 in FY 2026.

Hydropower Inspections

In FY 2026, Commission staff expect to conduct approximately 1,800 safety inspections, 8 cyber security audits, and 100 physical security inspections of FERC jurisdictional hydropower projects. Commission staff also expect to review 150 independent consultant inspection reports in FY 2026.

Bulk-Power System Performance and Reliability

Section 215 of the Federal Power Act charges FERC with the responsibility to protect and improve the reliability of the BPS. FERC primarily achieves this by overseeing the development and review of mandatory reliability and security standards, and the compliance with those standards by the users, owners, and operators of the BPS. FERC also oversees the activities of the NERC, the FERC-certified Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) and its activities to promote the reliable and secure planning and operation of the BPS.

In reviewing a new or modified reliability standard proposed by the ERO, FERC is required to determine whether the reliability standard is just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory, or preferential, and in the public interest. It is important that FERC take timely action on any proposed reliability standards. In FY 2026, FERC will take actions to timely make determinations on proposed standards. Subjects that FERC anticipates will be addressed in proposed standards in FY 2026 include, among others, inverter-based resources and transmission system planning performance requirements.

FERC must stay apprised of the actual performance of the BPS, especially during periods of system stress, to assess the effectiveness of the reliability standards and understand potential reliability gaps that must be addressed. In FY 2026, FERC, in collaboration with the ERO and the ERO's regional entities, will conduct joint reviews of major system events, as needed. Also in FY 2026, FERC, in collaboration with the ERO and the ERO's regional entities, will conduct audits of responsible entities.

FERC will also oversee and promote Bulk-Power System cybersecurity. FERC will commence up to four non-public FERC-led audits in FY 2026, in collaboration with the ERO, that will focus on compliance with cybersecurity reliability standards. Based on these audits, FERC will publish an annual anonymized summary report to inform the general public, and the industry of lessons learned and identify potential areas for improvement for the cybersecurity reliability standards.

Identify, Communicate, Assess, and Address Infrastructure Security Threats

In addition to employing mandatory standards to establish foundational cyber and physical security requirements, as discussed above, the Commission identifies and encourages industry use of voluntary best practices to help quickly protect critical infrastructure from even the most advanced threats. This two-pronged approach is more agile and adaptive to address new and emerging threats.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue to ensure that other government agencies have information about the security posture of Commission-jurisdictional entities, and further assist the critical infrastructure community to identify cyber and physical security priorities to inform best practices and mitigation strategies that protect against threats and vulnerabilities. The Commission will maintain its partnerships with other federal agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Department of Interior, Transportation Security Administration, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as well as state governmental entities.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue to direct its staff to coordinate with NERC and its Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center on critical infrastructure security, including the initiation, development, and review of NERC Alerts. Staff will similarly engage with the Electric Sector Coordination Council and other organizations on the protection of critical infrastructure. Staff also will continue to participate in infrastructure security exercises to understand broader infrastructure issues and provide a basis for identifying common vulnerabilities and best practices to mitigate them.

Also in FY 2026, staff will continue to conduct onsite cyber and physical security assessments with owners and operators of FERC-jurisdictional infrastructure. Cybersecurity assessments will focus on IT as well as operational technology infrastructure. Physical security assessments will focus on detection, deterrence, response, and recovery state-of-the-art techniques, as well as emerging threats.

Goal 3: Mission Support Through Organizational Excellence

Strategic Goal *(Dollars in thousands)*		FY 2024 ENACTED	FY 2024 ACTUAL	FY 2025 ENACTED	FY 2026 REQUEST	PERCENT CHANGE FY25 TO FY26
GOAL 3 SUBTOTAL	**FTE**	**350**	**355**	**354**	**327**	**-7.6%**
	Funding	**$117,557**	**$118,224**	**$123,120**	**$119,869**	**-2.6%**
Application of PY Budget Authority		(4,563)	-	(6,291)	(6,332)	
GOAL 3 TOTAL	**Funding**	**$112,994**	**$118,224**	**$116,829**	**$113,537**	**-2.8%**

The public interest is best served when the Commission operates in an efficient, responsive, and transparent manner. The Commission pursues this goal by maintaining established processes and providing services in accordance with governing statutes, authoritative guidance, and prevailing best practices. Maintaining processes and public information services that promote transparency and open communication with respect to the conduct of the Commission's business is also vital to achieving this goal. The Commission's staff, while serving in different program offices, must work collaboratively and execute processes that work in concert with each other to produce the high- quality results expected by the American people. In accomplishing this goal, the Commission will use its resources efficiently, empower its employees, and earn the public trust. These essential outcomes are indicative of a model regulatory agency.

General and Administrative Law, Rehearings, and Appeals

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue to provide ethics training to all staff that meets or exceeds the Office of Government Ethics' requirements. The Commission will continue to tailor such training to address emerging trends and developments. The Commission will also continue to review all financial disclosures submitted by staff, the number of which is expected to remain steady. The Commission expects to receive a similar number of ethics, personnel, procurement, and organizational conflict of interest issues and will respond to all in a timely manner.

For FY 2026, staff expects requests for rehearing to continue to be filed at approximately the same pace as in recent years, with over 120 proceedings per year, and the Commission will continue to implement its updated practices adopted after *Allegheny Defense Project v. FERC*, 964 F.3d 1 (D.C. Cir. 2020), to ensure that rehearing requests are resolved in a timely manner. As for court appeals, staff expects that current litigation numbers will carry forward, with approximately 125 FERC-related appeals pending at any one time, resulting in 25–45 court opinions per year on review of final FERC orders.

External Affairs, Public Engagement, and Access to Commission Information

For FY 2026, the Commission will continue to strengthen its commitment to education, information, and engagement with the public via the Media Relations team with its many communication tools and communication platforms.

In FY 2026, the Commission also will continue to proactively offer briefings to Congressional staffers on areas and issues of interest. The Commission will continue to respond to all Congressional inquiries promptly and openly while ensuring Congressional members and staff are kept apprised of action by the Commission regarding priority items. In FY 2026, staff will continue its regular, sometimes daily, outreach to thousands of state government officials and look to expand its engagement to additional state-level agencies and related associations representing state interests. Commission staff will continue to engage with international regulatory counterparts. Commission staff will continue to expand its outreach efforts to Tribal governments, entities, and organizations. Commission staff also continue to provide assistance to other federal agencies upon request.

In FY 2026, Commission staff will process Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information (CEII) requests within the required timeframes. The Commission cannot predict the number of such requests it will receive in future years. Yet the Commission expects such requests may become more frequent with the evolution of its public engagement strategies and capabilities and increased public interest in the Commission. To adapt to this higher level of engagement, the Commission is reviewing ways to make the FOIA process more efficient.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue its active engagement with the public through its Office of Public Participation as it executes key functions, including procedural and technical assistance, public outreach, and education. The Commission will continue to reflect the needs of a wide range of constituents across the United States, in its outreach and education strategies.

To foster greater understanding about FERC processes, the Office of Public Participation will continue to expand its education initiative through the development of resources, such as primers, handouts and explainers, that explain the Commission's role in regulating electric markets and energy infrastructure, how to comment and intervene in proceedings, and why the proceedings are of interest to the public.

Moreover, the Office of Public Participation plans to continue provision of technical assistance through in-depth multimedia materials, collaboration with FERC IT senior staff on data access platforms, workshops, webinars, and community briefings to help educate the public on complex FERC-jurisdictional topics.

The Commission will continue to maintain robust procedures and information systems that enable its stakeholders, including regulated entities, federal, state, local, and Tribal government officials, and members of the public, to have timely access to information about Commission proceedings. In FY 2026, the Commission expects to receive approximately 70,000 filings from external constituents to be processed and published in eLibrary, which is the Commission's official records repository. Of those filings from external constituents, the Commission expects to receive approximately 14,000 applications from electric, natural gas, and oil industry participants.

The Commission also expects to issue approximately 900 decisions voted on by the full Commission, and 7,000 delegated orders (decisions in which Commission staff is authorized to act pursuant to the Commission's Regulations). Additionally, as part of the Commission's due process mission, the Commission expects to publish an estimated 7,500 public notices on eLibrary (including notices announcing industry filings submitted with the Commission). Further supporting its transparency efforts, the Commission will continue to post time-sensitive Commission adjudications to the FERC.gov website within one hour of the official actions being taken. Timely posting of announcements to the FERC website ensures that the public, industry, and stakeholders have quick access to those Commission decisions, improving the transparency of FERC's actions.

In FY 2026, the Commission plans to refine and improve its processes to remain agile and expedient in its processing of filings and issuances and consistent with government-wide efforts to modernize the Federal Government. Consistent with that endeavor, the Commission plans to improve FERC's online applications—including its electronic filing system and eLibrary records repository—through the modernization of Commission legacy applications to improve the reliability, user interface, and efficiencies of its services to the public. The Commission will also continue its efforts to transition recordkeeping to an electronic environment that complies with all records management laws and regulations and is consistent with OMB/ National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Memoranda M-19-21 (Transition to Electronic Records) and M-23-07 (Update to Transition to Electronic Records).

Maintain Processes and Services to Manage Agency Resources

FERC will optimize the utilization of its resources by leveraging IT as a force multiplier, continue modernizing legacy IT systems, and implement targeted IT investments in emerging technologies to support a sustainable and high- performing workforce to meet its statutory responsibilities and achieve mission success.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue advancing the Enterprise Risk Management Program (ERM) by strengthening risk integration across agency operations through the governance process and refine risk assessment and evaluation methodologies to enhance data driven decision making. ERM is a vital function for identifying major risks in mission support and delivery. This structure will enable the Commission to analyze and assess the impact of these risks on its strategic goals and objectives. Once fully operational, the ERM will offer a comprehensive, strategically aligned portfolio view of organizational challenges and opportunities, enhancing its ability to prioritize and manage risks effectively, thereby supporting mission delivery and overall organizational resilience.

Also in FY 2026, the Commission will continue to properly record, report, and present its financial data resulting in independent auditors expressing unmodified audit opinions on its FY 2025 financial statements. The Commission anticipates the completion of planned enhancements to its financial management software systems and technologies. These software solutions will automate and integrate a significant number of manual processes, increase transparency and reporting, and improve financial awareness of Commission staff. Additionally, these software solutions will significantly enhance user satisfaction with our financial systems, while also delivering substantial cost savings and productivity improvements. By leveraging this advanced technology, the Commission will refine its acquisition planning processes, developing more effective strategies for procuring goods and services essential to our mission. This will streamline budget planning and execution, optimize the efficiency of our procurement activities, and elevate our financial recording and processing capabilities, ensuring timely availability of resources for seamless operations.

Furthermore, the Commission will augment its financial management reporting capabilities, equipping our staff with timely and critical information necessary for making informed decisions regarding execution activities. This comprehensive approach underscores our commitment to excellence in financial stewardship and operational efficiency.

In FY 2026, the Commission will implement OPM's Merit-Based Hiring Plan, a key foundational step to ensure merit-based hiring using validated and skills-based assessments aligned with the Merit System Principles. The Commission will continue to build on the development of organizational staffing plans and the use of data analytics to recruit and retain a world class workforce required to support the Commission's mission. These tools will support workforce modeling and forecasting to support data-driven human capital management decision-making.

Further, the Commission will continue to use direct hire authorities to fully utilize its authorized FTE levels. The limited talent pool in identified mission-critical occupational series could negatively impact the Commission's efforts to hire highly skilled staff ahead of double-digit attrition rates. Further, compensation constraints prevent the Commission from being competitive in the job market, which significantly impacts its ability to attract and retain employees with the necessary skill sets. The Commission anticipates these factors will continue to increase and be relevant over the next several years and will continue to take them into account while implementing its hiring and compensation strategies. Retainment and recruitment efforts will continue to be a priority due to the significance and impact on future mission and program performance.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue to fulfill planned information technology initiatives such as routine refreshes of user endpoint computing devices, network infrastructure components and increase adoption of cloud native services. Also in FY 2026, the Commission plans on replacing its current backup system, with a cloud enabled enterprise solution along with its storage area network which supports FERC's enterprise virtual environment. FERC will continue deploying and tuning security tools to improve its cybersecurity posture to support continuous monitoring of its enterprise infrastructure with a focus on automation. FERC will begin automated control testing to boost its existing continuous monitoring program. FERC will increase the number of Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) systems with new and upcoming projects. The control automation enables the existing Information System Security Officers (ISSOs) and testers to pick up the additional workload. FERC will continue to refine its threat intelligence and threat hunting programs. Continuing from success in FY 2025, the threat hunters will perform more hunts that are tailored to the FERC environment based on developed application threat models and energy specific threat intelligence. The 24/7/365 Security Operations Center (SOC) coverage will continue to monitor for alerts days, nights, weekends, and holidays. In addition to the operational monitoring, the 24/7 managed SOC continues to refine alerting and determine trends for continuous improvement. FERC's identity capabilities will begin identifying and implementing external identity and access management capabilities in support of FERC's mission applications. FERC will continue its success with application security engineers by adding an application security program to include standardized code repositories, scanning, DevSecOps, and thorough automated and manual security reviews of applications.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue its execution of modernizing its core suite of mission-critical business applications as a component of the ALM initiative by implementing Wave 3, which will automate the process of tracking and reporting of Commission workload activities. FERC will continue to maintain legacy applications through break-fix quarterly releases and decommission systems replaced by modernization. FERC will also continue its maturity and growth of the data analytics platform in alignment with ALM, ensuring the modernized applications align with data standards, and new automated data pipelines from the applications can be enabled to make this new data accessible through the data analytics platform for data science and analytics needs.

Continuing in FY 2026, the Commission will continue to expand upon its initiative to enhance mission-support data analytic capabilities to provide strategic consulting support to staff in program offices. This initiative will integrate financial, acquisition, human capital, contracting, IT, facilities, and security data to support analysis and decision making. This initiative will continue to mature and evolve into FY 2026 as mission-support data assets are identified, inventoried, and integrated into FERC's analytics environment for use by decision makers in support of the needs of Commission staff.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue to implement its plan for Data Support, Data Governance and Stewardship Services, and enabling analytic workload migration to the cloud. In addition, the Commission will continue enhancing and maintaining its internal Data Catalog and Data Infrastructure along with continued support of the Commission's public facing data platform. The data governance organization will continue to implement this multi-phase initiative, to include: (1) maturing FERC's Data Stewardship Framework and partnering with FERC data stewards to continue to build FERC's comprehensive data inventory; (2) implementing data standardization to improve data quality; and (3) promoting data skills and training opportunities to build data acumen across the Commission.

In FY 2026 the Commission will continue its efforts to modernize FERC's collection of the RTO/ISO Order 760 data. This will streamline and reduce error in the collection of this important data to more effectively meet analyst data-use needs and reduce maintenance costs for the Commission and the RTOs/ISOs that are filing this data. It will also integrate RTO/ISO with other Commission data collections. Also, in FY 2026, FERC looks to acquire and implement a solution to provide attribute-based data access provisioning and control; and to standardize and enforce data policies across FERCs cloud-based platforms and services. This will simplify the management of data access for users and reduce the potential for data breaches.

Also, in FY 2026, the Commission looks to replace its legacy Enterprise Architecture tool to improve integration between existing IT asset management and configuration management capabilities.

In Q1, FY 2026, FERC will deploy the production-ready AI capability for the "Leverage AI in the Rulemaking Process" use case to its analysts, building on the proof of concept (PoC) efforts and production preparation activities completed in FY 2025. Based on the results of the agency-wide assessment, FERC will also launch a generative AI user pilot in FY 2026 following the completion of AI training for staff. The pilot will serve as the precursor to a phased rollout of this capability across the Commission.

In parallel, the Commission will present the initial findings from its assessment of "Leveraging AI in the Permitting Process" conducted in FY 2025, to its leadership team, with the goal of implementing this AI capability in FY 2026. This initiative directly supports Executive Order 14213, "Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century," issued on April 15, 2025.

Throughout FY 2026, FERC will continue advancing the maturity and evolution of its AI risk management practices.

Also in FY 2026, the Commission will sustain intelligence coordination activities by providing intelligence information services that support of all relevant Commission work with curated intelligence materials at all appropriate levels of classification. These products and services include comprehensive review of potentially relevant materials, identifying items with specific Commission relevance, preparing summaries that highlight or articulate that relevance, and providing the resulting materials through a number of dissemination channels to Commissioners and staff.

The Commission will continue maturation of the Threat Mitigation Program, which integrates the mutually reinforcing efforts of the Special Security Officer, Insider Threat, and Operational Security (OPSEC) programs. In FY2026, the Commission's integrated the Threat Mitigation Working Group, anticipated to assume functionality of the Insider Threat Hub and OPSEC Working Group, streamlining the work of both bodies to comply with relevant executive orders and policies by leveraging the overlapping membership and substantive efforts of each.

FERC continues to provide onsite security presence and personnel during public engagements and events across the country to ensure the safety and well-being of Commission and partner staff by preventing and/or de-escalating conflicts that may arise with citizen stakeholders. The security team is also focused on meeting performance standards and increasing Interagency Security Committee compliance scoring for active facilities. The Commission is on schedule to implement Trusted Workforce 2.0 and its' associated continuous evaluation and rapback reporting for all personnel (Federal and contractor).

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue its efforts to terminate and decommission regional office lease space across the Country in Atlanta, GA, Chicago, IL, Houston, TX, New York, NY, Portland, OR, and San Francisco, CA, these efforts are in support of Presidential Executive Orders.

Support Agency Employees

The protective operations program continues to provide executive protection operations for the Chairman and Commissioners in support of their statutory responsibilities. In FY 2026, the Commission is seeking to reclassify protective agents job series to align with government standards. Furthermore, the Commission will revitalize efforts on sustainment training for current agents with a focus on refreshing perishable skill sets within their scope of responsibilities to include legal training, flying armed operations, and vehicle operations. The protective intelligence function will be enhanced with comprehensive threat database access to allow the Special Agent in Charge to maximize deployments of personnel in a resource constrained environment.

In FY 2026, the Commission plans to finalize a new approach and implement processes for issuing personnel protective equipment (PPE) to newly categorized “mobile” employees ensuring they are equipped with the necessary safety equipment to be effective in conducting field activities as well as maintaining control, subsequent return, and reissuance of accountable property. The occupational safety and health (OSH) program anticipates deploying three new hazard specific trainings in an asynchronous environment to save on delivery and tracking costs. OSH and field staff continue to identify new occupational exposure hazards and address them through mitigation strategies including engineering controls, administrative controls, and deployment of new PPE as appropriate or necessary.

In FY 2026, the Commission will continue to bolster Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act compliance program offerings and training for staff to ensure that FERC products, documents, and applications meet Section 508 standards, and that customer support processes incorporate tools and techniques for recognizing and accommodating the needs of people with disabilities.

Finally, in FY 2026, the Commission will continue to leverage its iLearn system to strengthen and develop employees’ skillsets and technical abilities to close competency gaps and achieve the Commission’s objectives while maintaining resource efficiency.

Appendix: Acronyms

AI Artificial Intelligence

ALM Application Layer Modernization

BPS Bulk-Power System

C.F.R. Code of Federal Regulations

CEII Critical Energy/Electric Infrastructure Information

EQR Electric Quarterly Report

ERM Enterprise Risk Management

ERO Electric Reliability Organization

FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FISMA Federal Information Security Modernization Act

FOIA Freedom of Information Act

FPA Federal Power Act

FTE Full-Time Equivalent

FY Fiscal Year

ICA Interstate Commerce Act

IRA Inflation Reduction Act

ISO Independent System Operator

ISSO Information System Security Officer

IT Information Technology

LNG Liquefied Natural Gas

NARA National Archives and Records Administration

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

NERC North American Electric Reliability Corporation

NGA Natural Gas Act

OMB Office of Management and Budget

OPSEC Operational Security

OSH Occupational Safety and Health

SOC Security Operations Center

PoC Proof of Concept

PPE Personnel Protective Equipment

RTO Regional Transmission Organization

U.S.C. United States Code