

MBR Database Frequently Asked Questions/Known Issues

Disclaimer: The information found below is provided and maintained by Commission staff and is solely intended to provide transparency to known issues and frequently asked questions on the MBR Database. This information is not part of the official record of the rulemaking proceeding in Docket No. RM16-17-000 or any other Commission proceeding. Please send an email to MBRDatabase@ferc.gov if you discover any issues or have any questions regarding the MBR Database. You can access the MBR Database at mbrweb.ferc.gov.

MBR Portal - Main Page:

1. Users need to be registered to access the Search, Reports, and FERC Online Links items on sidebar menu.
 - a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0

MBR Portal – Search:

1. Searching by “Legal Name” is inconsistent. Some searches do not yield the appropriate results. For example, typing C001646 in the “CID” search box will return the company PacifiCorp. However, typing “PacifiCorp” into the “Legal Name” search box does return any results.
 - a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0
2. The export function only returns information in XML format.
3. Searching by CID, LEI, or GID only returns five results per page (10 for Legal Name).
 - a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0
4. The “Print” function does a simple *Print Page*, rather than making the full results of the search printable.
 - a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0

5. Search is case sensitive.
 - a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0

6. When no records are found for a search, there is not a “clear” button, forcing users to use the “Search” link in the sidebar menu.
 - a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0

MBR Portal – Create GID:

“Create New GID” sub link

1. List of selectable countries is incomplete. Users can only select four countries.
 - a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0, with additional tweaks in 1.2.0.0
2. The box to allow users to create a GID for an individual reads “Are you submitting as an individual.” This should be revised to ask whether “Are you requesting a GID for an individual.”
 - a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0

“GID Bulk Upload”

3. I received an email indicating that my GID Bulk Upload was rejected. However, the link to “GID Processing Results” does not work.
 - a. There is a minor bug in the email that sometimes inputs a line break in the middle of the hyperlink. Copy and pasting the full link into your web browser (making sure to capture the full link from “http” to “.xml”) will allow you to see your results. This bug will be patched in a future release.

MBR Portal – Create Gen Assets:

“Create New Generation Asset” sub link

1. Operating Year drop down menu starts at the year 2019 and goes forward. This should end at year 2020 and allow all valid years (at least back to 1850).

- a. Addressed in Release 1.1.0.0, removed the drop down menu for free text. However, the year but be between 1890 and 2050.
2. Users are unable to accurately create assets in Mexico or Canada (i.e. for these assets there is not a state or county to populate).
3. There is not a method to search for generation assets (either via EIA or for whom an Asset ID has already been created).

Data Dictionary Questions

1. Question: For the entering the active and inactive dates, is that something that the filer does or FERC Staff does?
 - a. Answer: The system will populate active and inactive dates based on your submissions.
2. Question: After January 2020, if the filer is submitting a change in category status, should it wait to change the database until it has received a letter order accepting that change in category status?
 - a. Answer: Yes, with the exception of initial applications, please wait until Commission action before updating tariff information in the database.
3. Question: The majority of Sellers are not mitigated anywhere. Do they have to fill out the MBR mitigation table? Relatedly, if a Seller does not have MBR limitations, do they have to fill out the MBR limitations table?
 - a. Answer: No, these tables should only be submitted if you have information to report.
4. Question: If the filer has a project company subsidiary that has always been owned by the upstream owner, can the filer use the January 1, 1960 default date, or does it have to track down when that project was created?
 - a. Answer: Our preference is for sellers to use the date the project was created; however, sellers may use the default date.

5. Question: Do QFs that are exempt from section 205 requirements, which are not reported in the current asset appendix, have to be reported in the MBR database?
 - a. Answer: No, assets that are exempt from 205 does not need to be reported in the database.
6. Question: Could you please clarify exactly which assets must be reported into this database?
 - a. Answer: Sellers must report both their assets, and the assets of their affiliates who do not have market-based rate authority. However, sellers do not need to report assets (either their own or an affiliates') that are exempt from section 205.
7. Question: In the PPA table, should the seller be responsible for creating the GID or LEI instead of the purchaser?
 - a. Answer: Sellers (for clarity, entities with MBR authority) are responsible for reporting all of their reportable PPAs, which includes providing the identity of their counterparties. To the extent that a counterparty does not already have an identifier, the Seller will need to create a GID.

General Questions

1. Question: A seller received MBR authority in January 1, 2018 and qualified for Category 1 status in all regions. However, its tariff only listed that it was Category 1 status in the Northeast region and did not mention the other regions. The seller updated its tariff in December 1, 2018 and added that it was Category 1 in the remaining five regions. Which date is more accurate to report as the date Category 1 status was obtained in the other regions – January 1, 2018 or December 1, 2018.
 - a. Answer: By default, sellers are Category 2 unless the tariff specifies otherwise. Therefore, December 1, 2018 is more accurate. You can also use the default date of January 1, 1960, since this occurred prior to October 1, 2020.
2. Question: In the entities to PPA table, PPA Agreement ID field: When should sellers use the identifier in EQR Field 20?
 - a. Answer: We expect sellers to use the identifier in EQR Field 20 for reportable PPAs under which they are the seller. In other words, we do not expect sellers to review the EQRs of counterparties to populate this field

(though of course, you could).

3. Question: If an entity creates a GID for an entity and that entity changes its name, who is responsible for reporting the name change?
 - a. Answer: GIDs will be managed by FERC staff, to include name changes and successions (i.e. a company that has a GID later receives a CID). We will actively monitor GIDs for duplicates and other issues for update. However, please reach out to staff at mbrdatabase@ferc.gov with any update requests.
4. Question: Will GIDs, including those of natural persons, be made public (given they are not passive owners)
 - a. Answer: Yes, all GIDs will be discoverable on the MBR portal.
5. Question: Often times, multiple MBR sellers will submit the same market power screens (such as in a triennial). Does each MBR seller need to obtain serial numbers for each screen?
 - a. Answer: No. You only need to acquire one serial number for each screen (i.e. one seller can submit the screens into the database for reference in the filing).
6. Question: Which docket number should sellers use to fill out the “authorization docket number” field in the “MBR Authorizations” table. Should it be the docket the seller received MBR authorization or the eTariff baseline docket?
 - a. Answer: It should be the docket under which it received MBR.
7. Question: If a relationship (either between entities or between an entity and asset) pre-dates the seller receiving MBR authority, which date should the seller use?
 - a. Answer: We prefer the date the relationship started, even if it pre-dates MBR authorization. If that date is not known, sellers may use the default date of 1/1/60.
8. Question: In the entities to generation assets table, there’s a field for telemetered location BAA, which seeks the sink BAA of remote generation or where a generator is pseudo-tied. How should sellers populate this field for generators for which this does not apply?
 - a. Answer: Sellers should use the physical location if there is not a separate telemetered location.
9. Question: When submitting a baseline filing, for an existing PPA should sellers fill in the PPA filing type field with

“new” or “update.”

- a. Answer: The PPA filing type field has been replaced with the submission type field. All records will be “new” when first submitted. Afterwards, all changes to a record will be “update.”

10. Question: In the counterparty ID field in the PPA table, do sellers need to report IDs for the counterparties to each of their PPAs.

- a. Answer: Yes. In the original data dictionary, this field was incorrectly marked as nullable. Sellers are required to identify the counterparties for each reportable PPA using either a CID, LEI, or GID.

11. Question: Do sellers have to wait until the 15th of the month to make database updates?

- a. Answer: No. The 15th of the month following the change is the deadline by which sellers must submit required updates to the database. Sellers are welcome to update the database sooner.

12. Question: Can sellers make multiple updates in a single month?

- a. Answer: Yes

13. Question: On Generator IDs: will all of the GIDs be erased in the test environment?

- a. Answer: Yes, all information submitted into the database during the test phase will be erased prior to full “go-live.”

14. Question: When does the Commission plan to erase all information from the test environment?

- a. Answer: We do not currently have a hard date to provide. It will occur before the October 1, 2020 effective date of Order No. 860 and we will provide notice.

15. Question: How will the Commission prevent duplication of GIDs?

- a. Answer: We are building into the database some automatic mechanisms to alert users that a company for which they are requesting a GID already has a GID. However, we urge users to use the search function to ensure that a company does not already have a CID, LEI, or GID.

16. Question: For baseline submissions into the RDB, do filers have to submit indicative screens?

- a. Answer: No, sellers should only include the tariff, entities, and asset information in their baselines.

17. Question: Does the filer only have to check the MBR Box during company registration once?
- a. Answer: Yes, sellers only need to check the MBR box once. This information will not be reset when we clear the database.
18. Question: In the searchable list of CIDs, does the filer have to check the MBR box to see that list?
- a. Answer: No, all active CIDs will be discoverable in the MBR Portal's search function.
19. Question: If a seller fails screens and submits a delivered price test, how does that work with the MBR database?
- a. Answer: The MBR database will not support the submission of delivered price tests. Sellers should continue to submit delivered price tests and all supporting information through eFiling.
20. Question: Will filers be able to view other entities' data and create reports from other entities' data?
- a. Answer: Yes