

## **APPENDIX B: RESPONDENT LETTERS**

1. Letter to Household (Initial Contact)
2. Letter to Household (Nonresponse)
3. Letter to Rental Agent
4. Letter to Energy Supplier

## Appendix B.1



## U.S. Department of Energy Washington, DC 20585

February, 2010

Dear Resident:

The United States Department of Energy has selected your household to participate in the 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS). This survey is the only source of energy-related information for households in the United States and provides information about the types of energy we use, how we use it, and how much we are paying for it. This information is widely used by those who study energy consumption to help design energy programs and policies.

In the next few weeks, an interviewer from the National Opinion Research Center will be visiting your home. These interviewers are contractors for the Department of Energy and will assist you in completing the RECS survey. While your participation is not required by law, your participation in this survey is essential. This survey will help determine how Americans use energy and how much it costs us to heat our homes and run our appliances. Upon arrival the interviewer will have a small gift for you as a token of our appreciation.

In the past, we have found that thinking about a few items ahead of time will reduce the time it takes to complete the interview. Examples of these items include types of energy used in your household (electricity, natural gas, wood, etc.), age of your heating system, and number of televisions. It is also helpful to have a copy of a recent bill from your electric company and other energy suppliers.

Finally, I encourage you to read the enclosed brochure which contains facts about energy usage in the United States and gives examples of how the information collected is used. If you have any questions, please call XXXX at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or send an e-mail to XXXXXX. Further information is also available at our website: [www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs/contents.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs/contents.html).

Thank you again for you participation.

Sincerely,

XXXXXXXXXX  
Administrator  
Energy Information Administration

Enclosure

## PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

The Residential Energy Consumption Survey is being conducted by National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). It is authorized under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275), as amended and the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

The purpose of this survey is to collect residential energy consumption statistical information to be used by the DOE and other Federal agencies to administer programs, monitor energy usage, and plan for our nations' energy future.

As part of this survey, we are requesting permission from you to obtain your energy consumption and expenditures data from your fuel suppliers. NORC, or some other designee of DOE, will need to maintain your name and address in order to collect information from your fuel suppliers. At a later time, we may also contact your household to update information about your use of energy in your home.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary.

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only. All the information the DOE's statistical agency, the Energy Information Administration (EIA), collects for this survey about your household is confidential. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title 5, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347, and the Privacy Act of 1974, your responses will NOT be disclosed in identifiable form without your consent to anyone other than employees or agents of DOE. By law, every DOE/EIA employee, every DOE/EIA contractor employee, and any agent is subject to a jail term, fine or both if he or she makes public any information that could identify your household.

## PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN

You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this data collection is 1905-0092. The reporting burden on the public for this collection of information is estimated to average 52 minutes for the personal interview. Send comments regarding the public reporting burden or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Energy Information Administration  
Statistics and Methods Group, EI-70  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

## Appendix B.2



**U.S. Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

February, 2010

Householder Name  
Address 1  
City, State, Zip Code

Dear Householder,

Recently an interviewer from the National Opinion Research Center contacted you on behalf of the United States Department of Energy and asked for your participation in the 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS). I understand you expressed some reservations about participating in this survey.

Your household is very important to the survey so I am asking again for your participation. I want to assure you we will make every effort possible to minimize the demands on your time and we are more than ready to accommodate the needs of your schedule. Your identity and the information you provide will be held in strict confidence in accordance with the law as described on the reverse side of this letter. Your name and address will not be given to anyone else.

The RECS is conducted by the Department of Energy to learn about how U.S. households use energy. This survey will help determine how Americans use energy and how much it costs us to heat our homes and run our appliances. The results are widely used by those who study energy consumption to help design energy programs and policies. You can get more information about the RECS at [www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs/contents.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs/contents.html).

I have asked a representative to contact you again shortly to schedule an interview. If you have any questions, please call XXXX at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or send an e-mail to XXXXXX.

We very much appreciate your cooperation and participation.

Sincerely,

XXXXXX  
Director, Energy Consumption Division  
Energy Information Administration

Enclosure

## **PRIVACY ACT NOTICE**

The Residential Energy Consumption Survey is being conducted by National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). It is authorized under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275), as amended and the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

The purpose of this survey is to collect residential energy consumption statistical information to be used by the DOE and other Federal agencies to administer programs, monitor energy usage, and plan for our nations' energy future.

As part of this survey, we are requesting permission from you to obtain your energy consumption and expenditures data from your fuel suppliers. NORC, or some other designee of DOE, will need to maintain your name and address in order to collect information from your fuel suppliers. At a later time, we may also contact your household to update information about your use of energy in your home.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary.

The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only. All the information the DOE's statistical agency, the Energy Information Administration (EIA), collects for this survey about your household is confidential. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title 5, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347, and the Privacy Act of 1974, your responses will NOT be disclosed in identifiable form without your consent to anyone other than employees or agents of DOE. By law, every DOE/EIA employee, every DOE/EIA contractor employee, and any agent is subject to a jail term, fine or both if he or she makes public any information that could identify your household.

## **PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN**

You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this data collection is 1905-0092. The reporting burden on the public for this collection of information is estimated to average 52 minutes for the personal interview. Send comments regarding the public reporting burden or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Energy Information Administration  
Statistics and Methods Group, EI-70  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

### Appendix B.3



**U.S. Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Rental Agent:

In a few days, the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy, will be contacting you by telephone to ask for your help with the 2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS). This survey is the only source of energy-related information for households in the United States and provides information about the types of energy we use, how we use it, and how much we are paying for it.

A national sample of households was interviewed to gather information about energy characteristics of U.S. homes. Some respondents who rent their houses or apartments may not be able to answer some questions during the interview, such as the type of equipment and fuel used to heat water. For these households, landlords or rental agency are being contacted by telephone to gather information about energy use in the building which some renters may not know about.

Your identity and the information you provide will be held in strict confidence in accordance with the law as described on the reverse side of this letter. The enclosed pamphlet provides more background facts about the RECS survey and gives examples of how the information collected will be used.

If you have any questions or want more information about RECS, call NORC toll-free at 1-800-XXX-XXXX or by email at [RECS@norc.org](mailto:RECS@norc.org). If you want to speak to someone at the U.S. Department of Energy, please call Chip Berry at (202) 586-7237 or by email at [james.berry@eia.doe.gov](mailto:james.berry@eia.doe.gov). You can also get more information by visiting our Web site on the Internet at <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs/contents>.

We very much appreciate your cooperation and participation.

Sincerely,

Director, Energy Consumption Division  
Energy Information Administration

Enclosures

## PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

The Residential Energy Consumption Survey is being conducted by National Opinion research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). It is authorized under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275), as amended and the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

The purpose of this survey is to collect residential energy consumption statistical information to be used by the Department of Energy and other Federal agencies to administer programs, monitor energy usage, and plan for our nations' energy future.

NORC or some other designee of DOE, will need to maintain your name and address in order to check on changes relating to the use of energy in your rental units.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. All the information the DOE's statistical agency, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects for this survey about your household is confidential. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title 5, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347, and the Privacy Act of 1974, your responses will NOT be disclosed in identifiable form without your consent to anyone other than employees or agents of DOE. By law, every DOE/EIA employee, every DOE/EIA contractor employee, and any agent is subject to a jail term, fine or both if he or she makes public any information that could identify your household.

## PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN

You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this data collection is 1905-0092. The reporting burden on the public for this collection of information is estimated to average 18 minutes for the interview. Send comments regarding the public reporting burden or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Energy Information Administration  
Statistics and Methods Group, EI-70  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

## Appendix B.4



**U.S. Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Energy Supplier:

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) of the U.S. Department of Energy is continuing its study of America's residential energy use by conducting the *2009 Residential Energy Consumption Survey* (RECS). This letter is to notify you that EIA's contractor XXX will be contacting you to obtain energy billing information for the households interviewed in the RECS that named you as their energy provider.

A nationally representative sample of 15,000 U.S. households has been selected to participate in the RECS. Most of these households have already completed an in-person interview in which information about those things that affect energy consumption and expenditures and the names of their energy suppliers were collected. As part of the interview these households have signed an *Authorization Form* permitting the Department of Energy to collect their energy billing data and related information directly from their suppliers.

In the next step, please provide the billing records of these households so that we may gain a more complete understanding of how much, and for what purposes, they used energy. For your information, we have enclosed a fact sheet, copies of the data collection form, and a *Frequently Asked Questions* sheet that should answer your questions concerning this survey.

Your participation in this survey is required by Federal law. The specific laws and citations are described on the back of this letter and in the enclosed *Frequently Asked Questions*. The information you provide about specific households will be held in strict confidence in accordance with the provisions of federal law as described on the back of this letter. Only aggregated summaries of the data collected will be published.

If you have any questions, please call CONTRACTOR, who will perform the actual data collection for the Department of Energy, (800) NNN-NNNN. If you want to speak to someone at the U.S. Department of Energy, you can call Chip Berry at (202) 586-5543 or by email at [james.berry@eia.doe.gov](mailto:james.berry@eia.doe.gov). You can also get more information by visiting us on the Internet at [www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs/contents](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/recs/contents).

Sincerely,

Director, Energy Consumption Division  
Energy Information Administration

Enclosures



## PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

The Residential Energy Consumption Survey is being conducted by **Name of Contractor** for the U.S. Department of Energy. It is authorized under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275), as amended and the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

The purpose of this survey is to collect residential energy consumption statistical information to be used by the Department of Energy and other Federal agencies to administer programs, monitor energy usage, and plan for our nation's energy future.

**Name of Contractor**, or some other designee of the U.S. Department of Energy, will need to maintain your name and address in order to check on changes relating to the use of energy in the housing units to which you supply energy.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A of Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form to anyone other than employees or agents without your consent. By law, every EIA employee, as well as every agent, is subject to a jail term, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both if he or she discloses ANY identifiable information about you.

## SANCTIONS

The timely submission of Form EIA-457 (D-G) by those required to report is mandatory under Section 13(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (FEAA) (Public Law 93-275), as amended. Failure to respond may result in a civil penalty of not more than \$2,750 per day for each violation, or a fine of not more than \$5,000 per day for each willful violation. The government may bring a civil action to prohibit reporting violations which may result in a temporary restraining order or a preliminary or permanent injunction without bond. In such civil action, the court may also issue mandatory injunctions commanding any person to comply with these reporting requirements.

## PUBLIC REPORTING BURDEN

You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this data collection is 1905-0092. The reporting burden on the public for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes. Send comments regarding the public reporting burden or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, send:

Energy Information Administration  
Statistics and Methods Group, EI-70  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

and

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503



**U.S. Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

**About the Residential Energy Consumption Survey**

The Residential Energy Consumption Survey is conducted every four years by the Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy. The RECS collects energy consumption and expenditures data and related housing characteristics information from a representative sample of residential housing units in the United States. The information about residential energy consumption collected in the RECS is used by energy policy makers in the public and private sectors and is recognized as the sole definitive data source of energy consumption by the residential sector.

The RECS is a two-part data collection effort. In the first part, in-person interviews are conducted with householders. During these interviews information about those things that affect energy consumption and expenditures, including the physical characteristics of the housing unit, the kinds of energy consuming equipment and appliances used in the home, the types of fuels used, and patterns of energy usage, are collected.

Within the next few weeks, you will receive a packet of forms and instructions for providing fuel consumption and expenditures data to us. (Samples of these instructions and forms are enclosed with this letter.) You may use the individual forms for each household that we provide or, if it is more convenient, you may use any alternative format, such as a computer print-out, spreadsheet, or data base as long as all the data asked for in the forms is included.

The information you provide to us will be kept confidential in accordance with the provisions of the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title 5, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and the Privacy Act of 1974.

A representative from NAME OF CONTRACTOR, who will perform the actual data collection for the Department of Energy, will telephone you soon to ask to whose attention the data collection materials should be directed and to answer any questions you may have.

Your participation is very important to the success of this effort. We appreciate your help in this important study.