

December 10, 2009

Re: Department of Energy Request for Emergency Approval of Information Collection Requests

The Department of Energy (DOE) is applying for a blanket Emergency approval of an Information Collection Request for five DOE program offices. The purpose of the ICRs is two fold:

- Utilize information collected to effectively monitor, manage and evaluate projects within these five program offices; and
- Ensure the Department meets public transparency and accountability standards.

DOE requests the emergency approval of these ICRs due to the timely nature of DOE's investments made under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). The Recovery Act appropriated \$36.7 billion to DOE with the goal of stimulating the U.S. economy and creating jobs in a timely fashion. These weighty goals elevate the importance of the investments and demand a higher level of oversight and information.

This view has been reinforced by DOE's Inspector General who identified several issues related to the ability of Program Offices to track and manage projects. The information that would be collected through these ICRs would provide program directors with the data and management tools they need to avoid cost overruns and ensure DOE stimulus money is working to create U.S. jobs. Another concern shared by the program offices is that quarterly reporting, while well suited to research and development projects, is insufficient to address cost, schedule or other performance issues in upholding Recovery Act and Secretary Chu's requirements. This view is not taken without regard for the burden it places on Recovery fund recipients. However, many recipients, in keeping with sound business practices, already have their own monthly reporting requirements and are already collecting much of the information requested in these ICRs.

The Recovery Act requires the DOE to place unprecedented emphasis on accountability and transparency to ensure the American public that their dollars are being responsibly invested and managed. Since DOE is taking a comprehensive view of its ability to meet the challenges of the Recovery Act, we thought that a similar view would be of assistance to OMB. We have therefore consolidated all of DOE's requests for Information Collection Requests into one package. DOE requests an Emergency approval for ICR for the following programs offices:

- **Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy**- All projects
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**- Select projects
- **Fossil Energy**- Select Projects
- **Loan Programs Office** – All projects
- **Office of Electricity** – All projects

The attached chart captures the revisions and additions requested by DOE program offices.

Sincerely,
Matt Rogers

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| Table 1: Summary of DOE Submission of Emergency Information Collection Requests | | | | |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|--------|
| Program | OMB Control Number | Revision to Existing Information Request | New Collection of Information | Survey |
| ARPA-E | New | | X | |
| EERE (Weatherization; State Energy Program; EECBG) | 1910-5126 and 1910-5127 and new EECBG submitted Emergency Dec 4, 2009 | | X | |
| EERE (Appliances, Biofuels, Vehicles and Wind) | New | | X | |
| FE- Industrial Carbon Capture Storage | New | | X | |
| LGPO | 1910-5134 | X | | |
| OE | 1910-5148 | X | X | X |