

# Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Testing and Research” (OMB Control Number: 1905-0186)

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## Cognitive Research for Proposed Asphalt Questions to be added to Form EIA-846, “Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey.”

**PURPOSE:** The EIA-846 form, or the Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS), collects information on energy consumption and energy usage patterns of the manufacturing sector of the U.S. economy. The information from this survey is used to publish aggregate statistics on the consumption of energy for fuel and nonfuel purposes, as well as certain energy-related issues such as energy prices, on-site electricity generation, purchases of electricity from utilities and nonutilities, and occasionally the capability to switch fuels.

For the 2014 MECS survey, EIA would like to add questions regarding asphalt production, consumption, and shipments. These questions will be answered by asphalt plants. In order to understand the potential measurement error in these proposed questions, EIA’s survey methodologists would like to conduct cognitive interviews with asphalt plants that may be included in the 2014 sample. The purpose of these visits will be:

- To confirm if potential respondents at asphalt plants, both the person and the company, can complete the new questions that will be added to the MECS;
- To assess the cognitive burden required from potential respondents at asphalt plants to respond to these new questions.

**DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:** Asphalt plants that may be included in the 2014 sample.

**TYPE OF COLLECTION:** (Check one)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Testing          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cognitive Interviews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Usability Testing      | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus Groups                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot Surveys          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Respondent Debriefings |  |

**CERTIFICATION:**

I certify the following to be true regarding the proposed collection of information:

1. It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions.
2. It avoids unnecessary duplication.
3. It reduces burden on small entities.
4. It uses plain, coherent, and unambiguous language that is understandable to respondents.
5. Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices.
6. It indicates the retention periods for recordkeeping requirements.
7. It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8 (b)(3) about:

- i. Why the information is being collected;
  - ii. Use of information;
  - iii. Burden estimate;
  - iv. Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, or mandatory);
  - v. Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
  - vi. Need to display currently valid OMB control number
8. It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected.
  9. It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology (if applicable).
  10. It makes appropriate use of information technology.

Name: Stephen Harvey, Assistant Administrator for Energy Statistics,  
U.S. Energy Information Administration

To assist review, please provide answers to the following questions:

**Personally Identifiable Information:**

1. Is personally identifiable information (PII) collected?  Yes  No
2. If Yes, will any information that is collected be included in records that are subject to the Privacy Act of 1974?  Yes  No
3. If Yes, has an up-to-date System of Records Notice (SORN) been published?  Yes  No

**Gifts or Payments:**

Is an incentive (e.g., money or reimbursement of expenses, token of appreciation) provided to participants?  Y  No

**BURDEN HOURS**

Category of Respondent	No. of Respondents	Participation Time	Burden
Private Sector	20	1	20
<b>Totals</b>			

**FEDERAL COST:** The estimated annual cost to the Federal government is: \$4159.80.

**If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:**

**The selection of your targeted respondents**

1. Do you have a customer list or something similar that defines the universe of potential respondents and do you have a sampling plan for selecting from this universe?  
 Yes  No

If the answer is yes, please provide a description of both below (or attach the sampling plan). If the answer is no, please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them.

We are recruiting potential respondents using data.com, which is a part of Salesforce.com. We will search by NAICS codes (324121 and 324122) and geographical region to identify potential respondents. We will then cold call potential respondents and ask them if they are willing to meet in-person in order to conduct these cognitive tests. The script we are using to recruit is included in the submission package.

### **Administration of the Instrument**

1. How will you collect the information? (Check all that apply)

Web-based or other forms of Social Media

Telephone

In-person

Mail

Other, Explain

2. Will interviewers or facilitators be used?  Yes  No

**Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.**

Instructions for completing Request for Approval under the  
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**TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:** Provide the name of the collection that is the subject of the request. (e.g. Comment card for soliciting feedback on xxxx)

**PURPOSE:** Provide a brief description of the purpose of this collection and how it will be used. If this is part of a larger study or effort, please include this in your explanation.

**DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:** Provide a brief description of the targeted group or groups for this collection of information. These groups must have experience with the program.

**TYPE OF COLLECTION:** Check one box. If you are requesting approval of other instruments under the generic, you must complete a form for each instrument.

**CERTIFICATION:** Please read the certification carefully. If you incorrectly certify, the collection will be returned as improperly submitted or it will be disapproved.

**Personally Identifiable Information:** Provide answers to the questions. Note: Agencies should only collect PII to the extent necessary, and they should only retain PII for the period of time that is necessary to achieve a specific objective.

**Gifts or Payments:** If you answer yes to the question, please describe the incentive and provide a justification for the amount.

**BURDEN HOURS:**

**Category of Respondents:** Identify who you expect the respondents to be in terms of the following categories: (1) Individuals or Households; (2) Private Sector; (3) State, local, or tribal governments; or (4) Federal Government. Only one type of respondent can be selected per row.

**No. of Respondents:** Provide an estimate of the Number of respondents.

**Participation Time:** Provide an estimate of the amount of time required for a respondent to participate (e.g. fill out a survey or participate in a focus group)

**Burden:** Provide the Annual burden hours: Multiply the Number of responses and the participation time and divide by 60.

**FEDERAL COST:** Provide an estimate of the annual cost to the Federal government.

**If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:**

**The selection of your targeted respondents.** Please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them. If the answer is yes, to the first question, you may provide the sampling plan in an attachment.

**Administration of the Instrument:** Identify how the information will be collected. More than one box may be checked. Indicate whether there will be interviewers (e.g. for surveys) or facilitators (e.g., for focus groups) used.

**Submit all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.**