



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 22, 2014

Chad Whiteman  
Department of Energy Desk Officer  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

**SUBJECT:** Use of Generic Clearance for U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA-882T (57), approved under OMB number 1905-0186) to conduct cognitive interviews for proposed energy management questions to be added to the EIA-846, "Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey."

Dear Mr. Whiteman:

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.

**Background:** EIA would like to add energy management questions to the 2014 MECS for all respondents. These questions are being added to the survey at the request of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). These questions will provide valuable information to both EIA and EERE with regard to understanding electrical demand control, demand management programs, and in general, energy management practices.

In order to understand the potential measurement error in these proposed energy management questions, EIA's survey methodologists would like to conduct cognitive interviews with a variety of manufacturing establishments that may be included in the 2014 sample. The purpose of these interviews will be:

- To assess potential respondents understanding of electrical demand control terminology, demand management terminology, and in general, terminology related to energy management practices;
- To confirm that potential respondents, including both the person and the manufacturing site, can complete the new energy management questions that will be added to the MECS;

- And to assess the cognitive burden required from potential respondents at these manufacturing sites to respond to these new questions.

**Proposed Cognitive Interviews:** EIA plans to conduct up to 20 cognitive interviews with a variety of manufacturing establishments that may be included in the 2014 sample. These interviews may occur in up to two rounds of testing. EIA plans to conduct the cognitive interviews in the June thru September of 2014 timeframe in metropolitan areas that are yet to be determined.

EIA may use the information collected from these cognitive interviews to revise the proposed energy management questions. Specifically, the information collected may be used to update the proposed wording for data requests and instructions in order to retrieve more accurate and uniform reporting of the data from respondents. The cognitive testing will also allow EIA to more accurately estimate the burden that these new energy management questions will add to manufacturing establishments.

**Burden:** In order to reduce respondent burden, the protocol was split into two versions: Version A and Version B. Each protocol contains a set of core questions that EIA's survey methodologists deem necessary to cognitively test. The remaining questions were divided between the two versions of the protocol. These remaining questions were deemed less cognitively burdensome and will not be asked on both versions of the protocol. By splitting the protocol into two versions, EIA will ensure that each cognitive interview will be a burden of an hour or less. Total burden across all interviews is estimated to be up to 20 hours.

Costs for respondents is estimated to be \$1386.60 ( $\$69.33 * 20 \text{ hours} * \text{one respondent}$ ). Costs for EIA is estimated to be \$4159.80 ( $\$69.33 * 20 \text{ hours} * \text{three persons from EIA}$ ). Total costs are estimated to be \$5546.40.

EIA will provide OMB with the results of these tests in the annual summary of generic clearances. Attached is the draft protocol for the energy management questions, which will be used during the cognitive interviews, and the draft questions in Microsoft word format.

For questions on the cognitive interviews, please contact Debra Coaxum (202) 586-0957.

Sincerely,

Stephen Harvey  
Assistant Administrator of Energy Statistics  
U.S. Energy Information Administration