



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 15, 2015

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

SUBJECT: EIA-882T, "USE OF GENERIC CLEARANCE FOR QUESTIONNAIRE TESTING AND RESEARCH"

Dear Mr. Whiteman:

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) plans to use the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved generic clearance, EIA-882T, (DOE Customer Surveys' OMB No. 1905-0186), to conduct research on the ability of EIA survey respondents to report information on coal mining activity. Your action is anticipated within two weeks; however, EIA will not conduct this survey without approval. Results of this data collection will be submitted in the annual report of surveys conducted under the generic clearance.

Form EIA-3, "Quarterly Survey of Non-Electric Coal Sector Data," collects data on coal received by manufacturers and other non-electric power plants. EIA wants to use Form EIA-3 to collect data on Pulverized Coal Injections (PCI) in the future. EIA seeks to learn how respondents use PCI and whether they track in their business records the origin of the mine where the coal was purchased and the delivered cost for the PCI. Form EIA-7 collects coal production data. Coal export activity has increased in recent years. EIA seeks to collect more accurate and detailed information on coal exports in the future. EIA wants to collect more detailed information on coal sold to brokers and whether respondents are able to separate and report coal sold to affiliated and non-affiliated brokers. EIA also wants to explore some sources of measurement error and potential misreporting arising out of estimates for open and captive market sales, mining method used, and how companies report their production capacity. Questions were added to the EIA-7A protocol to research these issues. Form EIA-8 collects coal data from brokers, coal traders, and coal terminals. EIA seeks to collect more detailed information on this form regarding port of export, destination country, and mode of transportation. EIA will use the information collected from this research to guide agency decisions in proposing any modifications to the coal survey information collection request (ICR) under OMB Control No. 1905-0167. The current coal survey forms expire July 31, 2017.

EIA proposes to interview, by telephone or in-person, up to 36 current EIA survey respondents. The respondents will be selected from three categories



EIA-3 respondents - 12
EIA-7A respondents - 12
EIA-8A respondents - 12

The protocols are designed to collect information on how respondents interpret phrases, questions, and what information they compile and rely upon to complete these survey forms. All participation in this survey is voluntary. The lists of companies reporting on Forms EIA-3A- 7A and 8A will be used to select up to 12 persons from each survey category to participate.

No self-identification information will be requested. All results will be presented in aggregate form. Subsequent analysis of the data collected will limit any divulgence of individual company responses.

The attached protocol takes about one hour, based on prior interviews with sample participants from six companies that file Form EIA-7A reports. The burden for the targeted customer group should not exceed 36 hours (36 potential respondents multiplied by one hour).

Jacob Bournazian, EIA's Survey Development Team leader, is the point of contact for questions and may be reached at 202-586-5562 or by email: Jacob.bournazian@eia.gov. Other questions should be directed to Brian Hewitt at 202-586-5045 or by email: Brian.hewitt@eia.gov.

Sincerely,



Nanda Srinivasan
Director, Office of Survey Development and
Statistical Integration
U.S. Energy Information Administration