
Supporting Statement for Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery

Part B: Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

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Data collection methods and procedures will vary; however, the primary purpose of these collections will be for internal management purposes; there are no plans to publish or otherwise release this information.

B.1. Respondent Universe

Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection methods to be used.

The activities under this clearance may involve samples of self-selected customers, as well as convenience samples, and quota samples, with respondents selected either to cover a broad range of customers or to include specific characteristics related to certain products or services. Results will not be used to make statements representative of the universe of study, to produce statistical descriptions (careful, repeatable measurements), or to generalize the data beyond the scope of the sample. The specific sample planned for each individual collection and the method for soliciting participation will be described fully in each collection request.

Qualitative surveys are tools used by program managers to change or improve programs, products, or services. The accuracy, reliability, and applicability of the results of these surveys are adequate for their purpose.

The samples associated with this collection are not subjected to the same scrutiny as scientifically drawn samples where estimates are published or otherwise released to the public.

B.2. Statistical Methods

Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:

Data collection methods and procedures will vary and the specifics of these will be provided with each collection request. DOE expects to use a variety of methodologies for these collections. For example, the Agency or its contractors may use commercial survey-specific software to automate its collection and analysis of feedback. In addition to physical copies, information collection instruments may be electronically disseminated and/or posted on target pages of DOE's web site. Telephone scripts, personal interviews, and focus groups with professional guidance and moderation may also be used.

B.3. Maximizing Response Rates

Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response.

Information collected under this generic clearance will not yield generalizable quantitative findings; it can provide useful customer input, but it does not yield data about customer opinions that can be generalized.

B.4. Test Procedures and Form Consultations

Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

Pretesting may be done with internal staff, a limited number of external colleagues, and/or customers who are familiar with the programs and products. If the number of pretest

respondents exceeds nine members of the public, the Agency will submit the pretest instruments for review under this generic clearance.

B.5. Statistical Consultations

Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s) or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

Each program will obtain information from statisticians in the development, design, conduct, and analysis of customer/partner service surveys, when appropriate. This statistical expertise will be available from Department statisticians or from contractors, and DOE will include the names and contact information of persons consulted in the specific information collection requests submitted under this generic clearance.