
Supporting Statement for the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation's Small Business Impact Evaluation

Part B: Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

March 2026

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Table of Contents

Part B: Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.....	i
B.1. Respondent Universe.....	1
B.2. Statistical Methods.....	1
B.3. Maximizing Response Rates.....	1
B.4. Test Procedures and Form Consultations.....	2
B.5. Statistical Consultations.....	2

B.1. Respondent Universe

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

Entity Type	Number of Entities
Small businesses that received CMEI financial assistance awards	4,000
Small businesses that received CMEI SBIR or STTR awards	4,500
Small businesses that received CMEI prizes	500
Total entities reached in this information collection	9,000

B.2. Statistical Methods

Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:

An attempt will be made to reach all respondents in the population of small-business applicants for funding under the technology offices within the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) between years 2006 and 2024. Because of this, statistical analysis will not be employed to design the sample this information collection will be directed to.

The statistical analysis of the data obtained through this information collection will pursue seek to compare project outcomes, including outcomes measured through this information collection, between a treatment group of award recipients and a counterfactual group of applicants that were found meritorious but were not ultimately funded. This analysis will pursue the highest levels of accuracy and precision possible given the limited sample size. The Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation will pursue statistical results with 90/10 accuracy/precision but anticipates this may be challenging even for the largest strata outlined in section B.1 above because past information collection efforts with this target population have resulted in low response rates.

B.3. Maximizing Response Rates

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

Reminder emails will be used to prompt nonresponsive recipients to respond to this information collection.

B.4. Test Procedures and Form Consultations

Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

A test will be conducted in Microsoft Outlook to ensure this information collection request – which will be conducted by email without use of a form – is successfully received by intended recipients. This information collection will not include identical form questions and instead will prompt respondents to explain the successes, commercial and otherwise, they have achieved in relation to the technologies they received funding from CMEI to develop.

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.

An independent contractor will administer this information collection and analyze the results. This contractor has not yet been awarded as of October 2025. The CMEI project manager for this contract and the associated information collection will be Jeremy Simpson, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, Jeremy.simpson@ee.doe.gov .