

Dear Mr. Dembrun,

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) expresses its sincere appreciation to all stakeholders for their valuable feedback on the proposed extension of the information collection for the EIA-860S, State Level Generator Air Permit Inventory Report, as published in the Federal Register (FR) (91 FR 11069) on March 6, 2026. Public engagement is vital to ensuring the quality and utility of the data collected by the EIA.

We acknowledge the insights provided across these comments. The EIA-860S initiative is a "necessary and timely endeavor to enhance our understanding of the U.S. electric generation fleet's composition." We also appreciate the detailed insights regarding the regulatory limitations on emergency generators, the differentiation between "emergency" and "distributed" generation, and the environmental and public health importance of these limitations. Furthermore, we note your concerns regarding the estimated burden for data collection and the desire for cooperative federalism and upfront coordination.

EIA's central mission, established by the Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977, is to collect, evaluate, assemble, analyze, and disseminate energy data that is relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demand. The EIA-860S is a critical tool for enhancing the completeness and accuracy of the EIA-860 sampling frame, particularly in relation to backup generators. The absence of thorough data on these generators creates data gaps in our understanding of total U.S. grid capacity and overall resilience, which could impede effective emergency response.

We understand the importance of minimizing the reporting burden on States. Moving forward, EIA intends to implement the following:

- The EIA-860S will continue as an annual voluntary standby survey. All data requests within the form will be voluntary, recognizing the variation in data availability across States.
- We will actively reduce the burden on States by retrieving air permits that are readily available for public download on state websites prior to asking them to voluntarily complete the form.
- We will request air permit information from States only for the period since it was last reported to EIA, streamlining any future data submission process.

It is important to highlight that data collected at the power generator level through reports such as the EIA-860 (which the EIA-860S informs) can be valuable for State Energy and Environmental Offices. This information can enhance cross-agency awareness of permitted generation, including backup units, and provide a more comprehensive picture

of generator activity within the state, supporting state-level energy planning and environmental oversight.

We value your continued participation in this important process and remain committed to working collaboratively to achieve our shared goals.

Regards,

EIA OMB Team