to conduct an integrated survey of both electric utilities and nonutility power producers. This would only affect the Form EIA–759, "Monthly Power Plant Report." EIA's objective is to publish monthly summary statistics for both utilities and nonutilities in 1996 including net generation by prime mover and fuel type, fuel consumption, and end-of-the-month fuel stocks.

proposed alternatives described in this notice for the collection of monthly generation, fuel consumption, and fuel stocks from utilities and nonutilities. DATES: Written comments must be submitted by no later than May 30, 1995. If you anticipate that you will be

EIA is currently evaluating the two

1995. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below of your intention to do so as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Howard L. Walton, Director of the Coal and Electric Data and Renewables Division (EI–52), Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternative Fuels, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Mr. Walton can be reached at HWALTON@EIA.DOE.GOV (Internet Email), 202–254–6234 or 5765 (fax), or 202–254–5500 (voice).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Requests for additional information or copies of EIA forms and instructions should be directed to Dean A. Fennell at DFENNELL@EIA.DOE.GOV (Internet Email) or 202–254–5660 (voice).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background II. Current Actions III. Request for Comments

I. Background

Created by Congress in 1977 as an independent entity within the Department of Energy, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) is the principal and authoritative source of comprehensive energy data for the Congress, the Federal government, the States, and the public. With the mandate to "collect, assemble, evaluate, analyze, and disseminate data and information," EIA's mission is to:

- Maintain a comprehensive data and information program relevant to energy resources and reserves, energy production, energy demand, energy technologies, and related financial and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet the Nation's demands in the near and longer term future; and
- Develop and maintain analytical tools and collection and processing

systems; provide analyses that are accurate, timely, and objective; and provide information dissemination services.

The legal authority for EIA's collection of electric power data is provided by Sections 5(a), 5(b), 13(b), and 52 of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 as amended, Public Law 93–275.

EIA's electric power data and analyses have been used extensively in the development and evaluation of today's Federal policies and regulations regarding the electric power industry. Continued support to the Department, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Congress, and the industry is dependent upon EIA's ability to collect and disseminate relevant information about the industry during its transition from a tightly regulated, cost-of service utility industry to an open access, competitively priced power industry.

EIA periodically reviews data requirements and survey instruments to determine if information system enhancements are necessary due to changing environments. EIA recently initiated an overall evaluation of its electric power data systems. Results of this effort will, among other things, identify improvements to survey forms, respondent mailing lists, automated data processing methodologies, publication formats, and electronic dissemination methods. As currently scheduled, revised electric power forms will be published in the Federal Register for public comments in late Spring of 1995. When approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), these revised forms will be mailed to electric power respondents utilities and nonutilities—in late 1995 and early 1996.

EIA's electric power data requirements review was started in late 1994. and consists of (1) reviewing what electric power data are currently collected by EIA and other Federal agencies, (2) identifying those data that are needed by the Department of Energy, other Federal departments, and the public to monitor the electric power industry, (3) evaluating how well current information systems satisfy identified requirements, and (4) proposing better ways of collecting and disseminating electric power data. Primary objectives of the requirements review are to ensure that data user requirements are being met to the extent practicable, ensuring that data are not being collected unless needed, and minimizing respondent burden.

As part of the requirements review, EIA has interviewed about 30 Federal

offices that use EIA electric power information and made site visits to 15 utilities and nonutilities providing electric power data to EIA. EIA also conducted a workshop on November 2, 1994 at the conclusion of the first Department of Energy—National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (DOE-NARUC) National Electricity Forum held in Washington, D.C. A similar workshop is scheduled for April 21, 1995 at the second DOE-NARUC Forum to be held in Providence, Rhode Island. Additionally, EIA and the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) have formed a data coordination task force to streamline the collection of electric power reliability data.

One of the earliest findings of the requirements review was that monthly electricity production statistics published by EIA are incomplete. Generation and fuel consumption data are currently collected from nonutility power producers only annually so that EIA monthly electric statistics systematically understate U.S. electricity production by about 10 percent. This situation is expected to grow worse in the future as the electric power industry becomes more competitive and its composition more diverse. The primary EIA publications that contain monthly electric power information are the Electric Power Monthly (EPM), the Monthly Energy Review (MER), and the Short-Term Energy Outlook (quarterly data).

The Form EIA-759 is a monthly census of all operators of electric utility power plants and is used to collect monthly data on net generation by prime mover and fuel-type combination; consumption of coal, petroleum, and natural gas; and end-of-the-month stocks of coal and petroleum for each plant. Summary statistics from the Form EIA-759 are published in EIA's Electric Power Monthly (EPM), Electric Power Annual (EPA), Monthly Energy Review (MER), and the Annual Energy Review (AER). These reports present aggregated data for electric utilities at the U.S., Census division levels and NERC levels.

Prior to 1935, the Bureau of the Census and the U.S. Geological Survey collected, compiled, and published data on the electric power industry. In 1936, the Federal Power Commission (FPC) assumed all data collection and publication responsibilities for the electric power industry and implemented the FPC Form 4, "Monthly Power Plant Report." The Federal Power Act, Sections 311 and 312, and FPC Order 141 define the legislative authority to collect power production data. The Form EIA–759 replaced the