

regard to natural gas storage injections, withdrawals, balances and reservoir capacities to assure stored natural gas is adequate.

Authority: Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13).

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Notice of Proposed Revisions, Extension of Forms and Solicitation of Comments.

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision and a three-year extension of approval for its electric power forms. These forms include: Form EIA-412, "Annual Report of Public Electric Utilities;" Form EIA-759, "Monthly Power Plant Report;" Form EIA-826, "Monthly Electric Utility Sales and Revenue Report with State Distributions;" Form EIA-860, "Annual Electric Generator Report;" Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Utility Report;" and Form EIA-867 "Annual Nonutility Power Producer Report."

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before August 29, 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 John G. Colligan (EI-524), Energy Information Administration, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585, Telephone (202) 254-5465, fax (202) 254-6233, Internet e-mail jcolliga@EIA.DOE.GOV.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to John Colligan at the address listed previously.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

I. Background

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275) and the Department of Energy

Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91), the EIA is obliged to carry out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program. As part of this program, EIA collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates data and information related to energy resources, reserves, production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near-term and long-term future for the Nation's economic and social needs. To meet this responsibility, as well as internal DOE requirements that are dependent on accurate data, the EIA conducts statistical surveys that encompass each significant source of electric power, distribution and consumption activity in the United States.

As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden (required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995), EIA conducts a pre-survey consultation program to provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing reporting forms. This program ensures that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden is minimized, reporting forms are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

II. Current Actions

The EIA proposes the following changes and improvements:

- deleting data items no longer required;
- adding data items needed for analysis;
- improving the clarity of the instructions;
- improving the design and flow of the forms;
- merging two forms (Form EIA-861 and Form EIA-867);
- dropping confidentiality requirement (Form EIA-867);
- electronic filing (EIA-412);
- appointment of an agent for filing; and
- changing the due date for the annual forms (Forms EIA-412, 861, and 867) from prior due dates to April 1st of each year. (The Form EIA-860 will continue to be due February 15th each year.)

EIA proposes a three-year extension with changes to its existing collections. These changes reflect current industry operations and enable EIA to respond accurately to industry, Congressional, Federal and public data users

requirements. The proposed changes are summarized below:

1. Form EIA-412

The EIA proposes the following:

a. In the "Identification Section" page one of the form, request the fax number and/or Internet e-mail address of the respondent contact person.

b. Schedule I: *Electric Utility Balance Sheet* separate "Plant Materials and Operating Supplies" (account 154) from the existing "Materials and Supplies" (accounts 153-163) and rename the remaining items as "Other Supplies" (account 153, 155-163).

c. Schedule III: *Statement of Cash Flows*, a new schedule will be required from the publicly owned electric utilities (existing schedules III through XII will be renumbered). The data collected on this schedule will provide policy and decisionmakers with data comparable to the investor-owned electric utilities. The new schedule will provide a uniform reporting layout and facilitate easier public use of the data. Additionally it will make reconciliation of net income to cash flow less difficult.

d. The instructions have been revised adding clarity and uniformity thus aiding the respondents in the completion and timely submission of the form.

e. In order to minimize the overall burden, reduce reporting errors and overall costs, all respondents will be required to submit the Form EIA-412 electronically. Requests for submission in hard copy format rather than electronic filing must be made in writing and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All submissions should be made on or before April 1st of each year.

The Form EIA-412 electronic format is described below:

—The EIA will mail a 3.5-inch diskette by January 15, 1996, (thereafter 2 months following the end of the fiscal year with a filing date 4 months after the end of the fiscal year) containing the respondent's form and operative software for electronic media;

—The Form EIA-412 software operates in a PC-based user friendly environment;

—The software operates using DOS 3.3 or higher, and a Hewlett Packard Laser Jet Series II, III, or IV (or compatible) printer;

—Software integrity should be maintained; therefore, no inserts or deletions to accounts, columns, lines, etc., should be made;

—No format changes to the prescribed schedules should be made;

—A signed hard copy of page one, "Identification Section and Certification