

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Energy Information Administration****Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Agency information collection activities; Proposed collection; comment request concerning the proposed revision and extension of the coal data collections included in the Coal Program Package.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision and extension of the surveys included in the Coal Program Package. The surveys covered by this action are the Form EIA-1, "Weekly Coal Monitoring Report—General Industries and Blast Furnaces" (Standby); Form EIA-3, "Quarterly Coal Consumption Report—Manufacturing Plants;" Form EIA-3A, "Annual Coal Quality Report—Manufacturing Plants;" Form EIA-4, "Weekly Coal Monitoring Report—Coke Plants" (Standby); Form EIA-5, "Quarterly Coal Consumption Report—Coke Plants;" Form EIA-5A, "Annual Coal Quality Report—Coke Plants;" Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report;" Form EIA-6 (Schedule Q), "Quarterly Coal Report" (Standby); Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report;" and Form EIA-20, "Weekly Telephone Survey of Coal Burning Utilities" (Standby). The Standby forms are designed to be utilized under certain conditions.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted within 60 days of the publication of this notice. 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 Thomas Murphy, Coal, Nuclear, and Renewables Division, EI-52, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Mr. Murphy can be reached at TMURPHY@EIA.DOE.GOV (Internet e-mail), 202-426-1151 (voice), or 202-426-1311 (facsimile).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the forms and instructions should be directed to Thomas Murphy at the address listed above.

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 Energy Information Administration (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 resource reserves, production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs.

The EIA, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden (required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)), conducts a presurvey 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 helps to prepare data requests in the desired format, minimize reporting burden, develop clearly understandable reporting forms, and assess the impact of collection requirements on respondents. Also, EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, Title 44, U.S.C. Chapter 35).

The coal surveys included in the Coal Program Package collect information on coal production, distribution, receipts, consumption, quality, stocks, and prices. This information is used to support public policy analyses of the coal industry and is published in various EIA publications, including the *Coal Industry Annual*, the *Annual Energy Review*, and the *Quarterly Coal Report*. Respondents to the surveys include coal producers, coal distributors, and coal consumers.

II. Current Actions

The EIA will request a 3-year extension of the collection authority for each of the above-referenced surveys. Additionally, the EIA proposes the following changes affecting the Form EIA-6 (Schedule Q), the Form EIA-7A, and Form EIA-20.

Form EIA-6 (Schedule Q) and Form EIA-7A

Over the past three years, the EIA has worked closely with the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to identify opportunities for reducing respondent reporting burden and survey operating costs by sharing some of the information each agency currently collects from coal producers and operators of coal processing facilities. By Memorandum of Understanding, dated March 19, 1996, the EIA and MSHA initiated a cooperative program providing for real-time comparison of coal production information collected quarterly on MSHA Form 7000-2 with similar information collected quarterly on Schedule Q of Form EIA-6 and annually on the Form EIA-7A. Concurrently, MSHA Form 7000-2 information on employment at coal mines was compared with similar information collected on the EIA-7A. This initiative, which was undertaken in consultation with the National Mining Association, (NMA), and other coal data users, was aimed at establishing a basis for agreeing upon a single source of high quality information to satisfy the requirements of MSHA, the EIA, and NMA customers.

After evaluating the results of this program, the EIA has concluded that the MSHA Form 7000-2 information can be used in place of the corresponding information collected on the EIA surveys. Accordingly, the EIA has suspended the quarterly collection of coal production and coal stocks information on the EIA-6, Schedule Q, and now proposes to re-classify the Schedule Q as a Standby survey available for use in the event of a change in the availability of the MSHA data. The quarterly coal production information previously obtained from this survey will be obtained from MSHA. The first, second and third quarter ending coal stocks will be estimated by the EIA, and the fourth quarter ending coal stocks will be based on information reported annually on Form EIA-6.

Additionally, the EIA proposes to revise the Form EIA-7A by eliminating or modifying most of the survey data elements currently collected to calculate coal production, and by deleting entirely the portion of the survey pertaining to employment and productivity at coal mines and coal preparation plants. Instead, EIA-7A respondents will be asked to report on the EIA-7A the same coal production value they report to MSHA, and the EIA will obtain employment and

productivity information directly from MSHA. The EIA will evaluate the accuracy of the data reported to EIA for MSHA production versus the data reported directly to MSHA at the end of the first annual collection cycle. If the EIA deems the data to be comparable, in subsequent years data will come directly from MSHA.

The collection of coal price information on the Form EIA-7A, which is currently accomplished using the same data elements gathered to calculate coal production, will be preserved by reformatting the survey to request information on open market coal sales and revenues, as well as information on captive market coal sales and transfers, and corresponding value. Information on the amount of coal consumed at the reporting facility will also be retained as a separate data element. The collection of data on projected production during the next year will be eliminated.

The EIA also proposes to modify the reporting requirements for the Form EIA-7A. For Calendar Years beginning after 1997, mines producing less than 10,000 short tons annually, and stand-alone preparation plants recording fewer than 5,000 person hours annually, will no longer be required to submit the Form EIA-7A. Firms in the coal industry are sent the survey materials and those meeting the thresholds must file.

Form EIA-20

The Form EIA-20 is a Standby survey that was developed to collect weekly information on electric utility coal consumption and coal stocks in the event of a coal supply disruption. The Instructions for this Survey currently include an Appendix specifying a formula for estimating the number of days the reporting facility could continue to operate by burning the coal on hand at the end of the reporting period (i.e., burn days). The EIA proposes to delete this Appendix and to amend the Instructions to request that respondents calculate burn days in accordance with their customary operating practices.

III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of responses. Please indicate to which form(s) your comments apply.

General issues

A. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper

performance of the functions of the agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can EIA make to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

As a potential respondent

A. Are the instructions and definitions clear and sufficient? If not, which instructions require clarification?

B. Can data be submitted by the due date?

C. The estimated public reporting burden for each of the surveys included in the Coal Program Package is shown in the following Table.

Survey(s)	Estimated hours per response	
	Current	Proposed
EIA-1, EIA-4, and EIA-20	1.0	1.0
EIA-34	.4
EIA-59	.9
EIA-3A and EIA-5A	1.0	1.0
EIA-6A	5.0	5.0
EIA-6, Schedule Q5	.5
EIA-7A	1.0	.75

Burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide the information. The Forms EIA-1, 4, 6 (Schedule Q), and 20 are Standby surveys. The above estimates reflect the anticipated burden per response in the event these surveys are implemented.

Please comment on (1) the accuracy of our estimate and (2) how the agency could minimize the burden of the collection of information, including the use of information technology.

D. EIA estimates that respondents will incur no additional costs for reporting other than the hours required to complete the collection. What is the estimated: (1) total dollar amount annualized for capital and start-up costs, and (2) recurring annual costs of operation and maintenance, and purchase of services associated with this data collection?

E. Do you know of any other Federal, State, or local agency that collects similar data? If you do, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

As a potential user

A. Can you use data at the levels of detail indicated on the form?

B. For what purpose would you use the data? Be specific.

C. Are there alternate sources of data and do you use them? If so, what are their deficiencies and/or strengths?

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the form. They also will become a matter of public record.

Statutory Authority: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13).

Issued in Washington, D.C. July 24, 1998.

Jay H. Casselberry,

Agency Clearance Officer, Statistics and Methods Group, Energy Information Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP89-161-036]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Refund Report

July 23, 1998.

Take notice that on July 17, 1998, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR), tendered for filing, a report of refunds paid to customers.

The refunds relate to ANR's Interim Sales Program for the period November 1, 1992 through October 31, 1993. The Commission issued an order on March 12, 1998 in the referenced proceeding which required ANR to file its Third Reconciliation Report on the Interim Sales Program. Such report, which detailed additional refunds to customers of revenues collected in excess of gas costs, was subsequently accepted by the Commission in a letter order dated June 12, 1998. Accordingly, on June 17, 1998, ANR states that it refunded to eligible customers \$7,557,718, consisting of principal amounts totaling \$5,251,258 and interest of \$2,306,460.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed on or before July 29, 1998. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public