

information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: EDFacts Data Collection School Years 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19.

OMB Control Number: 1850—NEW (previously 1875–0240).

Type of Review: A revised information collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 61.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 126,880.

Abstract: EDFacts is a U.S. Department of Education (ED) initiative to collect, analyze, report on and promote the use of high-quality, pre-kindergarten through grade 12 (pre-K–12) performance data for use in education planning, policymaking, and management and budget decision making to improve outcomes for students. EDFacts enables the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to report on students, schools, staff, services, and education outcomes at the state, district, and school levels, by centralizing data provided by state education agencies, local education agencies, and schools. This centralized approach provides ED users with the ability to efficiently analyze and report on submitted data and has reduced the reporting burden for state and local data producers through the use of streamlined data collection, analysis, and reporting tools. EDFacts collects information on behalf of ED grant and program offices for approximately 180 data groups for all 50 states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and seven outlying

areas and freely associated states (American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). NCES seeks authorization from OMB to continue its EDFacts data collection and is requesting a new clearance for the 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19 school years in order to continue to provide EDFacts data to Department of Education program offices, as well as SEAs, LEAs, and schools. This collection package will be available for public comment during two open periods, a 60 day and a 30 day, and revisions will be made accordingly. This submission includes a few proposed changes to the EDFacts data collection. In addition to reviewing the proposed changes (detailed in Attachment C and the B Attachments), ED requests that SEAs and other stakeholders respond to the directed questions found in Attachment D.

Dated: July 6, 2015.

Kate Mullan,

Acting Director, Information Collection Clearance Division, Privacy, Information and Records Management Services, Office of Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Power Transformer Reserve

AGENCY: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is seeking comments and information from interested parties to inform its policy development related to the possible establishment of a national reserve of power transformers that support the bulk power grid. The focus of the RFI is on the design and implementation of a National Power Transformer Reserve Program.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 24, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Comments can be submitted by any of the following methods and must be identified as “Transformer Reserve.” By the *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. By email: LPT.RFI.2015@hq.doe.gov,

and include “Transformer Reserve” in the subject line of the message. By mail: Alice Lippert, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1E–078, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585. Note: Delivery of the U.S. Postal Service mail to DOE may be delayed by several weeks due to security screening. DOE, therefore, encourages those wishing to comment to submit comments electronically by email.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to Alice Lippert, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585 at Alice.Lippert@hq.doe.gov, 202–586–9600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The U.S. electricity sector operates a complex and highly reliable electric power system, upon which the Nation's economy and security depend. The North American Bulk Power System (BPS) is extensive, consisting of various infrastructure components, including transformers, switches, transmission towers and lines, control centers, and computer controls. Of the BPS' physical infrastructure, large power transformers (LPTs) are critical components, because the reliable operation of the BPS depends heavily on the safe and efficient operation of a network of interconnected LPTs.

LPTs have long been a concern for the U.S. electricity sector because the failure of a single unit can interrupt electricity service to a large number of customers and lead to collateral damage, and it could be difficult to quickly replace it. LPTs are large, custom-designed pieces of equipment that entail a significant capital expenditure and a long lead-time to manufacture and ship. LPTs are not usually interchangeable. System owners often own and maintain spare LPTs at a number sufficient to mitigate risks from premature failure. The limited availability of spare LPTs, and the long lead times to procure replacements, could pose a potential threat to the availability and reliability of the Nation's bulk power system in the event of an emergency where a relatively large number of existing LPTs are damaged or destroyed.

Large-scale disruptions to the U.S. BPS are rare; however, it faces a wide variety of evolving threats, including but not limited to: Cyber and physical security intrusions, weather-related

incidents; geomagnetic disturbances (GMD); and electromagnetic pulse (EMP) effects. The electricity sector serves one of the four lifeline functions as identified by the Department of Homeland Security, which means that its reliable operation is so critical that a disruption or loss of electricity will directly affect the security and resilience of other critical infrastructure and the Nation.

The recently released “Quadrennial Energy Review, Energy Transmission, Storage and Distribution Infrastructure Report, April 2015,” recommends that “DOE should coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal agencies, States, and industry—an initiative to mitigate the risks associated with the loss of transformers (p. 2–42).” This request for comment is an initial step in executing that recommendation. Part of the national strategy to reduce risk from large power transformers, which has been under development by the DOE, includes assessing the need for a reserve of LPTs.

II. Request for Information

For the reasons stated above, DOE is exploring possible National strategies to mitigate risk to the reliability of the bulk power system arising from the loss of LPTs. This RFI provides the public, and industry stakeholders, the opportunity to provide their view on the development and structure of a National program to establish and maintain large power transformer reserves in the United States. The intent of this RFI is to solicit information pertinent to the need and viability—regulatory, economic, and technical—of such a program. The information obtained is meant to be used by DOE for program design and strategy development purposes. In your comments, please reference the question(s) to which you are responding. Please also provide supporting information if noted, including studies, reports, data, and examples relevant to mitigating the risks associated with the loss of LPTs.

1. Program Need

Is there a need for a National Power Transformer Reserve? How would such a reserve affect the reliability and resiliency of the North American bulk power system? Are there alternatives to a power transformer reserve program that can help ensure the reliability, resiliency, and recovery of the bulk power system? Is there a need for a nationally-maintained inventory of large power transformers?

2. Power Transformer Criteria

What types and sizes of power transformers should be considered for inclusion in a transformer reserve program versus operational spare capacity? What are the design considerations for replacement transformers to support the bulk power system?

3. Ownership and Economics

What would be an appropriate structure for procuring and inventorying power transformers? How, and by whom, should a program of this type be administered? How would a transformer reserve be funded?

4. Technical Considerations

Is it technically feasible to develop a reserve of large power transformers when most are custom engineered? Is additional research and development (R&D) necessary to develop suitable replacement transformers that can be rapidly deployed from inventory in the event of an emergency?

5. Procurement and Management

How should procurement, maintenance and management of the reserve power transformers be conducted? For example, should manufacturers be pre-qualified, and if so, according to what criteria?

6. Supply Chain

What are the critical supply chain components for the manufacture and delivery of large power transformers (e.g., electrical steel, copper, silicone, high voltage bushings, etc.)? Are there shortages or other considerations that could necessitate using the Defense Production Act Priority Ratings to ensure sufficient parts are available in a time of need? Are there related skilled workforce issues?

7. Manufacturing

Is there adequate manufacturing capacity to support a transformer reserve program? What is the lead time for engineering, manufacture, and delivery of large power transformers? Are there approaches that could help to speed manufacture and delivery of large power transformers?

8. Transport and Deployment

What specialized transport infrastructure would be necessary to ship large power transformers from manufacturing site to storage locations, and from storage locations to field site in the event of an emergency? What should be the number and location of transformer storage sites? What are

feasible delivery times for LPTs that reside in a reserve to an affected site?

9. Field Engineering and Installation

Are there adequate domestic engineering and installation resources available throughout the United States to install multiple bulk power transformers simultaneously? What additional resources would be necessary?

10. Criteria for Deploying Transformers

What criteria should be used for activating and deploying transformers from the reserve? How would deployment be funded?

11. Additional Comments

Are there additional concerns regarding a National Power Transformer Reserve Program that need to be considered?

Issued at Washington, DC, on July 2, 2015.

Patricia A. Hoffman,

Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Bioproducts To Enable Biofuels Workshop

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of public workshop.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing a public workshop entitled, “Bioproducts to Enable Biofuels Workshop”. The Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) is seeking to collect information from key industry, university, national laboratory, and other stakeholders regarding challenges associated with the coproduction of biomass derived chemicals, products, and biofuels. **DATES:** The public workshop will be held on July 16, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MDT in Westminster, Colorado.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at The Westin Westminster, 10600 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, Colorado 80020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions may be directed to Andrea Bailey at 303–425–6800 ext. 460 or by email at andrea.bailey@ee.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: