DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Representative Average Unit Costs of Energy


ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is forecasting the representative average unit costs of five residential energy sources for the year 2015 pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The five sources are electricity, natural gas, No. 2 heating oil, propane, and kerosene.

DATES: The representative average unit costs of energy contained in this notice will become effective September 28, 2015 and will remain in effect until further notice.


The July 1 notice requested comments and information from interested parties to inform the development of a pilot project concerning an interactive self-assessment tool to understand the relative resilience level of national electric grid distribution systems to extreme weather events. An interactive tool could be used by distribution utilities to identify opportunities for enhancing resilience with new technologies and/or procedures to support investment planning and related tariff filings. The focus of this RFI is on the design and implementation of the interactive self-assessment resilience tool.

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DOE’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) has developed the 2015 representative average unit costs of energy. These costs for electricity, natural gas, No. 2 heating oil, and propane are based on simulations used to produce the August 2015, EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook (EIA releases the Outlook monthly). The representative average unit costs for propane is derived from its price relative to that of heating oil, based on the 2010–to 2014 averages of the U.S. refiner price to end users, which include all the major energy-consuming sectors in the U.S. for these fuels. The source for these price data is the July 2015, Monthly Energy Review DOE/EIA–0035 (2015/07). The Short-Term Energy Outlook and the Monthly Energy Review are available on the EIA Web site at http://www.eia.gov. The representative average unit after-tax cost for kerosene is derived from its price relative to that of heating oil, based on the 2010–to 2014 averages of the U.S. refiner price to end users, which include all the major energy-consuming sectors in the U.S. for these fuels. The source for these price data is the July 2015, Monthly Energy Review DOE/EIA–0035 (2015/07). The Short-Term Energy Outlook and the Monthly Energy Review are available on the EIA Web site at http://www.eia.gov. The representative average unit after-tax cost for propane is derived from its price relative to that of heating oil, based on the 2010–to 2014 averages of the U.S. residential consumer products found in the Annual Energy Outlook 2015, DOE/EIA–0383 (2015). For more information on the data sources used in this Notice, contact the National Energy Information Center, Forrestal Building, EI–30, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-7432, John.Cymbalsky@ee.doe.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 24, 2015.

Patricia A. Hoffman, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

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The 2015 representative average unit costs under section 323(b)(4) of the Act are set forth in Table 1, and will become effective September 28, 2015. They will remain in effect until further notice.

### Table 1—Representative Average Unit Costs of Energy for Five Residential Energy Sources (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of energy</th>
<th>Per million Btu $^1$</th>
<th>In commonly used terms</th>
<th>As required by test procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>$37.34</td>
<td>12.7¢/kWh $^2,3$</td>
<td>$0.127/kWh.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>10.03</td>
<td>$1.003/therm $^4$ or $10.28/MCF $^5,6$</td>
<td>0.00001003/Btu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. 2 Heating Oil</td>
<td>19.68</td>
<td>$2.73/gallon $^7$</td>
<td>0.00001968/Btu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane</td>
<td>22.02</td>
<td>$3.06/gallon $^8$</td>
<td>0.00002203/Btu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerosene</td>
<td>22.54</td>
<td>$3.13/gallon $^9$</td>
<td>0.00002254/Btu.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Notes: Prices include taxes.

$^1$Btu stands for British thermal units.

$^2$kWh stands for kilowatt hour.

$^3$1 kWh = 3,412 Btu.

$^4$1 therm = 100,000 Btu.

$^5$MCF stands for 1,000 cubic feet.

$^6$For the purposes of this table, one gallon of No. 2 heating oil has an energy equivalence of 1,025 Btu.

$^7$For the purposes of this table, one gallon of No. 2 heating oil has an energy equivalence of 138,690 Btu.

$^8$For the purposes of this table, one gallon of liquid propane has an energy equivalence of 91,335 Btu.

$^9$For the purposes of this table, one gallon of kerosene has an energy equivalence of 135,000 Btu.