

Division, U.S. Department of Education, 550 12th Street SW, PCP, Room 9086, Washington, DC 20202-0023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202-377-4018.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of 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:* EZ-Audit: Electronic Submission of Financial Statements and Compliance Audits.

*OMB Control Number:* 1845-0072.

*Type of Review:* An extension of an existing information collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Private Sector; State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 6,100.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 2,491.

**Abstract:** eZ-Audit is a web-based process designed to facilitate the submission of compliance and financial statement audits, expedite the review of those audits by the Department, and provide more timely and useful information to public, non-profit and proprietary institutions regarding the Department's review. eZ-Audit establishes a uniform process under which all institutions submit directly to the Department any audit required

under the Title IV, HEA program regulations. eZ-Audit continues to have minimal number of financial template line items and general information questions. There has been no change to the form or method of submission.

Dated: May 15, 2019.

**Kate Mullan,**

*PRA Coordinator, Information Collection Clearance Program, Information Management Branch, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2019-10484 Filed 5-20-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice of Availability of Guidance and Application for Hydroelectric Incentive Program

**AGENCY:** Water Power Technologies Office, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of guidance and open application period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) gives notice of updated guidance for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 program. The guidance describes the hydroelectric incentive payment requirements and explains the type of information that owners or authorized operators of qualified hydroelectric facilities must provide DOE when applying for hydroelectric incentive payments. This incentive is available for electric energy generated and sold for a specified 10-year period as authorized under the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In Congressional appropriations for Federal fiscal year 2019, DOE received funds to support this hydroelectric incentive program. At this time, DOE is only accepting applications from owners and authorized operators of qualified hydroelectric facilities for hydroelectricity generated and sold in calendar year 2018.

**DATES:** DOE is currently accepting applications from May 21, 2019 through June 20, 2019. Applications must be sent to [hydroincentive@ee.doe.gov](mailto:hydroincentive@ee.doe.gov) by midnight EDT, June 20, 2019, or they will not be considered timely filed for calendar year 2018 incentive payments.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties are to submit applications electronically to: [hydroincentive@ee.doe.gov](mailto:hydroincentive@ee.doe.gov). DOE's guidance is available at: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/water/water-power-funding-opportunities>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions may be addressed to Corey Vezina, U.S. Department of Energy,

Golden Field Office, 15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80401, (240) 562-1382 or by email at: [hydroincentive@ee.doe.gov](mailto:hydroincentive@ee.doe.gov). Further instruction can be found in the guidance posted at: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/water/water-power-funding-opportunities>. *Electronic communications are recommended for correspondence and required for submission of application information.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005; Pub. L. 109-58), Congress established a new program to support the expansion of hydropower energy development at existing dams and impoundments through an incentive payment procedure. Under Section 242 of EPAct 2005, the Secretary of Energy is directed to provide incentive payments to the owner or authorized operator of qualified hydroelectric facilities for energy generated and sold by a qualified hydroelectric facility for a specified 10-year period (See 42 U.S.C. 15881). The 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act authorized funding for the Section 242 program for conventional hydropower under EPAct 2005. In FY 2019, DOE allocated \$6.6M for this purpose.

Recently DOE made minor updates to clarify its Guidance for the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Section 242. The April 2019 Guidance is available at: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/water/water-power-funding-opportunities>. Each application will be reviewed based on the Guidance. The majority of the Guidance changes were minor and involved edits such as consistently referring to the facilities at issue as "hydroelectric generation facility" or moving existing Guidance to a different portion of the Guidance to improve clarity. For example, the "Added" definition was formerly contained in the "Qualified hydroelectric facility" definition but is now a standalone definition.

The description of how DOE calculates incentive payments was moved from the "Qualified-kilowatt-hours (kWh)" definition to a new "Payment Calculation" and equation in Section V. This section and equation reflect how DOE has been calculating incentive payments since the Department started receiving appropriations for this program and was added to the Guidance this year to increase transparency. The Guidance clarifies that the inflation adjustment required at 42 U.S.C. 15881(e)(2) is made in accordance with data similar to that used by the Internal Revenue Service in its annual Publications of Inflation Adjustment Factor and Reference Prices for other code sections

of the Internal Revenue Code. Also under Section V., the Guidance now provides three hypothetical examples to explain when hydroelectric generation facility production would be eligible for incentive payments based on statutory date requirements.

Section VI. includes a clarification that applications for each incentive period must be properly completed and submitted to DOE each year and cannot simply refer to an application from a previous year. Section VI. removes the application requirement that applicants notify DOE at least six months before a facility is expected to be first used. In Section VII., the Guidance states that an appeal may be dismissed for any reason that an appeal would be subject to dismissal under Office of Hearings and Appeals procedural regulations at 10 CFR part 1003. Finally, in Section VII. OHA grants DOE an opportunity to submit a written response to an appeal and allows the appellant the opportunity to reply to DOE's response.

DOE notes that applicants that received incentive payments for prior calendar years must submit a full application addressing all eligibility requirements for hydroelectricity generated and sold in calendar year 2018. DOE will not consider previously submitted application materials. Applications that refer to previous application materials or statements in lieu of submitting current information will not be considered. As authorized under Section 242 of EAct 2005, and as explained in the Guidance, DOE also notes that it will only accept applications from qualified hydroelectric facilities that began operations at an existing dam or conduit during the inclusive period beginning October 1, 2005, and ending on September 30, 2015. Therefore, although DOE is accepting applications for full calendar year 2018 production, the qualified hydroelectric facility must have begun operations starting October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2015, for DOE to consider the application.

When submitting information to DOE for Section 242 program, it is recommended that applicants carefully read and review the completed content of the Guidance for this process. When reviewing applications, DOE may corroborate the information provided with information that DOE finds through FERC e-filings, contact with power off-taker, and other due diligence measure carried out by reviewing officials. DOE may require the applicant to conduct and submit an independent audit at its own expense, or DOE may conduct an audit to verify the number of kilowatt-hours claimed to have been

generated and sold by the qualified hydroelectric facility and for which an incentive payment has been requested or made.

Signed in Washington, DC, on April 30, 2019.

**Steve Chalk,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Renewable Power, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2019-10572 Filed 5-20-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### U.S. Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Proposed New Survey OR Extension

**AGENCY:** U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** EIA is requesting a three-year extension, without changes, of the *Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery*. This generic clearance enables EIA to collect customer and stakeholder feedback from the public on service delivery in an efficient and timely manner to ensure that EIA's programs effectively meet our customers' needs and to collect feedback on improving service delivery to the public.

**DATES:** EIA must receive all comments on this proposed information collection no later than July 22, 2019. If you anticipate any difficulties in submitting your comments by the deadline, contact the person listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail comments to Jacob Bournazian, U.S. Energy Information Administration, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, EI-21, Washington, DC 20585.

Submit comments electronically to [jacob.bournazian@eia.gov](mailto:jacob.bournazian@eia.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you need additional information, send your request to Jacob Bournazian, U.S. Energy Information Administration, telephone: (202) 586-5562, email at [jacob.bournazian@eia.gov](mailto:jacob.bournazian@eia.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This information collection request contains:

(1) *OMB No. 1905-0210;*

(2) *Information Collection Request Title: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery;*

(3) *Type of Request: Renewal;*

(4) *Purpose:* The solicitation of feedback on Agency Service Delivery includes topics such as: Timeliness of publishing, understanding of questions and terminology used in EIA products, perceptions on data confidentiality and security, appropriateness and relevancy of information published, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses are assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the agency's services will be unavailable. The agency will only submit an information collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions: It is voluntary; it has a low burden for respondents; is low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government; is noncontroversial and does not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies; is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future; Personally Identifiable Information (PII) may be collected, if the need arises, PII is collected only to the extent necessary to initially contact respondents and is not retained. The information gathered is intended only to be used internally for general service improvement, the design, modification, and evaluation of survey instruments, modes of data collection, and program management purposes.

Advances in technology and service delivery systems in the private sector, have increased the public's expectations of the Government's customer service promise. The agency must also address the need to improve its services, not only to individuals, but also to private and Governmental entities to which the agency directly provides significant services to keep pace with the public's expectations of the Government. Government managers must identify and learn from what is working in the private sector and apply these best practices to deliver services better, faster, and at lower cost. Such best practices include increasingly popular lower-cost, self-service options accessed by the internet or mobile phone and improved processes that deliver services faster and more responsively, reducing the overall need for customer inquiries and complaints. The Federal Government has a responsibility to streamline and make more efficient its