

provide scores for individual students or schools.

The main NAEP assessments report current achievement levels and trends in student achievement at grades 4, 8, and 12 for the nation and, for certain assessments (*e.g.*, reading and mathematics), states and select urban districts (*i.e.*, Trial Urban District Assessment, or TUDA). The main NAEP assessments provide results on subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for different student populations (*e.g.*, all fourth-graders) and groups within those populations (*e.g.*, sex [male and female students], race/ethnicity groups). NAEP does not provide scores for individual students or schools.

The NAEP assessments contain two different types of items: “cognitive” assessment items, which measure what students know and can do in an academic subject, and “survey” or “non-cognitive” items, which gather information such as demographic variables, as well as construct-related information, such as courses taken. The survey portion includes a collection of data from students, teachers, and school administrators. Since NAEP assessments are administered uniformly using the same sets of test forms across the nation, NAEP results serve as a common metric for all states and select urban districts. The assessment stays essentially the same from year to year, with only carefully documented changes. This permits NAEP to provide a clear picture of student academic progress over time.

The possible universe of student respondents for NAEP 2027 is estimated to be 12,000 students at grade 8 attending the approximately 308 public and private schools in a variety of states and the District of Columbia and may include Bureau of Indian Education Schools.

This request is to conduct NAEP in 2027, specifically for the Grade 8 Science Pilot.

NAEP will administer the assessment using school devices and the internet. For schools that cannot meet the minimum specification for the use of school devices, NAEP will provide an alternate delivery model utilizing NAEP Chromebooks. NAEP has transitioned to primarily administer on school devices with a staged approach so that trends can be measured across time. NAEP conducted a School-based Equipment study in 2024 (OMB #1850–0803 v.347) as well as a Field Test in 2025 (OMB #1850–0803 v.353) to provide more information about student and school interactions with the eNAEP system on school devices, as compared to NAEP Chromebooks and Surface Pros, to

inform the use of school devices at a larger scale in NAEP assessments beginning in 2026. Also, a 2026 bridge study will compare NAEP devices and school devices to evaluate whether scores from the two different assessment models are comparable. Note: in this study, some schools that qualify to be assessed on school devices will be assessed on NAEP devices, since the two different school types (*i.e.*, those qualified to assess on school devices, and those not qualified to assess on school devices) may have different characteristics. This will allow the study to establish a common linking population.

This Clearance package is the first submission for the 2027 assessment, with both 60-day and 30-day consecutive public comment period notices that will be published in the **Federal Register**. While some drafted materials are included in this 60-day package in Appendices D, E, and I, the majority of 2027 materials are not available for this submission. Several final communications and Assessment Management System screens will be available in the 30-day package, which will be posted to the **Federal Register** in March 2026. This Clearance Package will have one amendment, which is planned to be submitted in July 2026, and which will replace any remaining drafted materials with final versions for the 2027 NAEP assessments.

Ross Santy,

Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

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BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Request for Comments

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: EIA invites public comment and other Federal agencies to comment on a proposed information collection. EIA plans to collect information from the public to fulfill its data security requirements when providing access to confidential microdata for the purpose of evidence building. EIA’s data security agreements and other paperwork along with the corresponding security protocols allow EIA to maintain careful controls on confidentiality and privacy,

as required by law. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed data security information collection, prior to submission of the information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

DATES: EIA must receive all comments on this proposed information collection no later than February 17, 2026. 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: You may submit comments, identified by OMB control number 1905–NEW, by email at EIA-FRNcomments@eia.gov. Include the OMB control number listed in the subject line of the message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Samson Adeshiyani, EIA Clearance Officer, at (202) 586–7777 or by email at EIA-FRNcomments@eia.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 mandates that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) establish a Standard Application Process (SAP) for requesting access to certain confidential data assets. While the adoption of the SAP is required for statistical agencies and units designated under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA), it is recognized that other agencies and organizational units within the Executive branch may benefit from the adoption of the SAP to accept applications for access to confidential data assets. The SAP is a process through which agencies, the Congressional Budget Office, State, local, and Tribal governments, researchers, and other individuals, as appropriate, may apply to access confidential data assets held by a Federal statistical agency or unit for the purposes of developing evidence. With the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) as advisors, the entities upon whom this requirement is levied are working with the SAP Project Management Office (PMO) and with OMB to implement the SAP. The SAP Portal is a single web-based common application for the public to request access to confidential data assets from Federal statistical agencies and units. The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), within the National Science Foundation (NSF), submitted a **Federal Register** Notice in September 2022 announcing plans to collect information through the SAP Portal (87 FR 53793). Once an application for confidential data is

approved through the SAP Portal, EIA will collect information to meet its data security requirements. This collection will occur outside of the SAP Portal.

(1) *OMB No.:* 1905–New;

(2) *Information Collection Request Title:* DATA SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSING CONFIDENTIAL DATA;

(3) *Type of Request:* Intent to seek approval to collect information from the public to fulfill the EIA security requirements allowing individuals to access confidential data assets for the purposes of building evidence;

(4) *Purpose:* Title III of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (hereafter referred to as the Evidence Act) mandates that OMB establish a Standard Application Process (SAP) for requesting access to certain confidential data assets. Specifically, the Evidence Act requires OMB to establish a common application process through which agencies, the Congressional Budget Office, State, local, and Tribal governments, researchers, and other individuals, as appropriate, may apply for access to confidential data assets collected, accessed, or acquired by a statistical agency or unit. This new process will be implemented while maintaining stringent controls to protect confidentiality and privacy, as required by law.

Data collected, accessed, or acquired by statistical agencies and units is vital for developing evidence on conditions, characteristics, and behaviors of the public and on the operations and outcomes of public programs and policies. This evidence can benefit the stakeholders in the programs, the broader public, as well as policymakers and program managers at the local, State, Tribal, and National levels. The many benefits of access to data for evidence building notwithstanding, EIA is required by law to maintain careful controls that allow it to minimize disclosure risk while protecting confidentiality and privacy. The fulfillment of EIA's data security requirements places a degree of burden on the public, which is outlined below.

The SAP Portal is a web-based application for the public to request access to confidential data assets from Federal statistical agencies and units. The objective of the SAP Portal is to increase public access to confidential data for the purposes of evidence building and reduce the burden of applying for confidential data. Once an individual's application in the SAP Portal has received a positive determination, the data-owning agency(ies) or unit(s) will begin the

process of collecting information to fulfill their data security requirements.

The paragraphs below outline the SAP Policy, the steps to complete an application through the SAP Portal, and the process for agencies to collect information fulfilling their data security requirements.

The SAP Policy

At the recommendation of the ICSP, the SAP Policy establishes the SAP to be implemented by statistical agencies and units and incorporates directives from the Evidence Act. The policy is intended to provide guidance as to the application and review processes using the SAP Portal, setting forth clear standards that enable statistical agencies and units to implement a common application form and a uniform review process. The SAP Policy was submitted to the public for comment in January 2022 (87 FR 2459).

The SAP Portal

The SAP Portal is an application interface connecting applicants seeking data with a catalog of data assets owned by the Federal statistical agencies and units. The SAP Portal is not a new data repository or warehouse; confidential data assets will continue to be stored in secure data access facilities owned and hosted by the Federal statistical agencies and units. The Portal will provide a streamlined application process across agencies, reducing redundancies in the application process. This single SAP Portal will improve the process for applicants, tracking and communicating the application process throughout its lifecycle. This reduces redundancies and burden on applicants that request access to data from multiple agencies. The SAP Portal will automate key tasks to save resources and time and will bring agencies into compliance with the Evidence Act statutory requirements.

Data Discovery

Individuals begin the process of accessing confidential data by discovering confidential data assets through the SAP data catalog, maintained by Federal statistical agencies at www.researchdatagov.org. Potential applicants can search by agency, topic, or keyword to identify data of interest or relevance. Once they have identified data of interest, applicants can view metadata outlining the title, description or abstract, scope and coverage, and detailed methodology related to a specific data asset to determine its relevance to their research. While statistical agencies and units shall endeavor to include

metadata in the SAP data catalog on all confidential data assets for which they accept applications, it may not be feasible to include metadata for some data assets (e.g., potential curated versions of administrative data). A statistical agency or unit may still accept an application through the SAP Portal even if the requested data asset is not listed in the SAP data catalog.

SAP Application Process

Individuals who have identified and wish to access confidential data assets may apply for access through the SAP Portal. Applicants must create an account and follow all steps to complete the application. Applicants begin by entering their personal, contact, and institutional information, as well as the personal, contact, and institutional information of all individuals on their research team. Applicants proceed to provide summary information about their proposed project, to include project title, duration, funding, timeline, and other details including the data asset(s) they are requesting and any proposed linkages to data not listed in the SAP data catalog, including non-Federal data sources. Applicants then proceed to enter detailed information regarding their proposed project, including a project abstract, research question(s), literature review, project scope, research methodology, project products, and anticipated output. Applicants must demonstrate a need for confidential data, outlining why their research question cannot be answered using publicly available information.

Submission for Review

Upon submission of their application, applicants will receive a notification that their application has been received and is under review by the data owning agency or agencies (in the event where data assets are requested from multiple agencies). At this point, applicants will also be notified that application approval does not alone grant access to confidential data, and that, if approved, applicants must comply with the data-owning agency's security requirements outside of the SAP Portal, which may include a background check.

In accordance with the Evidence Act and the direction of the ICSP, agencies will approve or reject an application within a prompt timeframe. In some cases, agencies may determine that additional clarity, information, or modification is needed and request the applicant to "revise and resubmit" their application. Data discovery, the SAP application process, and the submission for review are planned to take place within the web-based SAP Portal. As

noted above, the notice announcing plans to collect information through the SAP Portal has been published separately (87 FR 53793).

Access to Confidential Data

In the event of a positive determination, the applicant will be notified that their proposal has been accepted. The positive or final adverse determination concludes the SAP Portal process. In the instance of a positive determination, the data-owning agency (or agencies) will contact the applicant to provide instructions on the agency's security requirements that must be completed to gain access to the confidential data. The completion and submission of the agency's security requirements will take place outside of the SAP Portal.

Collection of Information for Data Security Requirements

In order for researchers to access confidential data onsite at EIA's headquarters in Washington, DC, they must fulfill all requirements for becoming temporary agents of EIA. To fulfill these requirements, a Data Access Agreement (DAA) must be signed between EIA and the researcher's employing institution, and the team members must complete EIA's CIPSEA training and sign a Non-disclosure Agreement, affirming their U.S. citizenship and their commitment not to disclose confidential data to unauthorized parties.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents*: 20;

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses*: 20;

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours*: 100;

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden*: The amount of time to complete the DAA and training will vary based on the confidential data assets requested and the access modality. To obtain access to EIA confidential data assets, it is estimated that the average time to complete and submit EIA's data security agreements is 100 minutes (5 hours) per applicant. This estimate does not include the time needed to complete and submit an application within the SAP Portal. All efforts related to SAP Portal applications occur prior to and separate from EIA's effort to collect information related to data security requirements.

Comments are invited on whether or not: (a) The proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions, including whether the information will have a practical utility; (b) EIA's estimate of the burden of the proposed

collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used, is accurate; (c) EIA can improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information it will collect; and (d) EIA can minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, such as automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. 772(b) and 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*

Signed in Washington, DC, on December 16, 2025.

Samson A. Adeshiyan,

Director, Office of Statistical Methods and Research, U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 2025-23281 Filed 12-17-25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 9886-035]

Valatie Falls Hydro Power, Inc.; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Soliciting Additional Study Requests and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Relicensing and a Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application*: Subsequent Minor License.

b. *Project No.*: 9886-035.

c. *Date Filed*: November 28, 2025.

d. *Applicant*: Valatie Falls Hydro Power, Inc.

e. *Name of Project*: Valatie Falls Hydroelectric Project (Valatie Falls Project).

f. *Location*: The project is located on Kinderhook Creek, in the village of Valatie, town of Kinderhook in Columbia County, New York. This project does not occupy any federal land.

g. *Filed Pursuant to*: Federal Power Act 16 U.S.C. 791(a)-825(r).

h. *Applicant Contact*: Mr. John E. Doran, President, Valatie Falls Hydro Power, Inc., 7 Cotton Mill Lane, Valatie, NY 12184; phone at (855) 467-3751 or email at jdoran@pisoev.com.

i. *FERC Contact*: Jacob Harrell at (202) 502-7313, or Jacob.Harrell@ferc.gov.

j. *Cooperating Agencies*: Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the

preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item l below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. *See*, 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. Pursuant to section 4.32(b)(7) of 18 CFR of the Commission's regulations, if any resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person believes that an additional scientific study should be conducted in order to form an adequate factual basis for a complete analysis of the application on its merit, the resource agency, Indian Tribe, or person must file a request for a study with the Commission not later than 60 days from the date of filing of the application, and serve a copy of the request on the applicant.

l. *Deadline for filing additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status*: on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on January 27, 2026.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file additional study requests and requests for cooperating agency status using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 203-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. All filings must clearly identify the project name and docket number on the first page: Valatie Falls Hydroelectric Project (P-9886-035).

m. The application is not ready for environmental analysis at this time.

n. *The Valatie Falls Project includes*: (1) a concrete dam of an approximate height of 6 feet and length of 310 feet consisting of two sections separated by a small island (Seven Pine Island) and with a crest elevation of 228.3 feet above mean sea level (msl); (2) wooden flashboards of 2 feet on both dam sections; (3) a 5-acre reservoir with a gross storage capacity of approximately 20 acre-feet at the normal surface elevation of 230.3 feet msl; (4) a 34-foot-long by 14-foot-wide concrete intake structure with a 15-foot-long by 12-foot-