

integration to include energy conservation, pollution reduction, pest management, and crop productivity.

The statutory authority for this program is Sec 107 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, Public Law 93488, 88 Stat. 1240 (U.S.C. 5817) and Federal Non-Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974. Public Law 93-577, 88 Stat. 1878 (42 U.S.C. 5901 et seq.). A copy of the solicitation may be accessed on DOE-ID's home page using Universal Resource Locator address: <http://www.inel.gov/procurement/index.html>. The deadline for receipt of applications is 3:00 p.m. MST February 27, 1997.

*Procurement Request Number:* 07-97ID13507.000.

Dated: December 23, 1996.

R. Jeffrey Hoyles,

*Director, Procurement Services Division.*

[FR Doc. 96-33195 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

### Secretary of Energy Advisory Board; Notice of Open Meeting.

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**SUMMARY:** Consistent with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770), notice is hereby given of the following advisory committee meeting:  
*Name:* Secretary of Energy Advisory Board—Electric System Reliability Task Force.

*Dates and Times:* Thursday, January 16, 1997, 8:30 AM—5:00 PM.

*Place:* JW Marriott Hotel, Capital Ballroom—Salon E, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard C. Burrow, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (AB-1), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-1709.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The electric power industry is in the midst of a complex transition to competition, which will induce many far-reaching changes in the structure of the industry and the institutions which regulate it. This transition raises many reliability issues, as new entities emerge in the power markets and as generation becomes less integrated with transmission.

##### Purpose of the Task Force

The purpose of the Electric System Reliability Task Force is to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board

regarding the critical institutional, technical, and policy issues that need to be addressed in order to maintain the reliability of the nation's bulk electric system in the context of a more competitive industry.

#### Tentative Agenda

8:30—9:15 Opening Remarks

Hazel R. O'Leary, Secretary of Energy  
Bob Hanfling, Chairman, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board

Phil Sharp, Chairman, Electric System Reliability Task Force

9:15—9:30 Task Force Member

Introductions

9:30—9:45 Break

9:45—10:30 Institutional Reliability Issues

Mike Gent, National Electric, Reliability Council

11:15 Technical Reliability Issues

Karl Stahlkopf, Electric Power, Research Institute

11:15—11:45 State Reliability

Perspectives

Duncan Kincheloe, Missouri, Public Utility Commission

11:45—1:00 Lunch

1:00—1:30 Federal Policy Issues

Charles B. Curtis, Deputy Secretary of Energy

1:30—2:00 Public Comment

2:00—4:30 Development of a Task Force Work Plan

4:30 Adjourn

This tentative agenda is subject to change. The final agenda will be available at the meeting.

#### Public Participation

The Chairman of the Task Force is empowered to conduct the meeting in a fashion that will, in the Chairman's judgment, facilitate the orderly conduct of business. During its meeting in Washington, D.C. the Task Force welcomes public comment. Members of the public will be heard in the order in which they sign up at the beginning of the meeting. The Task Force will make every effort to hear the views of all interested parties. Written comments may be submitted to David Cheney, Acting Executive Director, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, AB-1, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585.

#### Minutes

Minutes and a transcript of the meeting will be available for public review and copying approximately 30 days following the meeting at the Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, 1E-190 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

Issued at Washington, DC, on December 23, 1996.

Gail Cephas,

*Acting Deputy Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 96-33130 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**SUMMARY:** The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed new form EIA-902, "Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturers Survey."

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before February 28, 1997. 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 James Holihan, Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric, and Alternate Fuels, EI-522, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585-0650, (202) 426-1147 (telephone number), (202) 426-1308 (fax number), JHolihan@eia.doe.gov (e-mail address).

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to James Holihan 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 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 Energy Information Administration, 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 ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden is minimized, reporting forms are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

## II. Current Actions

Form EIA-902 will be submitted in 1997 for approval by the Office of Management and Budget for a period not in excess of three years pursuant to Section 3507(d) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96-511). EIA is providing this opportunity for the public to review and comment on the draft survey form and instructions.

This survey is a new collection. Data that would be collected on Form EIA-902 include the number of geothermal heat pumps shipped by type, regional destinations by type, type of customers, and distributions by market sector.

## 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.

### General Issues

EIA is interested in receiving comments from persons regarding:

A. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility. Practical utility is 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 in accordance with the due date specified in the instructions?

C. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average two hours per response. Burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide the information including: (1) Reviewing instructions; (2) developing, acquiring, installing, and utilizing technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, verifying, processing, maintaining, disclosing and providing information; (3) adjusting existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; (4) training personnel to respond to a collection of information; (5) searching data sources; (6) completing and reviewing the collection of information; and (7) transmitting, or otherwise disclosing the information.

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 automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

D. EIA estimates that respondents to this survey will not incur any reporting costs other than the reporting burden cited above. What is the estimated (1) total dollar amount annualized for capital and start-up costs and (2) recurring annual dollar amount of operation and maintenance and purchase of services costs associated with this data collection? The estimates should take into account the costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information.

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?

D. For the most part, information is published by EIA in U.S. customary units, e.g., cubic feet of natural gas, short tons of coal, and barrels of oil. Would you prefer to see EIA publish more information in metric units, e.g., cubic meters, metric tons, and kilograms? If yes, please specify what information (e.g., coal production, natural gas consumption, and crude oil imports), the metric unit(s) of measurement preferred, and in which

EIA publication(s) you would like to see such information.

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. 104-13).

Issued in Washington, D.C. December 24, 1996.

Yvonne Bishop,

Director, Office of Statistical Standards,  
Energy Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 96-33197 Filed 12-27-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## Office of Energy Research

### Energy Research Financial Assistance Program Notice 97-05 Energy Biosciences

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice inviting grant preapplications

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Basic Energy Sciences of the Office of Energy Research (ER), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites preapplications from potential applicants for research funding in the Energy Biosciences program area. The intent in asking for a preapplication is to save the time and effort of applicants in preparing and submitting a formal project application that may be inappropriate for the program. The preapplication should consist of a two- to three-page concept paper on the research contemplated for an application to the Energy Biosciences program. The concept paper should focus on the scientific objectives and significance of the planned research, and include an outline of the approaches planned, and any other information relating to the planned research. No budget information or biographical data need be included; nor is an institutional endorsement necessary. The preapplication gives us the opportunity to advise potential applicants on the suitability of their research ideas to the mission of the DOE Energy Biosciences program. A response indicating the appropriateness of submitting a formal application will be sent from the Division of Energy Biosciences office in time to allow for an adequate preparation period for a formal application.

**DATES:** For timely consideration, all preapplications should be received by February 28, 1997. However, earlier