

Dated: December 21, 1999.

**Jeanne VanVlandren,**

*Acting Chief Operating Officer, Office of Student Financial Assistance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

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

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments on the proposed three-year extension of existing Form DOE-887, "Department of Energy Customer Surveys."

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before February 28, 2000. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Herbert T. Miller, Statistics and Methods Group, EI-70, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585. Alternatively, Mr. Miller may be reached by phone at 202-426-1103, by e-mail at [hmiller@eia.doe.gov](mailto:hmiller@eia.doe.gov), or by FAX 202-426-1081.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Herbert Miller at the address listed above.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

#### I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*), require the Energy Information Administration (EIA) to carry out a centralized, comprehensive, and unified energy information program. This program collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resource reserves, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information. This information is used to assess the adequacy of energy resources to meet near and longer term domestic demands.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

On September 11, 1993, the President signed Executive Order No. 12862 aimed at "\* \* \* ensuring the Federal government provides the highest quality service possible to the American people." The voluntary surveys the Department proposes will be used to ascertain customer satisfaction with the Department of Energy in terms of services, products, and information our customers want and expect, as well as their satisfaction with and awareness of existing products, services, and information. Respondents will be businesses, academic institutions, associations, researchers, and other individuals, organizations, or institutions that are the recipients of the Department's services, products, and information. Previous customer surveys have provided useful information to the Department for assessing how well services, products, and information are delivered and for making improvements. The results are used internally and summaries are provided to the Office of Management and Budget on an annual basis, and are used to satisfy the requirements and the spirit of Executive Order No. 12862.

#### II. Current Actions

The request to OMB will be for a three-year extension of the expiration date of approval for DOE to conduct customer surveys. During the past approval period of about three years, 14 customer surveys have been conducted by telephone, mail, and through the Web site. (Examples of previously conducted customer surveys are available upon request.) Our planned activities in the next three fiscal years reflect our increased emphasis on and expansion of these activities, including an increased use of electronic means for obtaining customer input. Surveys may be conducted by focus groups, reply cards that accompany product distribution, web-based surveys that offer customers the opportunity to

express their levels of satisfaction with DOE products, services, and information, and for on-going dialogue with the Department. DOE will collect this information by electronic means, as well as by mail, fax, telephone, and person-to-person. Steps will be taken to assure anonymity of respondents in each activity covered under this request.

#### 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 comments.

##### General Issues

A. Are the proposed collections of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency and does the information have practical utility? Practical utility is defined as 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 be made to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

As a potential respondent:

A. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average .25 hours per response (8,333 respondents per year  $\times$  15 minutes per response = 2,083 hours annually). The response time varies from two minutes to four hours depending upon the complexity of the information collection. The estimated burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, disclose and provide the information. Please comment on the accuracy of the estimate.

B. The agency estimates that the only costs to the respondents are for the time it will take them to complete the collection of information. Please comment if respondents will incur start-up costs for reporting, or any recurring annual costs for operation, maintenance, and purchase of services associated with this information collection?

C. What additional actions could be taken to minimize the burden of this collection of information? Such actions may involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

D. Does any other Federal, State, or local agency collect similar information? If so, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

As a potential user:

A. Are there alternate sources for the information and are they useful? If so, what are their weaknesses and/or strengths?

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. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Issued in Washington, D.C., December 22, 1999.

**Jay H. Casselberry,**

*Agency Clearance Officer, Statistics and Methods Group, Energy Information Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Notice Inviting Financial Assistance Applications

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).

**ACTION:** Notice inviting financial assistance applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy announces that it intends to conduct a competitive Program Solicitation and award financial assistance (Cooperative Agreements) for the program entitled "Testing and Evaluation of Promising Mercury Control Technologies for Coal Based Power Systems". Through this solicitation, DOE seeks to support applications in the following areas of interest: (1) Field Testing of Activated Carbon Upstream of Existing Utility Particulate Control Devices, (2) Field Testing of Effective Mercury Control Technologies Upstream of and Across Wet Flue Gas Desulfurization Systems, (3) Field Testing of Concepts for Augmenting or Aiding in the Overall Control of Mercury in the Field Tests under Topic 1 and Topic 2, and (4) Testing Novel and Less Mature Control Technologies on Actual Flue Gas at the Pilot-scale. A DOE technical panel will perform a scientific and engineering evaluation of each responsive application to determine the merit of the approach, and availability of DOE funding in the technical areas proposed. Awards will be made to a limited number of applicants based on this review.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Martin J. Byrnes, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Acquisition and Assistance Division, P.O. Box 10940, MS 921-112,

Pittsburgh PA 15236-0940, Telephone: (412) 386-4486, FAX: (412) 386-6137, E-mail: byrnes@netl.doe.gov.

This solicitation (available in both WordPerfect 6.1 and Portable Document Format (PDF)) will be released on DOE's NETL Internet site (<http://www.netl.doe.gov/business/solicit>) on or about January 28, 2000.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title of Solicitation:* "Testing and Evaluation of Promising Mercury Control Technologies for Coal Based Power Systems."

*Objectives:* The mission of the DOE Mercury Measurement and Control Program is to perform research and development in order to provide a better understanding of mercury and its speciation for coal-based power generation activities. The Department of Energy's Mercury Measurement and Control Program goal is to develop control strategies for reducing the current annual utility mercury emissions by 50 to 70% by 2005 and by 90% by 2010 at a cost between one-quarter to one-half of the current cost estimates. Research continues on developing potential technologies for mercury emission reduction from utility plants, and is designed to augment existing pre- and post-combustion technologies, with investigations studying different combustion conditions for possible mercury removal or mercury speciation modifications. The post-combustion R&D focuses on the addition of some type of sorbent technology (including gas-phase additives) to adsorb the mercury, or using new technology for mercury control.

The primary objective of this solicitation is to solicit applications for work that seek cost-shared projects (1) to conduct field testing of promising mercury control technologies to determine their maximum removal of measured mercury levels (total i.e., elemental plus oxidized) while determining realistic process/equipment costs for various levels of Hg removed; and (2) to further develop the less mature methods for possible control of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. A secondary focus of this solicitation is to measure and/or assess potential multiple pollutant or co-control associated with the control technology field test and development projects designed to elucidate mercury emission reductions. The key element addressed in the solicitation's overall areas of interest is the control of mercury and its species generated by U.S. coal-fired utility boiler systems.

*Intent:* The Department of Energy's intent under this solicitation is to gather

cost and performance data by field testing of promising mercury control technologies, and smaller pilot-scale investigations to determine: (1) The potential mercury removal or efficiency of promising mercury control technologies at a larger scale; (2) the portion of the very diverse utility industry that these mercury control technologies could penetrate or be retrofittable allowing high end mercury removal; (3) the possible negative and positive impacts of retrofitting these mercury control technologies; (4) accurate cost(s) of retrofitting these technologies; (5) the highest amount of Hg removed at the lowest cost per pound; and (6) effective sequestration of the captured mercury in the various media utilized as by-products or being disposed in landfills.

*Eligibility:* Eligibility for participation in this Program Solicitation is considered to be full and open. All interested parties may apply. The solicitation will contain a complete description of the technical and organizational evaluation factors and the relative importance of each factor. While national laboratories may not participate as a prime they may participate as a sub-contractor.

*Areas of Interest:* The Department expects to support applications in the following areas of interest: (1) Field Testing of Activated Carbon Upstream of Existing Utility Particulate Control Devices, (2) Field Testing of Effective Mercury Control Technologies Upstream of and Across Wet Flue Gas Desulfurization Systems, (3) Field Testing of Concepts for Augmenting or Aiding in the Overall Control of Mercury in the Field Tests under Topic 1 and Topic 2, and (4) Testing Novel and Less Mature Control Technologies on Actual Flue Gas at the Pilot-scale.

*Awards:* DOE anticipates issuing financial assistance (cooperative agreements) for each project selected. DOE reserves the right to support or not support, with or without discussions, any or all applications received in whole or in part, and to determine how many awards may be made through the solicitation subject to the funds available. DOE expects to provide a total of \$7.4 million for projects under Topic 1; a total of \$2.0 million for projects under Topic 2; a total of \$0.775 million for projects under Topics 3; and a total of \$2.0 million for projects under Topic 4. The period of performance for all projects is expected to be within three years, with projects associated with Topics 1 through 4 being initiated at different times over the three year period. This is dependent on the number of awards and the availability of