

McMillian, Jimmy  
Mefford, Penny  
Mollot, Darren  
Moore, Johnny  
O'Konski, Peter  
Pearson, Gina

Issued in Washington, DC, October 23, 2015.

**Erin S. Moore,**

*Acting Director, Office of Corporate Executive Management, Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Designation of Performance Review Board Chair.

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides the Performance Review Board Chair designee for the Department of Energy. This listing supersedes all previously published lists of Performance Review Board Chair.

**DATES:** This appointment is effective as of September 30, 2015: Dennis M. Miotla.

Issued in Washington, DC: October 23, 2015.

**Erin S. Moore,**

*Acting Director, Office of Corporate Executive Management, Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Extension

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

**ACTION:** Agency Information Collection Activities: Information Collection Extension with Changes; Notice and Request for Comments.

**SUMMARY:** The EIA invites public comment on the proposed collection of information, EIA-882T, "Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Testing, Evaluation, and Research" that EIA is developing for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. Comments are invited on whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper

performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before December 29, 2015. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed in **ADDRESSES** as soon as possible.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be sent to Jacob Bournazian, Energy Information Administration, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington DC 20585 or by fax at 202-586-0552 or by email at [jacob.bournazian@eia.gov](mailto:jacob.bournazian@eia.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Jacob Bournazian, Energy Information Administration, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585, phone: 202-586-5562, email: [jacob.bournazian@eia.gov](mailto:jacob.bournazian@eia.gov).

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

- (1) OMB No.: 1905-0186;
- (2) *Information Collection Request*

*Title:* Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Testing, Evaluation, and Research;

- (3) *Type of Request:* Revision;
- (4) *Purpose:* The U.S. Energy

Information Administration (EIA) is planning to request a three-year approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to utilize qualitative and quantitative methodologies to pretest questionnaires and validate the quality of the data collected on EIA forms. This authority would allow EIA to conduct pretest surveys, pilot surveys, respondent debriefings, cognitive interviews, usability interviews, and focus groups. Through the use of these methodologies, EIA will improve the quality of data being collected for measuring market activity and assessing supply conditions in energy markets, reduce or minimize respondent burden, increase agency efficiency, and improve responsiveness to the public. This authority also

improves EIA's ability to collect relevant and timely information that meets the data needs of EIA's customers.

The specific methods proposed for the coverage by this clearance are described below. Also outlined is the legal authority for these voluntary information gathering activities.

The following methods are proposed:

**Field Testing.** Field testing surveys conducted under this clearance will generally be methodological studies. The field testing samples drawn may not be representative of the survey respondent universe because they will be designed to clarify particular issues. Collection may be on the basis of fuel market coverage related to the issues that are the subject of the research, market size of the respondent, position of the respondent in the upstream and/or downstream market for a particular fuel group, and convenience, *e.g.*, limited to specific geographic locations. The sample sizes and designs will be determined at the time of development and will vary based on the content of the information collection or survey being tested.

**Pilot Surveys.** Pilot surveys conducted under this clearance will generally be methodological studies, but will always employ statistically representative samples. The pilot surveys will replicate all components of the methodological design, sampling procedures (where possible) and questionnaires of the full scale survey. Pilots will normally be utilized when EIA undertakes a complete redesign of a particular data collection methodology or when EIA undertakes data collection in new areas, such as greenhouse gases or alternative fueled motor vehicle transportation system studies.

**Respondent Debriefings.** Respondent debriefings conducted under this clearance will generally be methodological or cognitive research studies. The debriefing form is administered after a respondent completes a questionnaire either in paper format, electronically, or through in-person interviews. The debriefings contain probing questions to determine how respondents interpret the survey questions, how much time and effort was spent completing the questionnaire, and whether they have problems in completing the survey/questionnaire. Respondent debriefings also are useful in determining potential issues with data quality and in estimating respondent burden.

**Cognitive Interviews.** Cognitive interviews are typically one-on-one interviews in which the respondent is usually asked to "think aloud" or is asked "retrospective questions" as he or