

Minutes: Minutes will be available at the following website: <https://energy.gov/em/listings/chairs-meetings>.

Signed in Washington, DC on September 8, 2023.

LaTanya Butler,

Deputy Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Proposed Extension

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: EIA invites public comment on the proposed three-year extension, with changes, to the Natural Gas Data Collection Program, OMB Control Number 1905-0175, as required under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The surveys covered by this request include; Form EIA-176, *Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition*; Form EIA-191, *Monthly Underground Natural Gas Storage Report*; Form EIA-191L, *Monthly Liquefied Natural Gas Storage Report*; Form EIA-757, *Natural Gas Processing Plant Survey*; Form EIA-857, *Monthly Report of Natural Gas Purchases and Deliveries to Consumers*; Form EIA-910, *Monthly Natural Gas Marketer Survey*; and Form EIA-912, *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report*. The Natural Gas Data Collection Program provides information on natural gas storage, supply, processing, distribution, consumption, and prices, by sector, within the United States.

DATES: EIA must receive all comments on this proposed information collection no later than November 13, 2023. If you anticipate any difficulties in submitting your comments by the deadline, contact the email address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be sent to: OOG.Surveys@eia.gov with the subject line "Regarding EIA's Natural Gas Data Collection Package 60-Day FRN."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you need additional information, contact Michael Kopalek, U.S. Energy Information Administration, telephone (202) 586-4001, or by email at Michael.Kopalek@eia.gov. The forms

and instructions are available on EIA's website at www.eia.gov/survey/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information collection request contains:

(1) *OMB No.:* 1905-0175.

(2) *Information Collection Request Title:* Natural Gas Data Collection Program.

(3) *Type of Request:* Three-year extension with changes.

(4) *Purpose:* The surveys included in the Natural Gas Data Collection Program collect information on natural gas underground storage, supply, processing, transmission, distribution, consumption by sector, and consumer prices. The data collected supports public policy analyses and produces estimates of the natural gas industry. The statistics generated from these surveys are published on EIA's website, <https://www.eia.gov>, and are used in various EIA information products, including the *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report (WNGSR)*, *Natural Gas Monthly (NGM)*, *Natural Gas Annual (NGA)*, *Monthly Energy Review (MER)*, *Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO)*, and *Annual Energy Outlook (AEO)*.

(4a) *Proposed Changes to Information Collection:*

Form EIA-176, Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition

Form EIA-176 collects data on natural, synthetic, and other supplemental gas supplies, their disposition, and certain revenues by state. During the previous collection package, EIA modified the survey instructions to include Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) producers who inject high-Btu RNG into an interstate pipeline, intra-state pipeline, or natural gas distribution company system. As such, EIA requests an increase in respondent count and burden to accommodate additions of new respondents to the survey frame.

Form EIA-757, Natural Gas Processing Plant Survey

Form EIA-757 collects information on the capacity, status, and operations of natural gas processing plants, and monitors their constraints to natural gas supplies during catastrophic events, such as hurricanes. Schedule A of Form EIA-757 collects baseline operating and capacity information from all respondents on a triennial basis or less frequently. Schedule B is used on an emergency standby basis and is activated during natural disasters or other energy disruptive events. Schedule B collects data from a sample of respondents in the affected areas.

EIA proposes to discontinue collection of Form EIA-757 Schedule A, and burden hours have been adjusted downward accordingly. As part of the Terms of Clearance of the package prior to this, EIA has investigated potential consolidation of the EIA-757 Schedule A survey with another, more frequent natural gas processing plant survey, the EIA-64A Survey (OMB number 1905-0057). As a result of this research, EIA proposes that the EIA-64A Survey will absorb several key data items from the EIA-757 Schedule A Survey in order to reduce overall respondent burden and eliminate duplicative data collection efforts. This resolves the prior Terms of Clearance.

EIA-757 Schedule B, which is a standby survey, is active in instances of a natural disaster or incident resulting in widespread closures of natural gas processing plants. However, since the agency has not elected to activate the survey at any point in the last six years (two clearance cycles), EIA is reducing the requested burden hours by 50% to allow an activation once every three years, rather than twice every three years.

Form EIA-857, Monthly Report of Natural Gas Purchases and Deliveries to Consumers

Form EIA-857 collects data on the quantity and cost of natural gas delivered to distribution systems and the quantity and revenue of natural gas delivered to consumers by end-use sector, on a monthly basis by state. EIA is increasing the requested burden to accommodate increased sample coverage, parallel to the increased scope of the EIA-176, the universe from which this survey's sample is drawn.

Form EIA-912, Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report

Form EIA-912 collects information on weekly inventories of natural gas in underground storage facilities. EIA is slightly decreasing the requested burden to more accurately reflect demonstrated sample sizes over the past six years.

Forms EIA-191, Monthly Underground Natural Gas Storage Report, EIA-191L, Monthly Underground Natural Gas Storage Report, and EIA-910, Monthly Natural Gas Marketer Survey, Have No Changes

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,045;

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:* 15,993;

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 56,776;

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* \$4,959,951

(56,776 burden hours times \$87.36 per hour.)

EIA estimates that respondents will have no additional costs associated with the surveys other than the burden hours and the maintenance of the information during the normal course of business.

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 September 11, 2023.

Samson A. Adeshiyan,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

Amended Record of Decision for the Production of Tritium in Commercial Light Water Reactors

AGENCY: National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Amended record of decision.

SUMMARY: The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy (DOE), is announcing this amendment to the June 22, 2016, Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Production of Tritium in a Commercial Light Water Reactor (CLWR SEIS) (DOE/EIS-0288-S1). NNSA is amending the 2016 decision in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). TVA is considering increasing the number of TPBARs irradiated in their reactors at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant (WBN) using tritium-producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs). NNSA initially decided to implement the CLWR SEIS Preferred Alternative, Alternative 6, which allows

for the irradiation of up to a total of 5,000 TPBARs every 18 months using TVA reactors at both the Watts Bar and Sequoyah sites. Subsequent to the CLWR SEIS, WBN Unit 1 increased tritium production under Unit 1 License Amendment #107 (July 2016) and Unit 2 tritium production was authorized under Unit 2 License Amendment #27 (May 2019). Hence, TVA and NNSA are now opting to choose the previously analyzed CLWR SEIS Alternative 4, which allows for the irradiation of up to a total of 5,000 TPBARs every 18 months at the Watts Bar site using Watts Bar Units 1 and 2.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on NNSA's NEPA process, please contact Mr. James Sanderson, NEPA Compliance Officer, National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of General Counsel, Telephone (202) 586-1402; or by email to jim.sanderson@nnsa.doe.gov. This Amended Record of Decision is available on the internet at <https://energy.gov/nepa>. The 2016 ROD, the CLWR SEIS, and related NEPA documents are available on the DOE NEPA website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/doe-environmental-impact-statements>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NNSA is the lead Federal agency responsible for maintaining and enhancing the safety, security, reliability, and performance of the United States (U.S.) nuclear weapons stockpile. Tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, is an essential component of every weapon in the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile and must be replenished periodically due to its short half-life. In March 1999, DOE published the 1999 EIS, which addressed the production of tritium in the TVA's Watts Bar and Sequoyah nuclear reactors using TPBARs. The 1999 EIS assessed the potential environmental impacts of irradiating up to 3,400 TPBARs per reactor per fuel cycle (a fuel cycle lasts about 18 months). On May 14, 1999, DOE published the ROD for the 1999 EIS (64 FR 26369) in which it announced its decision to enter into an agreement with TVA to irradiate TPBARs in the Watts Bar Unit 1 reactor (Watts Bar 1) in Rhea County, Tennessee, near Spring City; and Sequoyah Units 1 and 2 reactors (Sequoyah 1 and 2) in Hamilton County, Tennessee, near Soddy-Daisy. In 2002, TVA received license amendments from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to irradiate TPBARs in those reactors. (However, TVA's license for the Sequoyah reactors no longer allows for the irradiation of TPBARs.) Since 2003, TVA has been

irradiating TPBARs for NNSA by irradiating TPBARs only in Watts Bar 1. (In 2020, TVA began irradiating TPBARs in Watts Bar 2.) After irradiation, NNSA transports the TPBARs to the Tritium Extraction Facility at the DOE Savannah River Site in South Carolina. NNSA's Interagency Agreement with TVA to irradiate TPBARs is in effect until the earlier of either (a) November 30, 2035, or (b) the date TVA no longer has a pressurized water reactor in operation.

NNSA prepared the 2016 CLWR SEIS to update the environmental analyses in the 1999 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Production of Tritium in a Commercial Light Water Reactor (DOE/EIS-0288; the 1999 EIS). The 2016 CLWR SEIS provides analysis of the potential environmental impacts from TPBAR irradiation based on a conservative estimate of the tritium permeation rate through the TPBAR cladding, NNSA's revised estimate of the maximum number of TPBARs necessary to support the current and projected future tritium supply requirements, and a maximum production scenario of irradiating no more than a total of 5,000 TPBARs every 18 months. NNSA initially decided to implement the Preferred Alternative, Alternative 6, which allows for the irradiation of up to a total of 5,000 TPBARs every 18 months using TVA reactors at both the Watts Bar and Sequoyah sites. Although near-term tritium requirements could likely be met with the irradiation of 2,500 TPBARs every 18 months, at the time, this decision provided the greatest flexibility to meet potential future needs that could arise from various plausible but unexpected events. Subsequent to the 2016 SEIS, WBN Unit 1 increased the irradiation of TPBARs under Unit 1 License Amendment #107 (July 2016) and Unit 2 TPBAR irradiation was authorized under Unit 2 License Amendment #27 (May 2019). Hence, TVA and NNSA are now opting to choose the previously analyzed CLWR SEIS Alternative 4, which allows for the irradiation of up to a total of 5,000 TPBARs every 18 months at the Watts Bar site using Watts Bar 1 and 2. TVA noted new information or circumstances relevant to environmental concerns that could potentially have a bearing on the current proposal or its impacts. This new information was analyzed in a February 6, 2023 TVA memorandum, "Determination of NEPA Adequacy, Production of Tritium in a Commercial Light Water Nuclear Reactor (Watts Bar Nuclear Plant), Tennessee Valley Authority." In this memo, TVA addressed their recent review of the