

**DATES:** Comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be submitted on or before March 11, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, protests, motions to intervene, or requests for more information should be addressed by electronic mail to [Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christina Gomer, (240) 474-2403, [Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The United States Department of Energy (DOE) regulates electricity exports from the United States to foreign countries in accordance with section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA) (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)) and regulations thereunder (10 CFR 205.300 *et seq.*). Sections 301(b) and 402(f) of the DOE Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7151(b) and 7172(f)) transferred this regulatory authority, previously exercised by the now-defunct Federal Power Commission, to DOE.

Section 202(e) of the FPA provides that an entity which seeks to export electricity must obtain an order from DOE authorizing that export (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)). On April 10, 2023, the authority to issue such orders was delegated to the DOE's Grid Deployment Office (GDO) by Delegation Order No. S1-DEL-S3-2023 and Redelegation Order No. S3-DEL-GD1-2023.

On December 28, 2023, the Applicant filed an application with DOE (Application or App.) to transmit electric energy from the United States to Mexico for a term of five-years. App. at 1.

Altop Energy Trading LLC is a Delaware Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business in Houston, Texas. App. at 1. The Applicant is engaged in the trading and marketing of both financial and physical electricity in the wholesale power markets in North America. *Id.* Altop Energy Trading LLC represents that is "solely owned by Altop Energy Investments LP." *Id.* Further, the Applicant states that it has a Market-Based Rate Authorization from FERC. *Id.*

The Applicant states it "has no obligation to serve native load, does not own or operate any electric distribution or transmission facilities, does not own or operate any natural gas distribution or transmission facilities, and does not own or operate any generation assets." App. at 1. The Applicant represents that the "electric power will either be purchased from the bordering wholesale markets of ERCOT or CAISO, or a variety of third parties such as power marketers, independent power

producers, electric utilities, or federal power marketing entities." *Id.* at 2. Altop Energy Trading LLC asserts that its proposed exports would "be surplus to the requirements of the selling entities and the overall electrical system" and "will not impair the reliability of the grid." *Id.*

The existing international transmission facilities to be utilized by the Applicant have been previously authorized by Presidential permits issued pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended, and are appropriate for open access transmission by third parties. *See* App. at Exhibit C.

**Procedural Matters:** Any person desiring to be heard in this proceeding should file a comment or protest to the Application at [Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov). Protests should be filed in accordance with Rule 211 of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC's) Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211). Any person desiring to become a party to this proceeding should file a motion to intervene at [Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov) in accordance with FERC Rule 214 (18 CFR 385.214).

Comments and other filings concerning Altop Energy Trading LLC's Application should be clearly marked with GDO Docket No. EA-505. Additional copies are to be provided directly to Gebre-Egziabher Gebre, Principal, 440 Louisiana Street, Suite 575, Houston, TX 77002, [gebre.gebre@altopenenergy.com](mailto:gebre.gebre@altopenenergy.com).

A final decision will be made on the requested authorization after the environmental impacts have been evaluated pursuant to DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (10 CFR part 1021) and after DOE evaluates whether the proposed action will have an adverse impact on the sufficiency of supply or reliability of the United States electric power supply system.

Copies of this Application will be made available, upon request, by accessing the program website at <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/pending-applications-0> or by emailing [Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Electricity.Exports@hq.doe.gov).

**Signing Authority:** This document of the Department of Energy was signed on January 30, 2024, by Maria Robinson, Director, Grid Deployment Office, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE **Federal Register** Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the

document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC on February 6, 2024.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2024-02674 Filed 2-8-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

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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 extension of the collection of information for the Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities Survey, as required under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The original collection was approved by the Office of Management and Budget on January 26, 2024, under the emergency approval provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

**DATES:** EIA must receive all comments on this proposed information collection no later than April 9, 2024. 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:** Written comments may be sent to Glenn McGrath by email at [Glenn.McGrath@eia.gov](mailto:Glenn.McGrath@eia.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Glenn McGrath, EI-23, U.S. Energy Information Administration, telephone 1-202-586-4325, email [Glenn.McGrath@eia.gov](mailto:Glenn.McGrath@eia.gov). The form and instructions are available at [www.eia.gov/survey/#eia-862](http://www.eia.gov/survey/#eia-862).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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.

This information collection request contains:

(1) *OMB No.*: 1905–0213;

(2) *Information Collection Request Title*: Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities Survey;

(3) *Type of Request*: Three-year extension without change;

(4) *Purpose*: The mining of cryptocurrency is an energy-intensive activity that requires substantial amounts of electricity. Several cryptocurrencies, most notably Bitcoin, use a *proof of work* approach that requires cryptocurrency miners to validate blocks of transactions by solving complex cryptographic puzzles that require significant computational power. Commercial mining facilities typically operate thousands of computers that work to add blocks of virtual currency transactions to a distributed ledger called a blockchain. The computational equipment must be cooled, which further increases the associated electricity consumption. Given its high rate of consumption, companies, organizations and government agencies engaged in the electricity business require detailed information about how much electrical energy is being consumed by cryptocurrency miners and where it is occurring. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has engaged in a rigorous evaluation of U.S. cryptocurrency mining activity using publicly available information. EIA estimates cryptocurrency mining activity demands as much as 2.3% of U.S. electricity consumption. Furthermore, there is evidence that this electricity consumption is growing rapidly. The combined effects of increased cryptocurrency mining and stressed electricity systems create heightened uncertainty in electric power markets, which could contribute to public harm during an unexpected event.

On January 26, 2024, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) granted approval under the emergency approval provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) for EIA to immediately begin collecting monthly information that will inform the public on the impact of recent increases in U.S. commercial cryptocurrency mining activity on both the supply and demand side of the electric power system. The Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities

Survey, Form EIA–862, uses facility-level reporting to provide a baseline snapshot of the cryptocurrency mining companies in the sample and their energy use, quantify the rate of change in cryptocurrency mining activity among the companies and their facilities, identify electricity sources supplying U.S. cryptocurrency mining activity, and identify regions in the U.S. with concentrated cryptocurrency mining activity.

Due to the need to begin collecting this information right away, EIA was unable to allow for the time periods normally required for clearance under the PRA. The approval granted by OMB is through July 31, 2024. This approval allows EIA to conduct the Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities Survey for up to 6 months. EIA now seeks to extend clearance for the survey for an additional three years.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents*: 82;

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses*: 984;

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours*: 492;

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden*: The cost of the burden hours is estimated to be \$42,981 (492 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 maintenance of the information as part of the normal course of business.

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

Signed in Washington, DC, on February 5, 2024.

**Samson A. Adeshiyan,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024–02727 Filed 2–8–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Nuclear Security Administration

#### Minor Construction Threshold Increase

**AGENCY**: National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

**ACTION**: Notice.

**SUMMARY**: This notice is being issued under the authority the *Atomic Energy Defense Act* as amended by the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023*. The Department is adjusting the minor construction threshold to account for

inflation. The threshold is being increased from \$30 million to \$34 million.

**DATES**: The new minor construction threshold is effective on February 9, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**: Mr. Thomas Wilson, Office of Infrastructure, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy. Telephone: (301) 903–2173, or email: *Thomas.Wilson@nnsa.doe.gov*.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023* provides the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) Administrator with pilot authority to adjust the minor construction threshold to account for inflation at any point until December 1, 2025. Under this authority, the Administrator must submit a report to the congressional defense committees describing the method used to calculate the adjustment, wait a period of 30 days, and then publish the adjusted threshold to the **Federal Register** before it can take effect.

NNSA submitted the required report to the congressional defense committees on January 9, 2024. The 30-day waiting period ended on February 8, 2024. The publication of this notice implements the new minor construction threshold of \$34 million.

##### Signing Authority

This document of Department of Energy was signed February 5, 2024, by Jill Hruby, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator, NNSA, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE **Federal Register** Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative Process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on February 6, 2024.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.*

[FR Doc. 2024–02712 Filed 2–8–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**