

and Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, The White House; and Dr. Eric S. Lander, President, Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Proposed Schedule and Agenda: The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) is scheduled to hold a conference call in open session on April 16, 2012, from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. (EST)

During the conference call, PCAST will discuss its Advanced Manufacturing Partnership report. Additional information and the agenda, including any changes that arise, will be posted at the PCAST Web site at:

<http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast>.

Public Comments: It is the policy of the PCAST to accept written public comments of any length, and to accommodate oral public comments, whenever possible. The PCAST expects that public statements presented at its meetings will not be repetitive of previously submitted oral or written statements.

The public comment period for this meeting will take place on April 16, 2012, at a time specified in the meeting agenda posted on the PCAST Web site at <http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast>. This public comment period is designed only for substantive commentary on PCAST's work, not for business marketing purposes.

Oral Comments: To be considered for the public speaker list at the meeting, interested parties should register to speak at <http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast>, no later than 12 p.m. (EST) on April 12, 2012. Phone or email reservations to be considered for the public speaker list will not be accepted. To accommodate as many speakers as possible, the time for public comments will be limited to two (2) minutes per person, with a total public comment period of 15 minutes. If more speakers register than there is space available on the agenda, PCAST will randomly select speakers from among those who applied. Those not selected to present oral comments may always file written comments with the committee, as described below.

Written Comments: Although written comments are accepted until the date of the meeting, written comments should be submitted to PCAST no later than 12 p.m. (EST) on April 12, 2012, so that the comments may be made available to the PCAST members prior to the meeting for their consideration. Information regarding how to submit comments and documents to PCAST is available at

<http://whitehouse.gov/ostp/pcast> in the section entitled "Connect with PCAST."

Please note that because PCAST operates under the provisions of FACA, all public comments and/or presentations will be treated as public documents and will be made available for public inspection, including being posted on the PCAST Web site.

Meeting Accommodations: Individuals requiring special accommodation to access this public meeting should contact Dr. Stine at least ten business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 22, 2012.

LaTanya R. Butler,

Acting Deputy Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-7433 Filed 3-27-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Proposed Agency Information Collection

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

ACTION: Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Information Collection; Notice and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The EIA invites public comment on a proposed collection of information that EIA is developing for submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The EIA is soliciting comments on the proposed reinstatement of the Forms EIA-871A-J, "2012 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey."

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the 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) under Section 3507(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) has been conducted nine times covering the years 1979, 1983 and 1986 under the name of the "Nonresidential Buildings Energy Consumption Survey," and years 1989, 1992, 1995, 1999, 2003, and 2007 under the current name, "Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey." CBECS collects baseline data on energy consumption and expenditures in commercial buildings, and on the energy-related characteristics of those buildings. To obtain this information, interviews are conducted for a sample of commercial buildings representing the 50 States and the District of Columbia. For buildings in the survey, data are collected on the types, amount and cost of energy consumed in the building, how the energy is used, structural characteristics of the buildings, activities conducted inside the buildings that relate to energy use, building ownership and occupancy, energy conservation measures, and energy-using equipment. The information will be collected using computer assisted interviewing for the 2012 CBECS; interviews will be conducted both in-person and by telephone. For those buildings that cannot provide energy consumption data for the building, the data will be obtained in a follow-up survey (historically a mail survey) from the suppliers of electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and/or district heat to the building, after receiving permission from the building owner, manager or tenant. This survey to the energy suppliers is mandatory. The data obtained from the CBECS are available to the public in a variety of EIA electronic tables and reports at <http://www.eia.gov/emeu/cbecs>. Public use files that have been screened to protect the identity of the individual respondents are also available electronically at the above web address. Selected data from the surveys

are also published in the *Annual Energy Review*.

DATES: Comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before May 29, 2012. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed in **ADDRESSES** below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Joelle Michaels. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, submission by email is recommended (joelle.michaels@eia.gov). Comments may also be submitted by mail to Joelle Michaels, Survey Manager, EI-22, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Ms. Michaels may be contacted by telephone at (202) 586-8952.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the forms and instructions should be directed to Ms. Michaels at the contact information given above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This information collection contains:

- (1) OMB No. 1905-0145.
- (2) *Information Collection Request Title:* EIA-871A-J, "Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey".
- (3) *Type of Request:* Reinstatement with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has discontinued.
- (4) *Purpose:* Need for and proposed use of the information: The EIA-871A-J is used to collect data on energy consumption by commercial buildings and the characteristics of these buildings. The surveys fulfill planning, analyses and decision-making needs of DOE, other Federal agencies, State governments, and the private sector. Respondents are owners/managers of selected commercial buildings and their energy suppliers. Response obligations are Voluntary (buildings) and Mandatory (energy suppliers).

This will be a proposed reinstatement of a previously approved collection and three-year clearance request to OMB. The content of the 2012 CBECS will be largely unchanged from the 2007 CBECS. The sampling frame, which was redesigned for the 2003 CBECS, will be updated to account for new construction since 2003.

The EIA proposes the following changes to EIA-871A-J, "Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey":

a. The sample size for the 2012 CBECS will be 50 percent larger relative to the previous CBECS. The increase in sample size will allow for fewer cell suppressions in published tables, better capture of emerging energy phenomena,

lower relative standard errors (RSEs) for key statistics for publishable sample domains, more publishable data for more principal building activities, and more releasable microdata on the public use dataset.

b. Previous CBECS designs have relied on *in-person* personal interviews for data collection. In 2007, field interviewers needed an average of six contacts to complete a building interview; this process can be time-consuming and costly when done in-person. For 2012, certain respondents (large buildings for which contact information is usually available) will be initially contacted by telephone. All respondents will be given the option to complete the interview by phone. The balance of interviews will remain personal interviews.

c. Water usage questions introduced in the 2007 will be revised and remain in the 2012 CBECS. The Office of Wastewater Management within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sponsored questions related to water use on the 2007 CBECS. The water-energy use connections are strong, and there is limited data about how water is actually used in commercial buildings. Getting better information on how water is used by commercial buildings is the first step toward understanding commercial water use and the energy impact of that use. The revisions to the water questions are based on extensive review by EIA on the data that were collected in 2007. The proposed changes will make the interview proceed more smoothly through the water questions and result in cleaner data.

d. Based upon a recommendation from the National Academy of Sciences, approximately 200 buildings will receive an "energy audit." The main objective will be to support a cost and data quality comparison between data collected by field interviewers and professional energy auditors.

e. Based on review of the 2007 CBECS and consultation with data users, refining and reformatting of the Building Questionnaire (Form EIA-871A), Mall Building Questionnaire (EIA-871I) and the Mall Establishment Questionnaire (EIA-871J) is occurring. Some changes have been made already, and more are expected. For the 2012 CBECS questionnaire, wording changes will be made, clarifying definitions will be added, and response categories will be refined. Edits will be added to the survey instrument to help preclude call-backs to respondents.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,142.

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:* 5,142.

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 3,759.

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* \$0. There are no additional costs to respondents associated with the survey other than the costs associated with the burden hours.

Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item (4). The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of comments. Please indicate to which form(s) your comments apply.

General Issues

A. Is the proposed collection 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 to the Request for Information

A. What actions could be taken to help ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information to be collected?

B. Are the instructions and definitions clear and sufficient? If not, which instructions need clarification?

C. Can the information be submitted by the due date?

D. Public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average approximately 55 minutes per interview for the building respondent (Form EIA-871A), 25 minutes per interview for the mall building respondent (Form EIA-871I), 45 minutes per interview for the mall establishment respondent (Form EIA-871A), and approximately 30 minutes per energy supplier response in those cases where the data must be collected from the energy suppliers (Forms EIA-871C-F). The estimated burden includes the total time necessary to provide the requested information. In your opinion, how accurate is this estimate?

E. The agency estimates that the only cost to a respondent is for the time it will take to complete the collection. Will a respondent incur any start-up costs for reporting, or any recurring

annual costs for operation, maintenance, and purchase of services associated with the information collection?

F. 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.

G. 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 of the Information To Be Collected

A. What actions could be taken to help ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information disseminated?

B. Is the information useful at the levels of detail to be collected?

C. For what purpose(s) would the information be used? Be specific.

D. 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 will also become a matter of public record.

Statutory Authority: Section 13(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974, Public Law 93-275, codified at 15 U.S.C. 772(b).

Issued in Washington, DC, March 22, 2012.

Renee Miller,

Acting Director, Office of Survey Development and Statistical Integration, U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 2012-7424 Filed 3-27-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 2216-079]

Notice of Application for Non-Capacity Amendment of License and Soliciting Comments, Motions To Intervene, and Protests: Power Authority of the State of New York

Take notice that the following application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

a. Application Type: Non-Capacity Amendment of License.

b. Project No.: 2216-079.

c. Date Filed: December 15, 2011 and supplemented on February 15, 2012.

d. Applicant: Power Authority of the State of New York.

e. Name of Project: Niagara Power Project.

f. Location: On the Niagara River, in the City of Niagara Falls and the Towns of Niagara and Lewiston in Niagara County, New York.

g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791a-825r.

h. Applicant Contact: Mr. John J. Suloway, Vice President, Licensing, Acquisition and Project Development, New York Power Authority, 123 Main Street, 9th Floor, White Plains, New York 10601, (914) 287-3971.

i. FERC Contact: Jake Tung, (202) 502-8757, email at hong.tung@ferc.gov.

j. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protest: April 4, 2012.

Comments, motions to intervene, and protests may be filed electronically via the Internet. See 18 CFR 385.2001(a)(1)(iii) and the instructions on the Commission's Web site under the "eFiling" link. If unable to be filed electronically, documents may be paper-filed. To paper-file, an original and seven copies should be mailed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE., Washington, DC 20426. For more information on how to submit these types of filings, please go to the Commission's Web site located at <http://www.ferc.gov/filing-comments.asp>.

k. Description of Request: The applicant proposes to rehabilitate the twelve 50-year-old, 20 MW pump-turbine/motor generator units at the Lewiston Pumped Storage Development by: (1) Installing new high efficiency turbine runners, replacing runner seals, replacing or modifying head covers; (2) conducting non-destructive examination and possible rehabilitation and modification of shafts; (3) overhauling the operating mechanism, replacing wicket gates, and inspection and rehabilitation of stay rings; and (4) planning major maintenance for the motor/generators, replacing main transformers and exciters, circuit breakers, unit control boards and governors. The applicant proposed timelines for rehabilitating the 12 turbine units will start in December 2012 for the first unit and complete the last (12th) unit in November 2020. The proposed rehabilitation would increase the turbine hydraulic capacity by approximately 300 cfs per unit and the generating capacity by approximately 2 MW per unit.

l. Locations of the Application: A copy of the application is available for inspection and reproduction at the Commission's Public Reference Room,

located at 888 First Street NE., Room 2A, Washington, DC 20426, or by calling (202) 502-8371. This filing may also be viewed on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or email FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, for TTY, call (202) 502-8659. A copy is also available for inspection and reproduction at the address in item (h) above.

m. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

n. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene: Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

o. Filing and Service of Responsive Documents—All filings must bear in all capital letters the title "COMMENTS", "PROTEST", or "MOTION TO INTERVENE", as applicable, and the Project Number of the particular application to which the filing refers.

p. Agency Comments: Federal, state, and local agencies are invited to file comments on the described application. A copy of the application may be obtained by agencies directly from the Applicant. If an agency does not file comments within the time specified for filing comments, it will be presumed to have no comments. One copy of an agency's comments must also be sent to the Applicant's representatives.

Dated: March 21, 2012.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-7381 Filed 3-27-12; 8:45 am]

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