

DATES: Comments must be filed by November 17, 2003. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Send comments to Ms. Poonum Agrawal. To ensure receipt of the comments by the due date, submission by e-mail to Poonum.Agrawal@eia.doe.gov is recommended. Poonum Agrawal may be contacted by telephone at (202) 586-6048 or facsimile at (202) 586-4420; however, submission by e-mail is the preferred medium for correspondence. The mailing address is: Natural Gas Division (Attn: EIA-913 Comments), EI-44, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please visit http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/natural_gas/survey_forms/nat_proposed_forms.html for additional information or copies of the form and instructions. Requests for this information may also be directed to Poonum Agrawal at the contact information listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

I. Background

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 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 long-term domestic demands.

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 EIA. Any comments received help EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the industry. Based on review of the comments and field test results, EIA will seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under section 3507(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The purpose of Form EIA-913, "Monthly and Annual Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Storage Report," is to collect data on the inventory levels of LNG and operational capacities of active LNG storage facilities in the United States.

Survey respondents would include all operators of facilities that store LNG for baseload, seasonal, and peak demand delivery in the United States, or for delivery to United States customers for these purposes. This includes operators with LNG inventories such as distribution companies, pipeline companies, liquefaction facilities, LNG wholesalers (excluding retailers who sell LNG exclusively for ultimate vehicular fuel use), and marine terminals providing peaking storage services. The survey coverage does not include LNG inventories held by any industrial, residential, commercial, or power generation operations for ultimate consumption. The respondents for Form EIA-913 will comprise operators of approximately 100 LNG storage facilities (the total estimated number of facilities currently active in the United States).

Data would be collected pursuant to the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) Act of 1974, Public Law 93-275. The report will be mandatory under the FEA Act. The data would appear in the EIA publications, *Monthly Energy Review*, *Natural Gas Annual*, and *Natural Gas Monthly*.

This collection is essential to the mission of the DOE in general and EIA in particular. This request for clearance was necessitated by the increasing role of LNG storage as a source of natural gas supply, especially during periods of peak demand, and the subsequent need to monitor its activity for a better understanding of the U.S. natural gas supply and demand balance. Much like the existing EIA underground natural gas storage survey, the new LNG survey is expected to be widely used by industry analysts and Federal and State agencies to monitor gas markets. Recognizing the importance of LNG storage activities to gas market information, DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham requested on June 26, 2003, that EIA plan a new survey of LNG storage activities to collect better information and achieve better market efficiency.

EIA may eventually consider the value of a weekly sample survey of LNG inventories after the monthly survey is operating in a stable manner and if evidence indicates that greater timeliness of data would enhance understanding of the overall natural gas supply situation.

Respondents would be expected to complete the EIA-913 Annual Schedule at the start of the survey and subsequently once a year and whenever a new facility begins operation or a change in operator or storage capacity occurs. The completed EIA-913 Monthly Schedule would be due 20 days after the conclusion of the report month. Data would be submitted by e-mail, facsimile, or the secure file transfer (SFT) system to EIA. Please note that email and facsimile are not secure methods of file transfer. SFT is based on the secure hypertext transfer protocol (HTTPS), an industry standard method to send information over the web using a secure, encrypted process. All information is protected by 128-bit encryption to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of transmitted data.

Data elements for the proposed survey are listed below. Please refer to http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/natural_gas/survey_forms/nat_proposed_forms.html for a copy of the proposed form and instructions.

Monthly Schedule

1. Respondent identification data.
2. Monthly LNG storage data:
 - a. Facility name.
 - b. Facility location.
 - c. LNG storage additions, and Btu heat content of additions.
 - d. LNG withdrawals, and Btu heat content of withdrawals.
 - e. End-of-period LNG inventories, and Btu heat content of inventories.
 - f. Peak day withdrawals.
 - g. Peak day.
3. Comments.

Annual Schedule

1. Respondent identification data.
2. Annual facility characteristics:
 - a. Storage facility name.
 - b. Location.
 - c. Type of operation (distribution company, pipeline company, marine terminal with peaking service, LNG wholesaler, liquefaction facility, other).
 - d. Storage facility capacity.
 - e. Liquefaction capacity.
 - f. Trailer unloading capacity.
 - g. Vaporization capacity.
 - h. Trailer loading capacity.
 - i. Change in capacity.
3. Comments.

EIA is proposing to treat the information collected on Form EIA-913 as confidential in accordance with existing EIA confidentiality provisions. Under these provisions, survey information is treated as confidential and is not publicly released. However, upon request for official uses the information may be shared with another component of the Department of Energy,