

# Form EIA-819M Monthly Oxygenate Report Explanatory Notes

## Background

Beginning November 1992, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required that all gasoline sold in carbon monoxide nonattainment areas have an oxygen content of 2.7 percent (by weight) during wintertime months. Beginning in 1995 further requirements are that only reformulated gasoline having an average oxygen content of 2.0 percent be sold in the nine worst ozone nonattainment areas.

In 1992, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) conducted a frame identifier survey of companies that produce, blend, store, or import oxygenates. The purpose of this survey was to (1) identify all U.S. producers, blenders, storers, and importers of oxygenates; and (2) collect supply, and blending data for January - June, 1992 inventory data on those oxygenates blended into motor gasoline.

## Overview

In order to continue to provide relevant information about U.S. and regional gasoline supply, the EIA has begun an oxygenate data collection program. The Form EIA-819M, "Monthly Oxygenate Telephone Report" collects information on oxygenate production and stocks by Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD's). Data are aggregated and presented on Tables B1-B3 of this appendix as follows:

**Table B1. U.S. Summary Table, Current Month**

**Table B2. Monthly Fuel Ethanol Production and Stocks, by PADD**

**Table B3. Monthly Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) Production and Stocks, by PADD**

All data are displayed in thousand barrels (42 U.S. Gallons per Barrel) or thousand barrels per day.

## Collection Methods

Data for the EIA-819M survey are collected beginning on the fifth working day of each month. Information is solicited by telephone or can be transmitted to the EIA by facsimile. Receipt of the data is monitored using an automated respondent mailing list. Additional follow-up telephone calls are made to nonrespondents prior to the publication deadline.

## Sample Frame

The sample of companies that report on the Form EIA-819M was selected from the universe of companies

that reported on Forms EIA-810, 811 and 812. The universe consisted of (1) operators of facilities that produce (manufacture or distill) oxygenates (including MTBE plants, petrochemical plants, and refineries that produce oxygenates as part of their operations); (2) operators of petroleum refineries; and (3) operators of bulk terminals, bulk stations, blending plants, and other non-refinery facilities that store and/or blend oxygenates.

## Sampling

The sampling procedure used for the survey form EIA-819M is the cut-off method and was performed using software developed by the EIA's Office of Statistical Standards. In the cut-off method, companies are ranked from largest to smallest on the basis of quantities reported (oxygenate production and oxygenate stocks). The frame is updated annually. Companies are chosen for the sample beginning with the largest and adding companies until the total sample covers approximately 90 percent of the total for each oxygenate item and supply type by geographic region (PAD Districts I through V) for which data may be published.

## Frames Maintenance

The Petroleum Division (PD) maintains complete lists of respondents to its monthly surveys. Each survey has a list of companies and facilities required to submit petroleum activity data. This list is known as the survey frame. Frame maintenance procedures are used to monitor the status of petroleum companies and facilities currently contained in each survey frame as well as to identify new members to be added to the frame. As a result, all known petroleum supply organizations falling within the definition of "Who Must Submit" participate in the frames survey.

The activities for frames maintenance are conducted within two time frames: monthly and annually. Monthly frames maintenance procedures for the EIA-819M focus on examining several frequently published industry periodicals that report changes in status (births, deaths, sales, and acquisitions) of petroleum facilities producing, transporting, importing, and/or storing crude oil and petroleum products. These sources are augmented by articles in newspapers, letters from respondents indicating changes in status, and information received from survey systems operated by other offices. Survey managers review these sources to monitor changes in company operations and to develop lists of potential respondents. These activities assure coverage of the reporting universe and maintain accurate facility information on addresses and ownership.

To supplement monthly frames maintenance activities and to provide more comprehensive coverage, the PD conducts an annual frames investigation. This annual evaluation results in the reassessment and recompilation of the complete frame.

## Quality Control and Data Revision

### Quality Control

Survey forms are periodically reviewed for completeness, meaningfulness, and clarity. Modifications are made, when needed, to maintain efficient measure of the intended data items and to track product movement accurately throughout the industry. Through this process, the EIA can maintain consistency among forms, minimize respondent burden, and eliminate ambiguity.

Response error, the difference between the true value and the value reported on the survey form, is the major factor affecting the accuracy of Petroleum Supply Reporting System data. Among the causes of response error are data entry error, error due to misunderstanding of what is to be reported, and error due to the use of preliminary data when final data are not available. Errors can also be introduced during data processing by transcribing the wrong number or putting it in the wrong cell.

To help detect and minimize reporting errors, automated editing procedures are used to check current data for consistency with past data as well as for internal consistency. Flagged data are thoroughly checked before being aggregated into the published total.

The 819M oxygenate data serve as leading indicators of the oxygenate data which are published in the *Petroleum Supply Monthly*. To assess the accuracy of the 819M statistics, data are compared with the monthly aggregate data reported on EIA-810, 811 and 812 surveys.

### Response Rate

The response rate is usually 98 to 100 percent. Chronic nonrespondents and late filing respondents are contacted by telephone or in writing and reminded of their requirement to report. Companies that file late or fail to file are subject to criminal fines, civil penalties, and other sanctions as provided by Section 13(i) of the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) Act.

### Resubmissions

Resubmissions are any changes to the originally submitted data that were either requested by the EIA or initiated by the respondent. If the resubmissions change a published aggregate by more than 5 percent, a revised number accompanied by an "R" is published in the next issue of the *WPSR*. Such revisions occur only rarely.

## Data Imputation and Estimation

In any survey, nonresponse can be a major concern because the effects can cause serious bias in survey results. Nonresponse occurs whenever requested information is not obtained from all units in a survey. The EIA-819M has a very high response rate. Whenever

survey responses are not received in time to be included in published statistics, the data are imputed. Although imputing for missing data may not eliminate the total error associated with nonresponse, it can serve to reduce the error. The data reported in the previous month are used as imputed values for missing data.

After the data files have been edited and corrected, aggregation is done for production and stocks by each geographic region. Estimation factors (universe total divided by sampled total), which are derived from the previous year's data, are applied to each cell to generate a sampling frame total for the current time period.

When new companies come on line during the year, their data cannot be added to the sample since there is no benchmark data for them. In order to portray more accurately total oxygenate activity, these data are included in a certainty strata which is then added to the sampling frame total.

## Confidentiality

The Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice concluded on March 20, 1991, that the Federal Energy Administration Act requires the EIA to provide company-specific data to the Department of Justice, or to any other Federal agency when requested for official use, which may include enforcement of Federal law. The information contained on this form may also be made available, upon request, to another component of the Department of Energy (DOE), to any Committee of Congress, the General Accounting Office, or other Congressional agencies authorized by law to receive such information. A court of competent jurisdiction may obtain this information in response to an order.

The information contained on this form will be kept confidential and not disclosed to the public to the extent that it satisfies the criteria for exemption under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, the DOE regulations, 10 C.F.R. 1004.11, implementing the FOIA, and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905.

Upon receipt of a request for this information under the FOIA, the DOE shall make a final determination whether the information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with the procedures and criteria provided in the regulations. To assist us in the determination, respondents should demonstrate to the DOE that for example, their information contains trade secrets or commercial or financial information whose release would be likely to cause substantial harm to their company's competitive position. A letter accompanying the submission that explains (on an element-by-element basis) the reasons why the information would be likely to cause the respondent substantial competitive harm if released to the public would aid in this determination. A new justification does not need to be provided each time information is submitted on the form, if the company has previously submitted a justification for that information and the justification has not changed.