

Results of 2008 EIA 30th Anniversary Energy Conference Survey¹

Howard Bradsher-Fredrick, Phillip Tseng and Michael Salpeter

EI-70

Howard.Bradsher-Fredrick@eia.doe.gov, 202-586-5674

Statistics and Methods Group

Energy Information Administration

Introduction

On April 7 – 8, 2008, EIA hosted an energy conference to commemorate and celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of its inception. The presenters included the current Secretary of Energy, the first energy secretary, representatives of Congress, former EIA administrators and other notable experts in the field of energy. A total of 1,559 persons registered for the conference and 1,150 persons attended the conference. The conference included both plenary and breakout concurrent sessions. Topical areas included the following: 2008 Annual Energy Outlook, Renewable Portfolio Standards, EIA Program Review, The Future of LNG, Electric Generation Technologies, and the Role of Energy Efficiency and others. Shortly after the conclusion of the conference, a web-based survey was administered to all of the attendees who provided usable e-mail addresses. This paper describes the survey methodology employed, the results and the final conclusions.

Methodology

There were a total of 1,559 registrants for the conference. Of these, 1,150 registrants attended the conference for at least some period of time. Immediately following the conference, the survey was administered to the attendees via e-mail using an initial request to complete the customer survey and two non-response follow-ups. (See Appendix A for a list of the questions.) The survey was web-based allowing for ease of administration and some security protection. The first question on the survey requested the e-mail address of the respondent. This feature enabled only the addressees to complete and submit the questionnaire. This also permitted only one submission per addressee and provided for non-response follow-ups to be sent only to non-respondents. To ensure confidentiality, the e-mail addresses were not stored in association with the responses. This, of course, limited the ability to stratify the data in various ways (e.g., by EIA versus non-EIA respondents). A total of 1,060 workable e-mail addresses of attendees provided the means for query. EIA staff members were surveyed in addition to

¹ This is a working document prepared by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) in order to solicit advice and comment on statistical matters from the American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics. This topic will be discussed at EIA's autumn 2008 meeting with the Committee to be held on October 23-24, 2008.

attendees representing organizations other than EIA. A total of 440 completed questionnaires were received for a response rate of 41.5%. The completed questionnaires received over time are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Response Rate Pattern

Time Elapsed Since 1st Mailing	Cumulative Number of Respondents	Cumulative Percentage
Two Days	257	24.2%
One Week	279	26.3%
Second Mailing	340	32.1%
Two Weeks	357	33.7%
Third Mailing	427	40.3%
Three Weeks	437	41.2%
Final	440	41.5%

Results

In Table 2 the results to the question of the reasons motivating respondents to attend the conference are shown. Respondents could identify more than one reason for their attendance.

**Table 2: Why Respondents Attended
(n = 440)**

Reason	Number	Percentage
Coverage of Topics	333	76%
Interest in Energy Markets	286	65%
Speakers	254	58%
Interest in Energy Data	246	56%
Interest in Energy Modeling	143	33%
Other	54	12%

In Table 3 the results of the overall conference ratings are shown.

**Table 3: Conference Ratings
(n = 440)**

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
Overall Rating	37%	50%	11%	2%	0%
Met Expectations	35%	45%	15%	4%	1%
Topic Relevance	49%	38%	11%	1%	1%
Presentation/Visual Aid Quality	36%	43%	17%	4%	0%
Conference Facilities Quality	49%	39%	9%	3%	0%

These results indicated that respondents were generally very favorable toward the conference.

In Tables 4 and 5 the results of the evaluation of the plenary sessions are shown.

**Table 4: Plenary Session Ratings – Topic Relevance
(n = 440)**

Session	No.	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
Opening Session (incl. Daniel Yergen & Secretary Bodman)	351	47%	36%	14%	2%	1%
The Outlook for Energy and Climate Legislation	334	47%	37%	12%	3%	1%

**Table 5: Plenary Session Ratings – Presentation Quality
(n = 440)**

Session	No.	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
Opening Session (incl. Daniel Yergen and Secretary Bodman)	351	45%	37%	16%	2%	0%
The Outlook for Energy and Climate Legislation	334	37%	38%	20%	4%	1%

In Tables 6 and 7 the results of the evaluation of the breakout sessions are shown.

**Table 6: Breakout Session Ratings – Topic Relevance
(n = 440)**

Session	No.	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
EIA Program Review	143	34%	43%	18%	3%	2%
Growth in Petroleum	188	56%	34%	8%	1%	1%
The Future of LNG	167	53%	36%	8%	2%	1%
Electricity: 30 Years of Industry Change	105	41%	40%	16%	2%	1%
2008 Annual Energy Outlook	142	35%	46%	17%	1%	1%
Peak Oil	224	62%	29%	7%	1%	1%
Petroleum: Rapidly Changing Sector	136	32%	44%	18%	4%	2%
Electric Generation Technologies	140	46%	38%	11%	3%	2%
Renewable Portfolio Standards	114	36%	37%	21%	2%	4%
Ups and Downs of Natural Gas	141	36%	32%	22%	8%	2%
2008 Summer Transportation	126	50%	32%	16%	0%	2%
Role of Energy Efficiency	161	45%	33%	17%	3%	2%
EIA Consumption Survey	100	32%	39%	24%	2%	3%
New Baseload Generation	191	62%	26%	10%	1%	1%
Conversation with EIA Administrators	103	50%	25%	17%	5%	3%
Challenges for Long Term Models	122	41%	39%	16%	2%	2%
Refinery Capacity	116	53%	32%	12%	1%	2%
Energy and Macroeconomy	138	42%	32%	18%	4%	4%

**Table 7: Breakout Session Ratings – Presentation Quality
(n =440)**

Session	No.	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
EIA Program Review	137	26%	45%	23%	5%	1%
Growth in Petroleum	180	41%	41%	16%	2%	0%
The Future of LNG	155	39%	40%	20%	1%	0%
Electricity: 30 Years of Industry Change	93	30%	39%	29%	0%	2%

2008 Annual Energy Outlook	132	23%	43%	30%	4%	0%
Peak Oil	218	42%	42%	14%	2%	0%
Petroleum: Rapidly Changing Sector	128	26%	44%	23%	5%	2%
Electric Generation Technologies	128	25%	44%	26%	3%	2%
Renewable Portfolio Standards	102	26%	36%	28%	6%	4%
Ups and Downs of Natural Gas	131	18%	32%	30%	15%	5%
2008 Summer Transportation	123	41%	39%	17%	2%	1%
Role of Energy Efficiency	146	24%	36%	30%	8%	2%
EIA Consumption Survey	94	21%	35%	29%	10%	5%
New Baseload Generation	184	49%	37%	11%	2%	1%
Conversation with EIA Administrators	95	49%	32%	15%	3%	1%
Challenges for Long Term Models	114	23%	40%	29%	4%	4%
Refinery Capacity	104	36%	35%	19%	5%	5%
Energy and Macroeconomy	133	20%	25%	28%	17%	10%

The responses to the open-ended questions are shown in Tables 8 and 9. Table 8 shows the most frequently occurring comments classified into broad categories.

**Table 8: Open-ended Comments
(n =440)**

Most prevalent comments on conference	No.
Praise	38
Handouts should be available to public	30
Food/Drink/Lunch	27
Topic specific comments	25
Problems with Speakers (not captivating enough, not prepared, rushed, read off of powerpoint slides, etc)	16
Details of sessions not given/did not match the title of session	12

Lighting	10
Problems with visuals	9
Social time to meet other attendees and EIA staff	6
Fewer sessions	6
Not technical enough (too broad or theoretical)	5
More Q&A Time	5

**Table 9: Suggested Topics for Future Conferences
(n = 440)**

Topics for Future Conferences	No.
Oil	11
Wind/Solar/Other Renewable Energy	11
Energy Market/Economics	10
International Energy Coverage	10
Alternative Energy	10
Current Energy Issues	7
Electricity	7
Modeling	7
Biofuels	6
Forecasting	5
Gas	5
Supply/Demand	5

Summary and Conclusions

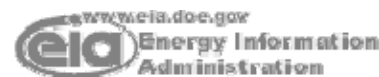
The respondents to the survey evaluated the conference very favorably. A response rate of 41.5% was achieved through three mailings. “Peak Oil” and “New Baseline Generation” were the most popular topics, while “Oil” and “Renewable Energy” topics

were suggested most often for future conferences. Another popular suggestion was that hand-outs should be made available on-line prior to the conference.

Questions for the Committee

- Do you have any comments on the survey questionnaire?
- How often should EIA organize such conferences?

Appendix A: Conference Evaluation Survey



Energy Information Administration

OMB No. 1901-0302
Form Expires: 12/31/2009

2008 EIA Energy Conference 30 Years of Energy Information and Analysis Questionnaire

This voluntary short survey will take about 5 - 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will be protected and used only to evaluate satisfaction with the conference and offer advice on improvements for future EIA conferences.

The purpose of the survey is to get feedback from the conference attendees.

For non-response follow-up purposes only:

Please enter the email address **at which you received this survey**:

1

What influenced your decision to attend our conference? Please check all that apply.

- Speakers
- Coverage of topics
- Interest in energy markets
- Interest in energy modeling

- Interest in energy data
- Other, specify:

2

Indicate your satisfaction with each item using a scale of 1 to 5 where: 1=Poor; 2=Fair; 3=Satisfactory; 4=Good; 5=Excellent.

	Poor	_____			Excellent
Overall rating of the conference	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Met your expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Relevance of the conference topics	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Quality of the presentation and visual aids	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Quality of conference facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

3

Suggestions or comments on the conference:

4

Suggestions for topics for future conferences:

5

Using a scale of 1 to 5 where, 1=Poor; 2=fair; 3=Satisfactory; 4=good; 5=Excellent, rate the following breakout sessions in terms of the relevance and quality of the presentation.

Breakout Sessions	Topic Relevance					Presentation Quality				
	Poor			Excellent		Poor			Excellent	
Plenary Session One	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Plenary Session Two	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
EIA's Program Review and Assessment: Responding to Change	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Growth in Petroleum and Other Liquids Demand in the Developing World	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
The Future of LNG: Growth Spurts or Growing Pains?	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Electricity: 30 Years of Industry Change	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
2008 Annual Energy Outlook and Energy Modeling Challenges	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5

Peak Oil: Has the World's Oil Production Peaked?	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Petroleum: Keeping Pace with a Rapidly Changing Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Electric Generation Technologies: Their Potential Role in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Renewable Portfolio Standards: Cost and Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
The Ups and Downs of Natural Gas Prices	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
2008 Summer Transportation Fuels Outlook	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
The Role of Energy Efficiency in Meeting Future Demand	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Tracking Changes in Energy End Use: EIA's Consumption Surveys	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
New Baseload Generation: Coal or Nuclear?	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

A Conversation with EIA's Administrators	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Challenges for Long- Term Energy Models	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Refinery Capacity: Meeting Future Energy Needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Energy and Macroeconomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

6

Comments on Individual Sessions or Speakers:

Please click the button below to submit your survey responses. Thank you!

