



Proposed Changes to Electricity and Renewable (Photovoltaic) Survey Forms

Form 63B, Annual Photovoltaic Cell/Module Shipments Report

Additions, Frequency, and Frame Change

1. Change the reporting period to monthly
2. Reduce the monthly frame to include only 'large' producers with the intent of capturing at least 90% of peak kilowatts shipped.
3. Survey the entire frame of all known US producers annually with a short version of the form.
4. Ask for current and planned production capacity

Deletions

5. On Schedule 6B, delete shipments by sector and end use questions.
6. On Schedule 4B, delete 'Energy Conversion Efficiency'
7. Delete questions for 'System'.

Electricity form changes by topic

EIA-826: Monthly survey of retail sales and other utility and power marketer data

EIA-860: Annual inventory of electric power generators

EIA-860M: Monthly survey of retiring and new generators November 2015

EIA-861: Long-form version of the annual survey of retail sales and other utility and power marketer data.

EIA-861S: Short-form version of the annual survey of retail sales and other utility data.

EIA-923: Monthly and annual survey of power plant operations

EIA-930: Hourly and daily survey of balancing authority operations

Deletion

EIA-826: Delete questions for 'Advanced Meters'

Addition/Modification

EIA-860: Revise natural gas pipeline question to reflect the company that delivers the gas, perhaps including the pipeline identification as well. Additional testing and research is necessary to determine the specifics of this modification.

Net metering and distributed generation

EIA-826: Add distributed capacity to this monthly collection. Collection of this data will improve EIA's ability to make monthly estimates of generation from distributed capacity.

EIA-860, 861, and 826: Modify the reporting thresholds and other requirements in these surveys to avoid double counting of distributed generating capacity.

Storage

EIA-860 and 923: Collect additional information on utility-scale electricity storage (primarily batteries). EIA is working with Sandia National Laboratory on the selection and definition of data collection elements.

Capacity

EIA-860: Collect the "Reference Unit Power" value for each nuclear generator as of December 31 of the data collection year. EIA is requested to provide this information to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Distributed generation and electricity storage

EIA-861 and 826: Collect the capacity of small-scale storage associated with net metered and non-net metered capacity. We are receiving requests to collect this data.

Net metering and distributed generation

EIA-861: Eliminate dispersed generation from the 861. The amount of capacity is small and the ability of utilities to accurately report this information is unclear.

Reporting requirements

EIA-861S: About 1,100 utilities (out of 3,300 utilities in the U.S.) currently report on the short form. These small utilities are currently required to complete the long form every fifth year to provide updated information for the statistical estimation of uncollected data. The proposal is to extend the time for when the long form needs to be completed to seven or ten years. EIA statisticians are completing a study of this proposal. The work to date indicates that the reporting interval can be extended to seven years and possibly 10 years.

Cooling water

EIA-923: The survey currently collects 12 months of cooling water operating data once a year (Schedule 8D). The proposed change is to collect the data each month rather than annually. The change is expected to be burden neutral or reduce burden as the provision of the data will become routine.

Confidentiality

EIA-923: Remove confidentiality restriction for coal and petroleum stocks held at power plants and related facilities. Stocks data would be released (as is other plant-specific data, such as generation) about seven weeks after the end of the reporting month. It is not clear that stocks data has any competitive value by that time.

EIA-930: Drop limited withholding of small BA data There is no indication to date that the data being reported on this survey is commercially sensitive.

Fuel receipts and costs

EIA-923: Natural gas receipts would no longer be reported by individual contract. Receipts data would be aggregated by pipeline and, for each pipeline, into categories such as firm and interruptible supply. The cost of purchases would be aggregated by the same categories. The object is to collect more useful information and to reduce the reporting burden.

Balancing Authority data

EIA-930: Reduce period for reporting demand on same-day file from 1 hour to 30 minutes This change would be consistent with the observed reporting capabilities of respondents.

EIA-930: Require Balancing Authorities with very large geographic footprints to report at a sub-BA level. This would apply to: MISO, SWPP, PJM, CISO, ERCOT

EIA-930: Report net generation by standard fuel type categories (daily reporting of data for each hour.) Object is to provide current information on the rapidly evolving generation mix.