

**EIA'S Challenges in Achieving Its Mission:
EIA Study Team Reflections and
Recommendations**

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Resource Challenges That EIA Handling Now

- **Continuing public concern about energy supply, demand, prices requires more timely data and analysis**
- **Using internet to**
 - **Deliver services**
 - **Collect data**
- **International dimensions of energy markets**
 - **Potential imports of LNG**
 - **Effects of China, India, other developing countries**
 - **Geopolitical effects**

EIA Has Combined Role

- From 1995-2005, all but one other statistical agency experienced sizable increases ; EIA's budget fell 14%
- BEA/Census – gains of 49% and 137% -- to rebuild data and delivery infrastructures
- EIA hybrid: statistical and policy agency
- EIA FY08 budget less than 40% of combined ag statistics and policy agencies (ERS and NASS) despite key role of energy industry

Providing Timely, Accurate Market Data

- As energy prices have become market-determined, data increasingly important to markets
- At least two EIA series (WNGSR & WPSR) are market-sensitive
- Census, BEA and BLS must take special precautions with data releases; so must EIA
- BEA and Census require independent IT infrastructure; EIA has similar needs

Crucial Challenges Going Forward

- **Meet demand for external analysis (primarily for decision makers)**
- **Maintain intellectual capital via discretionary analysis**
 - Home of historical knowledge and expertise
 - Must attract “best and brightest”
- **Increased need for timely, accurate energy market data in secure data release environment**
- **Balancing data needs vs. policy analysis in a deregulated marketplace with tight budgets**

Findings and Recommendations

- **Resources should be expended to restore EIA's discretionary analysis capability and to accomplish its mission**
- **IT infrastructure should remain separate and be enhanced to meet special needs of statistical agency**
- **Increase interaction with broader energy research community**
- **Undertake to incorporate more external market info into EIA's data, analysis and forecasting products**