

This is a request for extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* Off-Exchange Agricultural Trade Options, OMB Control No. 3038-0048—Extension.

In April 1998, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (Commission or CFTC) removed the prohibition on off-exchange trade options on the enumerated agricultural commodities subject to a number of regulatory conditions. 63 FR 18821 (April 16, 1998). Thereafter, the Commission streamlined the regulatory or paperwork burdens in order to increase the utility of agricultural trade options while maintaining basic customer protections. 64 FR 68011 (Dec. 6, 1999).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for the CFTC's regulations were published on December 30, 1981. See 46 FR 63035 (Dec. 30, 1981). The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on September 26, 2002 (67 FR 60641).

*Burden statement:* The respondent burden for this collection is estimated to average 5.59 hours per response.

*Respondents/Affected Entities:* 360.

*Estimate number of responses:* 411.

*Estimated total annual burden on respondents:* 2,301 hours.

*Frequency of collection:* On occasion.

Send comments regarding the burden estimated or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the addresses listed below. Please refer to OMB Control No. 3038-0048 in any correspondence.

Nancy Yanofsky, Division of Market Oversight, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 1155 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC 20581 and Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, *Attention:* Desk Officer for CFTC, 725 17th Street, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: November 5, 2002.

**Catherine D. Dixon,**

*Assistant Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 02-28580 Filed 11-8-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6351-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

#### Notice of Availability of a Financial Assistance Solicitation for Cooperative Agreement Proposals

**AGENCY:** Chicago Operations Office, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its interest in receiving applications for research and development and demonstration in the area of the Advanced Communications and Controls Program (ACCP). The objective of the solicitation is to demonstrate sensing, communication, information and control technologies to achieve a seamless integration of multi-vendor distributed energy resources (DER) units at aggregation levels that meet individual user requirements for facility operations (residential, commercial, industrial, manufacturing, etc.) and further serve as resource options for electric and natural gas utilities.

**DATES:** Solicitation Number DE-SC02-03CH11139 and any amendments will be available on DOE's "Industry Interactive Procurement System" (IIPS) Web page located at <http://e-center.doe.gov> on or about November 22, 2002. All applications must have an IIPS transmission time stamp of not later than 11:59 A.M. Eastern Time on the date specified in the solicitation, which is expected to be on or about January 31, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Prospective applicants are advised to check the above Internet address on a daily basis. All applications must be submitted through IIPS in accordance with the instructions provided in the solicitation and the IIPS User Guide, which can be obtained by going to the IIPS Secured Services site at <http://e-center.doe.gov> under the "HELP" section of the Web site. Applicants must register in IIPS prior to submitting an application. Only registered users will have the capability to transmit their applications in a responsive manner. Applicants are strongly encouraged to register with IIPS as soon as possible prior to the application deadline. If you need technical assistance in registering or for any other IIPS function, call the IIPS Help Desk at (800) 683-0751 or E-mail the Help Desk personnel at [IIPSHelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov](mailto:IIPSHelpDesk@e-center.doe.gov). The solicitation will only be made available in IIPS, no hard (paper) copies of the

solicitation and related documents will be made available. All applications must have an IIPS transmission time stamp of not later than 11:59 A.M. Eastern Time on the date specified in the solicitation, which is expected to be on or about January 31, 2003. Applicants are advised to begin transmission 24 hours in advance of the deadline in order to prevent any transmission difficulties. The solicitation and any subsequent amendments will be published on the above mentioned Internet address.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristin E. Palmer, (630) 252-2708.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The scope of work for this cooperative research and development and demonstration solicitation will be in two phases. This solicitation will be for Phase I applications only, but will describe some aspects of possible Phase II awards as reference information. It is DOE's intent to evaluate submitted designs and business plans in Phase I, and support the further testing of only the most promising approaches in Phase II. Phase I activities involve the design and the proof-of-design stage and Phase II involves the demonstration of the Phase I design architecture to a large scale in real-world settings while integrating with the operations of one or more feeder lines. The duration of the Phase I project is estimated to be six months, with the entire project's scope of work—for Phase I and Phase II combined—to be completed within 2.5 years. DOE expects to award about four to six cooperative agreements under this solicitation for Phase I. It is anticipated that two or three of the Phase I applicants will proceed to Phase II. Only Phase I awardees will be eligible for consideration for Phase II. Estimated total DOE funding for Phase I is \$1.2M. Subject to the availability of funds, the estimated total of any future DOE funding for Phase II is \$1.8M. A minimum non-federal cost sharing commitment of 20% of the total proposed costs for Phase I is required. A minimum non-federal cost sharing commitment of 50% of the total proposed costs for Phase II is required.

The purpose of this solicitation is to invite interested parties to submit an application for cost-shared cooperative agreements with the Department of Energy (DOE) for research and development and demonstration for integrated communication and control solutions that would enable interoperable and integrated operation of large numbers of distributed energy resources from varying suppliers to achieve optimization in power quality,

power reliability and economic performance. The fully demonstrated DER aggregation system with embodiment of communication and control technologies will lead to real-time, interactive customer-managed service networks to achieve greater customer value. Any for-profit or non-profit organization or other institution of higher education, or non-federal agency or entity is eligible to apply, unless otherwise restricted by the Simpson-Craig Amendment. Integrated project teams that include electric utilities (investor-owned, municipal, cooperative), energy service companies, DER suppliers, information technology providers and customers who will use the aggregated DER system are highly encouraged. Collaborations with state energy agencies, national laboratories and universities are also encouraged. DOE National Laboratory participation as a subcontractor to an awardee under this solicitation is limited to no more than 20% of the total cost of all tasks to be performed. The solicitation when issued will include a narrative scope of work, program requirements, qualification criteria, evaluation criteria, and other information. Specific response instructions and deadlines will be included in the solicitation package.

Issued in Argonne, Illinois on October 24, 2002.

**John D. Greenwood,**

*Assistant Manager for Acquisition and Assistance.*

[FR Doc. 02-28653 Filed 11-8-02; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### **Policy Statement; Energy Information Administration Policy for Revisions to the Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report**

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration (EIA), Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Policy statement. Energy Information Administration policy for revisions to the Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report.

**SUMMARY:** The EIA has established a policy for revisions to weekly estimates of working gas volumes held in underground storage facilities at the national and regional levels disseminated in EIA's Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report (WNGSR). Under this policy, revisions shall be disseminated in the WNGSR according to the established schedule and shall occur when the effect of reported

changes is at least 7 billion cubic feet (Bcf) at either a regional or national level. Revisions shall not be disseminated outside the established schedule. EIA is deferring temporarily further updates in estimation parameters, and is exploring ways to minimize revisions, including analysis of the sensitivity of the estimates to parameter changes. EIA will continue with the current estimation parameters and will report revisions as a result of respondent changes only, until further change is announced in the Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report.

**DATES:** This policy becomes effective on November 12, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests for additional information or questions about this policy should be directed to William Trapmann. Mr. Trapmann may be contacted by telephone ((202) 586-6408), fax ((202) 586-4220), or e-mail ([William.Trapmann@eia.doe.gov](mailto:William.Trapmann@eia.doe.gov)). These methods are recommended to expedite contact. His mailing address is Energy Information Administration, EI-44, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The WNGSR is available on EIA's Internet site at <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngs/ngs.html>. The survey Form EIA-912 and instructions used to collect information for the WNGSR are available at [http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/survey\\_forms/nat\\_survey\\_forms.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/natural_gas/survey_forms/nat_survey_forms.html).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

- I. Background
- II. Discussion of Comments
- III. Current Actions

#### **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. No. 95-91, 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*) require the 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 longer term domestic demands.

EIA's Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report (WNGSR) provides weekly estimates of working gas volumes held in underground storage facilities at the national and regional levels. The WNGSR became a new EIA information product in 2002 replacing an American Gas Association (AGA) report begun in

1994 and discontinued in 2002. WNGSR users include policymakers, commodity and financial market analysts, and industry experts. EIA uses the data to prepare analytical products assessing storage operations and the impact on supplies available, and to analyze relationships between demand, heating-degree-days, and inventory levels.

The WNGSR is based on information collected on Form EIA-912, "Weekly Underground Gas Storage Report." Form EIA-912 respondents provide estimates for working gas in storage as of 9 a.m. Friday each week. The deadline for submitting reports to the EIA is 5 p.m. Eastern Time the following Monday, except when Monday is a Federal holiday. In that case, forms should be submitted by 5 p.m. on Tuesday. The WNGSR is released on Thursday between 10:30 and 10:40 a.m. Eastern Time on EIA's Web site (<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngs/ngs.html>), except when Thursday is a Federal holiday. Notification of changes in this general schedule is maintained on the EIA Web site at <http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngs/schedule.html>.

The EIA provides the public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by EIA. As appropriate, EIA also requests comments on important issues relevant to EIA dissemination of energy information. Comments received help the EIA when preparing information collections and information products necessary to EIA's mission.

On July 11, 2002, EIA issued a **Federal Register** notice (67 FR 45963) requesting public comments on a proposed policy for revisions to information disseminated in the WNGSR. In that notice, EIA discussed the reasons for WNGSR revisions as well as a proposed policy for both scheduled (*i.e.*, the revised information is disseminated in the next scheduled WNGSR) and unscheduled revisions (*i.e.*, the revisions are of such magnitude and interest that revised WNGSR information would be disseminated prior to the next scheduled WNGSR).

#### **II. Discussion of Comments**

In response to the **Federal Register** notice requesting comments on the proposed WNGSR revision policy, EIA received 28 sets of comments. Most of the comments were from energy firms and trade groups.

The comments tended to focus on the following general issues for which EIA specifically requested a response:

- Whether EIA should release revised estimates in the Weekly Natural Gas