

Preliminary Environmental Analysis

The following issues have been tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS. This list is neither intended to be all inclusive nor is it a predetermination of potential environmental impacts. The list is presented to facilitate comments on the scope of the EIS. Additions to or deletions from this list may occur as a result of the public scoping process.

- Health and Safety: potential public and occupational consequences from construction, routine operation, transportation, and credible accident scenarios.
- Waste Management/Pollution Prevention: types of wastes expected to be generated, handled, and stored; pollution prevention opportunities and the potential consequences to public safety and the environment.
- Hazardous Materials: handling, storage, and use; both present and future.
- Background Radiation: cosmic, rock, soil, water, and air and the potential addition of radiation.
- Water Resources: surface and groundwater hydrology, water use and quality, and the potential for degradation.
- Air Quality: meteorological conditions, ambient background, sources, and potential for degradation.
- Earth Resources: physiography, topography, geology, and soil characteristics.
- Land Use: plans, policies, and controls.
- Noise: ambient, sources, and sensitive receptors.
- Ecological Resources: wetlands, aquatic, terrestrial, economically/recreationally important species, and threatened and endangered species.
- Socioeconomic: demography, economic base, labor pool, housing, transportation, utilities, public services/facilities, education, recreation, and cultural resources.
- Natural Disasters: floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and seismic events.
- Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.
- Natural and Depletable Resources: requirements and conservation potential.
- Environmental Justice: any potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low income populations.

Scoping Meetings

The purpose of this Notice is to encourage public involvement in the EIS process and to solicit public comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS. DOE will hold public

scoping meetings near ORNL, INEEL, and Hanford to solicit both oral and written comments from interested parties. The date, time, and location will be announced through the local media as soon as determined but at least 15 days prior to the date of the meetings.

In order to facilitate an understanding of the program's objectives, DOE personnel will be available at the scoping meetings to explain the program to the public and answer questions. DOE will designate a facilitator for the scoping meetings. At the opening of each meeting, the facilitator will establish the order of speakers and will announce any additional procedures necessary for conducting the meetings. To ensure that all persons wishing to make a presentation are given the opportunity, each speaker may be limited to five minutes, except for public officials and representatives of groups, who will be allotted ten minutes each. DOE encourages those providing oral comments to also submit them in writing. Comment cards will also be available for those who prefer to submit their comments in written form. Speakers may be asked clarifying questions, but the scoping meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings.

A toll free telephone number has been established to receive public comments. Interested parties may call (800) 708-2680 and leave a detailed message with their comments.

DOE will make transcripts of the scoping meetings and project-related materials available for public review in the following reading rooms:

U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, Telephone: (202) 586-3142

Oak Ridge Operations Office, DOE Oak Ridge Public Reading Room, U.S. Department of Energy, 200 Administration Road, Room G-217, P.O. Box 2001, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, Telephone: (423) 576-1216 or (423) 241-4780

Richland Operations Office, DOE Public Reading Room, 2770 University Drive CIC, Room 101L, P.O. Box 999, mail stop H2-53, Richland, WA 99352, Telephone: (509) 372-7443

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, DOE-Idaho Operations Office Public Reading Room, 1776 Science Center Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83415, Telephone: (208) 526-0271

NEPA Process

The EIS for the proposed Production of Plutonium-238 for Use in Advanced Radioisotope Power Systems for Space Missions will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and DOE's NEPA Regulations (10 CFR Part 1021).

A 45-day comment period on the draft EIS is planned, and public hearings to receive comments will be held approximately 3 weeks after distribution of the draft EIS. The draft EIS is expected to be issued during Spring 1999. Availability of the draft EIS, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public hearings will be announced in the **Federal Register** and in the local news media when the draft EIS is distributed.

The final EIS, which will consider the public comments received on the draft EIS, is expected to be published during Fall 1999. No sooner than 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the final EIS is published in the **Federal Register**, DOE will issue its Record of Decision and publish it in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, D.C., this 29th day of September 1998.

Peter N. Brush,

Acting Assistant Secretary Environment, Safety and Health.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

RIN 1904-AA67

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), the Office of Codes and Standards (OCS) in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed information collection. OCS is soliciting

comments concerning the collecting of consumer data to determine the value consumers place on clothes washer attributes, such as cycle options, door placement, temperature options, etc. The information collection request describes the nature of the information collection and the expected burden and cost.

DATES: Consideration will be given to comments submitted by December 4, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted to: Department of Energy, Attn: Bryan Berringer, Office of Codes and Standards (EE-43), 1J-018/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Berringer, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE-431, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-0371, E-mail: Bryan.Berringer@HQ.DOE.GOV

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Collection title: Proposed Clothes Washer Consumer Impact Analysis.

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: N/A.

Abstract: OCS is collecting consumer data to determine the value consumers place on clothes washer attributes, such as cycle options, door placement, temperature options, etc. Legislation requires that "the Secretary consider, among other factors, * * * if any lessening of the utility or performance of the products is likely to result from the imposition of the standard," (42 U.S.C. 6295(o)(2)(B)(I)(IV)). OCS will analyze the data to determine if the new efficiency standard negatively impacts any of the attributes highly valued by consumers.

OCS will hire a marketing research firm that will collect clothes washer consumer data in a two-phase process. In the first phase, the research firm will interview 10 focus groups comprised of 8-10 individuals (sample of 100 respondents) to be held at five different geographic sites in the United States (the exact sites for holding the focus groups has yet to be determined). The focus groups will refine the initial list of 32 clothes washer attributes that were developed by OCS with input from manufacturers, trade groups, and other stakeholders. The goal is to refine the initial list to 8-12 attributes for use in a conjoint analysis survey that will be given to a representative sample of 500 respondents at five sites in the United States (sites-to-be-determined). Conjoint analysis is a method that permits OCS

to identify the value a respondent places on a particular attribute of a clothes washer. This utility analysis is accomplished through a trade-off procedure in which the respondents are asked to give up various attribute levels to achieve other attribute levels. The attributes data are collected through personal interviews with the respondents interacting with a pre-programmed microcomputer. A company that specializes in conjoint analysis will be hired to complete the survey and provide a report to OCS summarizing the findings. Survey respondents will be obtained through intercepts in shopping malls.

Current Actions: OCS is proposing a new information collection and is requesting comment on the proposal.

Type of request: Approval of new collection.

Type of respondents: Individuals or households.

Estimated number of respondents: 600.

Estimated burden hours per respondent: 2 hours.

Frequency of response: 1.

Estimated total reporting burden: 1,200 hours.

Estimate cost burden to respondents: No monetary burden.

Request for comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of OCS; (2) proposed method for determining the value consumers place on clothes washer attributes; and (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 29, 1998.

Dan W. Reicher,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Modification; Comment Request

AGENCY: Energy Information Administration, DOE.

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: Proposed modification; Comment request.

SUMMARY: The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed modification of the criteria used to select those companies that must file Form EIA-28, the "Financial Reporting System."

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before December 4, 1998. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below of your intention to do so as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Gregory P. Filas, Energy Information Administration, EI-62, Financial Analysis Team, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-1347; e-mail greg.filas@eia.doe.gov; FAX (202) 586-9753.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Mr. Filas at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Current Actions
- III. Request for Comments

I. Background

In order to fulfill its responsibilities under the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. 95-91), the Energy Information Administration (EIA) is obliged to carry out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program. As part of this program, EIA collects, evaluates, assembles, analyzes, and disseminates data and information related to energy resource reserves, production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information relevant to the adequacy of energy resources to meet demands in the near and longer term future for the Nation's economic and social needs.

The EIA, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden (required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, title 44, U.S.C. Chapter 35), conducts a presurvey consultation program to provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing reporting forms. This program helps EIA to prepare data