

to enable assessments of mitigation options to prevent such a change. The program is comprehensive with an emphasis on understanding and simulating the radiation balance from the surface of the Earth to the top of the atmosphere (including the effect of clouds, water vapor, trace gases, and aerosols), on enhancing the quantitative models necessary to predict possible climate change at global and regional scales, and on understanding ecological effects of climate change. The carbon sequestration research seeks the understanding necessary to exploit the biosphere's natural carbon cycling processes to enhance the sequestration of carbon dioxide in terrestrial systems and the ocean, and to understand its potential environmental implications. The program includes research that can lead to the development of approaches to reduce or overcome the environmental and biological factors or processes that limit the sequestration of carbon in these systems to enhance the net sequestration of carbon. The research includes studies on terrestrial and ocean carbon sequestration and disposal, including research to modify the carbon sequestration capacity and rate by marine and terrestrial organisms and to understand the potential environmental implications.

Program Contact: (301) 903-3281.

6. Energy Research Analyses

This program supports energy research analyses of the Department's basic and applied research activities. Specific objectives include assessments to identify any duplication or gaps in scientific research activities, and impartial and independent evaluations of scientific and technical research efforts. Consistent with these overall objectives, this program conducts numerous research studies to assess directions in science and to identify and assess new and improved approaches to science management.

Program Contact: (202) 586-9942.

7. Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

The objective of the EPSCoR program is to enhance the capabilities of EPSCoR states to conduct nationally competitive energy-related research and to develop science and engineering manpower to meet current and future needs in energy-related fields. This program addresses basic research needs across all of the Department of Energy research interests. Research supported by the EPSCoR program is concerned with the same broad research areas addressed by the Office of Science programs that are described in this notice. The EPSCoR

program is restricted to applications, which originate in twenty-one states (Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming) and the commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It is anticipated that only a limited number of new competitive research grants will be awarded under this program subject to the availability of funds.

Program Contact: (301) 903-3427.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 10, 2002.

John Rodney Clark,

Associate Director of Science for Resource Management.

[FR Doc. 02-26397 Filed 10-16-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-03-U

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Voluntary Reporting Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Program

AGENCY: Office of Policy and International Affairs, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of public workshops.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (We, DOE, or the Department) will hold four public workshops to enable interested persons to discuss and provide comments on possible improvements to the guidelines that now govern the Department of Energy's Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. These workshops are intended to assist DOE and other participating agencies in their efforts to enhance the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and emission reductions, as directed by the President on February 14, 2002. Each of the four workshops are expected to address the full range of issues related to the Department of Energy's Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting (1605b) Program.

DATES: The Department will hold four public workshops, as follows: Washington DC, November 18-19, 2002. Chicago, December 5-6, 2002. San Francisco, December 9-10, 2002. Houston, December 12-13, 2002.

At least three weeks before each workshop, all persons who plan to attend are requested to register with the Department through the following website: <http://www.pi.energy.gov/enhancingGHGregistry/index.html>. After these workshops, the Department will continue to accept comments, data, and information regarding the issues

addressed at the workshops, but such information must be received by no later than Friday, December 20, 2002, in order to ensure full consideration during the Department's development of revised program guidelines, which are expected to be formally proposed early in 2003.

ADDRESSES: The workshops will be held at the following locations:

Washington DC, Hilton Crystal City at National Airport, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

Chicago, Donald E. Stephens

Convention Center, Hotel Sofitel

Chicago O'Hare, 5555 and 5550 North River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018.

San Francisco, Best Western Grosvenor Hotel, 380 South Airport Boulevard So., San Francisco, CA 94080.

Houston, Houston Airport Marriott, 18700 John Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032.

Persons interested in registering for any of these four workshops or in obtaining more information about DOE's efforts to improve the existing Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program should visit the following website:

<http://www.pi.energy.gov/enhancingGHGregistry/index.html>.

Inquiries regarding these workshops may be e-mailed to

1605b.workshops@hq.doe.gov.

Hardcopy inquiries regarding these workshops may also be mailed to Mark Friedrichs, PT-20 Office of Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20585-0121.

[**Note:** due to precautionary screening of mail to Federal offices, some delays should be expected.] Any follow-up comments or other relevant information should be e-mailed to

ghgregistry.comments@hq.doe.gov.

The website will be used to make available draft and final workshop agendas, information on lodging, any background papers that are made available before the workshops, transcripts of each workshop, and comments or other information submitted after the workshops. For persons without ready access to the internet, this website can be viewed at the Freedom of Information Reading Room (Room 1E-190) at the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Friedrichs, PI-20, Office of Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW.,

Washington, DC 20585-0121, e-mail: 1605b.workshops@hq.doe.gov or phone 202-481-8550.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE's existing Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program was mandated by section 1605(b) of Energy Policy Act of 1992. The current program operates under guidelines issued by the Department on October 19, 1994 (59 FR 52769). These guidelines give program participants considerable flexibility. As a consequence of this flexibility, the reports of greenhouse gas emissions or emissions reductions submitted to DOE are often not consistent, complete or verifiable.

On February 14, 2002, the President:

Directed the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to propose improvements of the current voluntary emissions reduction registration program under section 1605(b) of the 1992 Energy Policy Act within 120 days. These improvements will enhance measurement accuracy, reliability, and verifiability, working with and taking into account emerging domestic and international approaches.

Directed the Secretary of Energy to recommend reforms to ensure that businesses and individuals that register reductions are not penalized under a future climate policy and to give transferable credits to companies that can show real emissions reductions.

To achieve these objectives it will be necessary to supplement or supplant the existing guidelines with new, more rigorous reporting requirements.

On May 6, 2002, the Department of Energy solicited public comments on various issues relevant to its efforts to implement the President's directives.

After consideration of these public comments, the Secretaries of Energy, Commerce and Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency wrote the President on July 8, 2002, stating that improvements to the existing Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program should:

1. Develop fair, objective, and practical methods for reporting baselines, reporting boundaries, calculating real results, and awarding transferable credits for actions that lead to real reductions.

2. Standardize widely accepted, transparent accounting methods.

3. Support independent verification of registry reports.

4. Encourage reporters to report greenhouse gas intensity (emissions per unit of output) as well as emissions or emissions reductions.

5. Encourage corporate or entity-wide reporting.

6. Provide credits for actions to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as well as for actions to reduce emissions.

7. Develop a process for evaluating the extent to which past reductions may qualify for credits.

8. Assure the voluntary reporting program is an effective tool for reaching the 18 percent goal.

9. Factor in international strategies as well as State-level efforts.

10. Minimize transactions costs for reporters and administrative costs for the Government, where possible, without compromising the foregoing recommendations.

These workshops are intended to help us determine the specific improvements that should be made to the Department's guidelines by encouraging open dialogue among all of the utilities, businesses, institutions, environmental groups, individuals and other affected interests. Through these workshops, we hope to receive as much constructive input to this process as possible.

The Presidential directives that began our review of the existing program guidelines, and the objectives identified in the July 8 letter to the President, are the starting point of our current efforts. Most of the issues that need to be addressed and resolved as part of this process fall into two broad categories: Emission Reporting and Emission Reductions. In both areas, we will be endeavoring to develop more rigorous guidelines that will help encourage future reports that are reliable, objective and verifiable. Another key objective is that the guidelines should encourage full reporting by the broadest possible spectrum of utilities, businesses and institutions responsible for greenhouse gas emissions.

A full agenda and various other materials will be made available prior to the workshop at: <http://www.pi.energy.gov/enhancingGHGregistry/index.html>.

Issued in Washington, DC on 10 October, 2002.

Barton W. Marcois,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 02-26396 Filed 10-16-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Open Meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics, a utilized Federal Advisory Committee. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Thursday, October 24, 2002, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday, October 25, 2002, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon.

ADDRESSES: U. S. Department of Energy, Room 8E-089, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William I. Weinig, EI-70, Committee Liaison, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: (202) 287-1709. Alternately, Mr. Weinig may be contacted by e-mail at william.weinig@eia.doe.gov or by FAX at (202) 287-1705.

Purpose of Committee: To advise the Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (EIA), on EIA technical statistical issues and to enable the EIA to benefit from the Committee's expertise concerning other energy-related statistical matters.

Tentative Agenda

Thursday, October 24, 2002

- A. Opening Remarks by the ASA Committee Chair, the EIA Administrator and the Director, Statistics and Methods Group, EIA. Room 8E-089
- B. Major Topics (Room 8E-089 unless otherwise noted)
 1. Update on Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey.
 2. Completion of EIA's System for the Analysis of Global Energy Markets.
 3. Information Quality Guidelines Completed: What's Next?
 4. Natural Gas Data Program Updates.
 5. Using Data from Combined Heat and Power Plants to Estimate Natural Gas Industrial Prices.
 6. Managing Risk in Energy Markets (Room 5E-069).
 7. Public Questions and Comments.
 8. State Level Coal Forecasting.
 9. Estimating Monthly Data for Non-Utility Generation and Fuel Consumption from Annual and Monthly Time Series (Room 5E-069).
 10. Estimating and Presenting Power Sector Fuel Use in EIA Publications and Analyses.
 11. Public Questions and Comments.

Friday, October 25, 2002, Room 8E-089

- C. Major Topics
 1. EIA's Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program.
 2. Organization and Delivery of Energy Information in Spatially Referenced Form.