

Dated: January 11, 2001.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Interim Payment Requests

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Director of Defense Procurement, in conjunction with the National Contract Management Association, is sponsoring a public meeting to discuss issues and impacts related to a proposed requirement that contractors relate billed costs in interim payment requests under cost-reimbursement contracts to specific contract line items. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has proposed this requirement as a part of their Concept of Operations for the DoD's new payment systems, the DFAS Corporate Database and the Defense Procurement Payment System. Currently, unless the contract specifies otherwise, contractors need not identify specific contract line items being billed in interim payment requests. Typically, when not identified, DFAS prorates the billed costs against all contract line items.

The Director of Defense Procurement would like to hear the views of interested parties on what they believe to be the key issues and impacts pertaining to this proposed new requirement and any potential alternatives. In particular, we are interested in the views of specialists in the areas of cost accounting, billing, and the supporting computer systems.

DATES: The public meeting will be conducted at the address shown below on February 22, 2001, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., local time.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be conducted at the National Contract Management Association, 1912 Woodford Road, Vienna, VA 22182.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Bemben, Office of Cost, Pricing, and Finance, by telephone at (703) 693-0196; by FAX at (703) 693-9616; or by e-mail at robert.bemben@osd.mil.

Michele P. Peterson,

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Energy Information Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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

ACTION: Agency information collection activities: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The EIA is soliciting comments on the proposed new surveys, EIA-911A-C (Supplement), "Biweekly Surveys to Assess Effects of Interruptions of Natural Gas Supplies in the Northeast United States."

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before April 9, 2001. If you anticipate difficulty in submitting comments within that period, contact the person listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to William Trapmann, (EI-44), ATTN: Form EIA-911, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585. Alternatively, Mr. Trapmann may be reached by telephone at 202-586-6408, by FAX at 202-586-4420 or by e-mail at william.trapmann@eia.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or a copy of the forms and instructions should be directed to Mr. Trapmann at the address listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

I. Background

The Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (FEA Act) (Pub. L. 93-275, 15 U.S.C. 761 *et seq.*) and the DOE Organization Act (Pub. L. 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. To carry out this program, section 13(b) of the FEA Act (15 U.S.C. 772(b)) states that "All persons owning or operating facilities or business premises who are engaged in any phase of energy supply or major energy consumption shall make available to the (Administrator) such information and periodic reports, records, documents, and other data,

relating to the purposes of this Act,
* * *

Under the authorities granted, EIA conducts mandatory surveys of companies involved in energy supply and consumption. EIA's current surveys of energy suppliers include monthly surveys of petroleum product resellers and retailers, electric power supply and marketing companies, and natural gas supply companies. Collecting information from all types of energy supply companies provides EIA with information used to accurately estimate energy prices and quantities. Users of EIA's information include analysts in Federal, State, and local governments, as well as analysts in energy trade associations, energy companies, the media, consultants, and other private organizations.

The EIA, as part of its effort to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), provides the general public and other Federal agencies with opportunities to comment on collections of energy information conducted by or in conjunction with the EIA. Any comments received help the EIA to prepare data requests that maximize the utility of the information collected, and to assess the impact of collection requirements on the public. Also, the EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of the collections under section 3507(a) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

In order to assess the interactions of the natural gas and distillate energy markets in the Northeast during the winter 2000/2001 heating season and to answer questions on the effects that "fuel-switching" customers (i.e., those that switch between natural gas and distillate) have on demand and market prices, EIA needs to collect information that is currently not available. An emergency clearance request was submitted to OMB on December 26, 2000, requesting OMB approval by January 3, 2001, to use the following three surveys to obtain biweekly data for the seven-week period, January 1, 2001, through April 8, 2001. OMB approved this request on January 8, 2001. In order for EIA to analyze data for the entire winter 2000/2001 heating season, EIA needs similar data for the October through December 2000 period.

- Form EIA-911A (Supplement), "Biweekly Gas Supplier Survey" EIA will collect information on a biweekly basis from a sample of natural gas suppliers in the Northeast regarding deliveries and interruptions of service for the October through December 2000 period. For each two-week period, data