

Property, U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 6F-067, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585; Telephone: (202) 586-4792.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 35 U.S.C. 209(c) provides the Department with authority to grant exclusive licenses in Department-owned inventions, where a determination can be made, among other things, that the desired practical application of an invention has not been achieved, or is not likely expeditiously to be achieved, under a nonexclusive license. The statute and implementing regulations (37 CFR part 404) require that the necessary determinations be made after public notice and opportunity for filing written objections.

Remote Tools, Inc., of New Ellenton, South Carolina, has applied for exclusive licenses to practice the inventions embodied in U.S. Patent No. 5,398,560, entitled "Apparatus for Inspecting Piping" and U.S. Patent No. 5,433,236, entitled "Apparatus for Moving a Pipe Inspection Probe through Piping," and has plans for commercialization of the inventions.

Any exclusive license will be subject to a license and other rights retained by the U.S. Government, and other terms and conditions to be negotiated. DOE intends to grant the request, upon a final determination in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 209(c), unless, within 60 days of this notice, the Assistant General Counsel for Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property, Department of Energy, Washington, D.C. 20585, receives in writing any of the following, together with supporting documents.

(i) A statement from any person setting forth reasons why it would not be in the best interests of the United States to grant the proposed license or licenses; or

(ii) An application for a nonexclusive license to either or both inventions, in which applicant states that he has already brought either or both inventions to practical application or is likely to bring either or both inventions to practical application expeditiously.

The Department will review all timely written responses to this notice, and will grant the request if, after consideration of written responses to this notice, a determination is made that such licensing is in the public interest.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on May 29, 1997.

**Eric J. Fygi,**  
Acting General Counsel

[FR Doc. 97-14709 Filed 6-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration, DOE.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is soliciting comments concerning proposed revisions to the Forms EIA-23, EIA-23P, and EIA-64A, "Oil and Gas Reserves Surveys."

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 7, 1997. 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 Mr. Paul Chapman, Energy Information Administration, (EI-443), Dallas Field Office, 1999 Bryan Street, Room 1110, Dallas, Texas 75201-6801, telephone (214) 720-6195, e-mail (pchapman@eia.doe.gov), and FAX (214) 720-6155.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Mr. Chapman 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. No. 93-275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 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)), 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 to: prepare data requests in the desired format, minimize reporting burden, develop clearly understandable reporting forms, and assess the impact of collection requirements on respondents. Also, EIA will later seek approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the collections under Section 3507(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13, Title 44, U.S.C. Chapter 35).

Operators of crude oil and natural gas wells are the target respondents of the Forms EIA-23 and EIA-23P, while operators of natural gas plants are the target respondents of the Form EIA-64A. The amounts of crude oil, associated-dissolved and nonassociated natural gas, and lease condensate production and reserves by field are requested annually of large and intermediate size producers on Form EIA-23. Small operators are required to submit Form EIA-23 which is less detailed information and most are not asked to report each year. A selected sample of small operators provides information on production and reserves of crude oil, natural gas and lease condensate at a State level on the Form EIA-23.

Form EIA-23P is a postcard form used to collect information on possible oil and gas well operators that may be included in future EIA-23 surveys. Form EIA-64A collects information on the amount of natural gas processed, natural gas liquids produced, the resultant shrinkage of the natural gas, and the amount of natural gas used in processing from natural gas plant operators.

In accordance with Section 657 of Public Law 95-91, estimates of United States oil and gas reserves are to be reported annually. These estimates are essential to the development, implementation, and evaluation of energy policy and legislation. Data will be published in the annual U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves, and incorporated in a number of other publications and analyses. Secondary publications which use the data include the Annual Energy Review, Annual Energy Outlook, Petroleum Supply Annual, and Natural Gas Annual.

## II. Current Actions

This notice is for a proposed three-year extension through December 31, 2000, of the Forms EIA-23, "Annual Survey of Domestic Oil and Gas Reserves," EIA-23P, "Oil and Gas Well Operator List Update Report," and EIA-64A, "Annual Report of the Origin of Natural Gas Liquids Production." Both Forms EIA-23P and EIA-64A will be extended without modification. For operators reporting on Form EIA-23, the definitions of proved reserves used for reporting will be modified to conform to the new "Society of Petroleum Engineers" (SPE) and "World Petroleum Congress" (WPC) definitions for proved reserves. These proposed modifications reflect the recent adoption by the SPE and the WPC of new definitions for proved reserves. The EIA strongly supported the adoption of the new definitions and feels that their adoption will allow the use of new estimation techniques. The new definitions are also expected to lead to improvements in the interpretation of U.S. proved reserves and their reliability.

In addition, respondents will be required to report the average price used in the estimates of proved reserves and production. Because knowledge of the oil and gas prices at the field level is essential to successful profitable operations, it is assumed that field level price data are readily available to large and intermediate size operators. EIA is interested in whether small operators can report price information at the State level. In conjunction with requesting the price reporting, the average annual survey size will be reduced by 42 percent by surveying small operators less frequently.

## III. Request for Comments

Prospective respondents and other interested parties should comment on the actions discussed in item II. The following guidelines are provided to assist in the preparation of responses. Please indicate to which form(s) your comments apply.

### General Issues

A. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency? Does the information have practical utility. Practical utility is defined as the actual usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, adequacy, reliability, timeliness, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects.

B. What enhancements can EIA make to the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?

### As a Potential Respondent

A. Are the instructions and definitions clear and sufficient? If not, which instructions require clarification?  
B. Can data be submitted by the due date?

C. Public reporting burden for these collections is estimated to average: for Form EIA-23, 8 hours for small operators, 62 hours for intermediate operators, and 333 hours for large operators; 15 minutes for operators reporting on Form EIA-23P; and 6 hours for natural gas plants reporting on Form EIA-64A. Burden includes the total time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide the information.

Please comment on (1) the accuracy of our estimates and (2) how the agency could minimize the burden of the collection of information, including the use of information technology.

D. EIA estimates that respondents will incur no additional costs for reporting other than the hours required to complete the collection. What is the estimated: (1) Total dollar amount annualized for capital and start-up costs, and (2) recurring annual costs of operation and maintenance, and purchase of services associated with this data collection?

E. Do you know of any other Federal, State, or local agency that collects similar data? If you do, specify the agency, the data element(s), and the methods of collection.

### As a Potential User

A. Can you use data at the levels of detail indicated on the form?

B. For what purpose would you use the data? Be specific.

C. Are there alternate sources of data and do you use them? If so, what are their deficiencies and/or strengths?

D. For the most part, information is published by EIA in U.S. customary units, e.g., cubic feet of natural gas, short tons of coal, and barrels of oil. Would you prefer to see EIA publish more information in metric units, e.g., cubic meters, metric tons, and kilograms? If yes, please specify what information (e.g., coal production, natural gas consumption, and crude oil imports), the metric unit(s) of measurement preferred, and in which EIA publication(s) you would like to see such information.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of the form. They also will become a matter of public record.

**Statutory Authority:** Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13).

Issued in Washington, DC, May 30, 1997.

### Jay H. Casselberry,

*Agency Clearance Officer, Office of Statistical Standards Energy Information Administration.*

[FR Doc. 97-14712 Filed 6-4-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Information Administration

#### Agency Information Dissemination Activities: Proposed Discontinuance of Dissemination by Diskette; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Energy Information Administration, DOE.

**ACTION:** Agency information dissemination activities: Proposed discontinuance of dissemination by diskette.

**SUMMARY:** The Energy Information Administration (EIA) is informing the public of a proposed change in the methods that EIA uses to disseminate data files and modeling programs and is soliciting public comments on the proposal.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 7, 1997. 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 Sandra Wilkins, National Energy Information Center, EI-231, Forrestal Building, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585, telephone (202) 586-1173, e-mail [swilkins@eia.doe.gov](mailto:swilkins@eia.doe.gov), and FAX (202) 586-0727.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to Ms. Wilkins 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. No. 93-275) and the Department of Energy Organization Act (Pub. L. No. 95-91), the 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 forecasts related to energy