quality, utility, and clarity of the information it will collect; and (d) EIA can minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, such as automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

This information collection request contains:

(1) *OMB No.:* 1905–0213;

(2) *Information Collection Request Title:* Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities Survey;

(3) *Type of Request:* Three-year extension without change;

(4) *Purpose:* The mining of cryptocurrency is an energy-intensive activity that requires substantial amounts of electricity. Several cryptocurrencies, most notably Bitcoin, use a *proof of work* approach that requires cryptocurrency miners to validate blocks of transactions by solving complex cryptographic puzzles that require significant computational power. Commercial mining facilities typically operate thousands of computers that work to add blocks of virtual currency transactions to a distributed ledger called a blockchain. The computational equipment must be cooled, which further increases the associated electricity consumption. Given its high rate of consumption, companies, organizations and government agencies engaged in the electricity business require detailed information about how much electrical energy is being consumed by cryptocurrency miners and where it is occurring. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has engaged in a rigorous evaluation of U.S. cryptocurrency mining activity using publicly available information. EIA estimates cryptocurrency mining activity demands as much as 2.3% of U.S. electricity consumption. Furthermore, there is evidence that this electricity consumption is growing rapidly. The combined effects of increased cryptocurrency mining and stressed electricity systems create heightened uncertainty in electric power markets, which could contribute to public harm during an unexpected event.

On January 26, 2024, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) granted approval under the emergency approval provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) for EIA to immediately begin collecting monthly information that will inform the public on the impact of recent increases in U.S. commercial cryptocurrency mining activity on both the supply and demand side of the electric power system. The Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities Survey, Form EIA–862, uses facility-level reporting to provide a baseline snapshot of the cryptocurrency mining companies in the sample and their energy use, quantify the rate of change in cryptocurrency mining activity among the companies and their facilities, identify electricity sources supplying U.S. cryptocurrency mining activity, and identify regions in the U.S. with concentrated cryptocurrency mining activity.

Due to the need to begin collecting this information right away, EIA was unable to allow for the time periods normally required for clearance under the PRA. The approval granted by OMB is through July 31, 2024. This approval allows EIA to conduct the Cryptocurrency Mining Facilities Survey for up to 6 months. EIA now seeks to extend clearance for the survey for an additional three years.

(5) *Annual Estimated Number of Respondents:* 82;

(6) *Annual Estimated Number of Total Responses:* 984;

(7) *Annual Estimated Number of Burden Hours:* 492;

(8) *Annual Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* The cost of the burden hours is estimated to be $42,981 (492 burden hours times $87.36 per hour). EIA estimates that respondents will have no additional costs associated with the surveys other than the burden hours and maintenance of the information as part of the normal course of business.

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S. C. 772(b) and 42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*

Signed in Washington, DC, on February 5, 2024.

Samson A. Adeshiyan,

Director, Office of Statistical Methods and Research, U. S. Energy Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 2024–02727 Filed 2–8–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

Minor Construction Threshold Increase

AGENCY: National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is being issued under the authority the *Atomic Energy Defense Act* as amended by the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.* The Department is adjusting the minor construction threshold to account for inflation. The threshold is being increased from $30 million to $34 million.

DATES: The new minor construction threshold is effective on February 9, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Wilson, Office of Infrastructure, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy. Telephone: (301) 903–2173, or email: *Thomas.Wilson@nnsa.doe.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023* provides the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) Administrator with pilot authority to adjust the minor construction threshold to account for inflation at any point until December 1, 2025. Under this authority, the Administrator must submit a report to the congressional defense committees describing the method used to calculate the adjustment, wait a period of 30 days, and then publish the adjusted threshold to the **Federal Register** before it can take effect.

NNSA submitted the required report to the congressional defense committees on January 9, 2024. The 30-day waiting period ended on February 8, 2024. The publication of this notice implements the new minor construction threshold of $34 million.

Signing Authority

This document of Department of Energy was signed February 5, 2024, by Jill Hruby, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administrator, NNSA, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE **Federal Register** Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative Process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on February 6, 2024.

Treena V. Garrett,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2024–02712 Filed 2–8–24; 8:45 am]

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