

From: [Das, Vijay](#)
To: [EIA112](#)
Cc: [Sheppard, Shamaal](#); [Salamido, Kate](#); [Foley, Alexandra](#); [Goddeeris, Andrew](#); [Jaywant, Sameer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strengthening Form EIA-112
Date: Friday, August 9, 2024 5:47:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Congressional EIA Disconnection Survey Letter.pdf](#)

Marc Harnish
Energy Information Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Harnish,

Please find an attached letter regarding Rep. Bowman, Bush, and Tlaib's concerns regarding strengthening Form EIA-112.

They commend the Energy Information Administration (EIA) for developing the first-ever nationwide federal database tracking gas and electric utility shutoffs for non-payment.

Yet, the absence of any federal tracking system and the failure of over 50% of state utility regulators to require reporting of shutoffs means that the frequency and geographic and economic impacts of utility shutoffs are currently unknown. Among other suggestions, they support EIA's important efforts to create a database and urge that Form EIA-112 be fully and permanently implemented.

Please see attached letter. We look forward to your reply documenting the receipt of this letter.

Regards,

Vijay Das | he/him/his

Legislative Director

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (MI-12)

(o): (202) 593-5847 | (c): (202) 603-7418



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From: [EIA112](#)
To: [Das, Vijay](#)
Subject: RE: Strengthening Form EIA-112
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 10:58:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Vijay,

Thank you for your comments in support of Form EIA-112, *Residential Utility Disconnections Survey*.

Collecting and publishing these data responds directly to the current data gap on utility disconnections. We plan to provide a comprehensive dataset on the frequency and intensity of utility disconnections at the state level. We also plan to publish the data we collect at the utility level, which can inform more detailed estimates than our state-level aggregate estimates.

We initiated this collection in response to language included in the Joint Explanatory Statement to the FY 2023 budget appropriations legislation, which directed funding for EIA:

“...to conduct a monthly survey of electric and heating service providers of final termination notices sent due to bill nonpayment, service disconnections due to bill nonpayment, and service reconnections of customers disconnected for bill nonpayment, in a form and manner determined by the agency.”

When conducting initial rounds of pretesting, EIA developed questions that respond specifically to the framing included in the text. We did not address whether including customer utility debt load or time to reconnect information is feasible because these elements are outside the scope of the appropriations language. Future Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance cycles for Form EIA-112 may include additional pretesting to explore whether collecting data on additional topics important to stakeholders is feasible.

We conducted outreach with electric and natural gas utilities to determine which data we could reasonably collect within a reasonable level of respondent burden and at what level of detail. Our outreach found that most natural gas and electric utilities could report monthly aggregate counts of residential customer final notifications, disconnections, and reconnections due to bill nonpayment.

However, an equally important finding was that a substantial minority of responding utilities cannot or would have difficulty reporting one or more aspect at this level of detail. We asked specific questions on the geographic details of reporting data. Most respondents could provide data at a service territory and state level, but less than half could provide data at a zip code, county, or other level.

Several of the respondents mentioned that they are unable to report any personally identifiable information (PII), such as lists of customer names, addresses, etc., which might limit the ability to provide data at the zip code level. Several respondents also reported significant burden associated with manually tracking customer records for data collected outside of their recordkeeping software

or that it would involve several departments tracking the status of a single disconnection over time.

Many additional data elements may be of interest to data users; however, we must balance those interests against the reporting burden of electric and natural gas utilities based on how their billing systems house the information we are seeking.

We determined that we can collect the data annually, at the monthly level, without undue burden to the utilities. We also determined that data collected at the state level, by utility, to be the most effective geographic increment. We plan to publish data both at the utility level and aggregate it to the state, census division, and national levels.

Assuming OMB approves the survey, we plan to start collecting the disconnection data for 2024 in early 2025.

Marc Harnish

From: Das, Vijay <Vijay.Das@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 5:40 PM

To: EIA112 <EIA112@eia.gov>

Cc: Sheppard, Shamaal <Shamaal.Sheppard@mail.house.gov>; Salamido, Kate <Kate.Salamido@mail.house.gov>; Foley, Alexandra <Alexandra.Foley@mail.house.gov>; Goddeeris, Andrew <Andrew.Goddeeris@mail.house.gov>; Jaywant, Sameer <Sameer.Jaywant@mail.house.gov>

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