From: Lorenz, Thomas
To: "Schwartz, Jerry"; Adler, Bob
Cc: Pinckney, Derrick
Subject: RE: Question on MECS Survey ICR
Date: Monday, June 30, 2014 12:20:02 PM

Mr. Schwartz,

I'm back in the office and wanted to add some things to Bob Adler's comments from last week. First, keeping with the numbers Bob used (9 hours of burden to complete the form and 15,000 respondents) he is correct in indicating the total burden hours for a quadrennial as 135,000 and a biennial as 270,000 hours, respectfully. He is also correct with annualizing the total burden, 135,000/4 = 33,750 (for a quadrennial survey) and 270,000/4 = 67,500 (for a biennial survey). That makes sense since, in the same time period, we are doubling the work to be completed (completing two surveys instead of one) the burden hours (total and annualized) should be doubled as well.

What Bob did not mention is that because we can only receive an OMB clearance for a three-year period, we have to pro-rate our calculation of annualized burden based upon three years. So what that means is that for a quadrennial MECS the pro-rated burden hours is 135,000/3 = 45,000, and for a biennial MECS the pro-rated burden hours are 270,000/3 = 90,000 (these are assuming that the burden hours to complete the form is 9 hours). In the ICR you've seen and the other OMB supporting statements etc. you'll see the annualized burden hours expressed in this manner (by 3, instead of by 2 or 4).

I hope that makes sense? Please let me know if you have other questions.

Tom Lorenz
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For MECS information: http://www.eia.gov/consumption/manufacturing

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From: Schwartz, Jerry [mailto:Jerry_Schwartz@afandpa.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 8:58 PM
To: Adler, Bob
Cc: Lorenz, Thomas; Pinckney, Derrick
Subject: Re: Question on MECS Survey ICR

Thanks, Bob. This is very helpful answers my question.

Jerry Schwartz
Sent from my iPad

On Jun 24, 2014, at 6:12 PM, "Adler, Bob" <Bob.Adler@eia.gov> wrote:

Mr. Schwartz,

Your question made its way to me. The survey is indeed mandatory but it's possible that the way the burden hours showed up on the Federal Register Notice was confused by whether the survey

was to be biennial or, as it has been, quadrennial. I think the easiest way to think about it is that we expect to have a sample size of around 15,000 for one MECS cycle. For burden hour calculations we do assume that all sampled establishments will return their form. In the past, we have different estimates of the number of hours the average establishment takes to complete the MECS questionnaire, anywhere from 8-10 hours depending on the industry type. Let's just make the calculations easy and assume 9 hours per completion. So the total burden hours for a MECS cycle would be 9 * 15,000 = 135,000 hours. In a quadrennial cycle we would take 135,000/4=33,750 average burden hours per year during the four-year period. In a biennial cycle, we would double that so the number of hours would be 135,000/2=67,500 average burden hours per year. In a period of four years, the biennial cycle would cause 270,000 hours (either 4*67,500 or 2*135,000).

I hope this helps. Please get back to me if you require further explanation.

Bob Adler

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From: Pinckney, Derrick
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 8:59 AM
To: Adler, Bob
Subject: FW: Question on MECS Survey ICR

Bob, do you think you can answer this customer's question?

Derrick

From: Schwartz, Jerry [mailto:Jerry_Schwartz@afandpa.org]
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 8:56 AM
To: Pinckney, Derrick
Subject: FW: Question on MECS Survey ICR

Derrick: Do you think you can answer this in Thomas's absence?

From: Schwartz, Jerry
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2014 10:44 AM
To: 'Thomas.Lorenz@eia.gov'
Subject: Question on MECS Survey ICR

Thomas: I have a question on the burden hours in the Federal Register ICR notice. Can you explain

how the burden hours were calculated and why there are different numbers of total respondents and responses? I thought the survey was mandatory. Also, the burden is calculated on an annual basis, and you are proposing to collect information every two years. Does that mean that you are allocating half the burden of completing one form to each of the two years and that you would have to double the burden hours to reflect the total number of hours for one cycle of collection? Thanks in advance for your responses.

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