

EIA'S External Study Team: Introduction and Evaluation

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2008 EIA Energy Conference

April 7, 2008

External Study Team Introduction

- **Who?**
 - **Leader:** A. Denny Ellerman
 - **Members:** Kathleen B. Cooper
Jay Hakes
Paul L. Joskow
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- **What?**
 - **Evaluate EIA's activities & performance**
 - **Consider is EIA doing the "right things"**
 - **Identify challenges for next five years**
- **When?**
 - **June 2005 – May 2006**
 - **Two meetings and report writing**

How has EIA Performed?

- **Five notable trends over past 30 years**
 - Continuing Public Concern about Energy
 - Growing International Dimensions
 - Increasing Importance of Energy Markets
 - The Emergence of the Internet
 - Federal Budget Stringency
- **EST's Evaluation of Past 30 years**
 - Good job in becoming source of energy information and analysis trusted by all
 - Good response to budget pressures, new developments in IT, and handling market-sensitive data

EIA's Analysis & Forecasting Functions

- EIA stands out among statistical agencies for the prominence of forecasting and the resources used
- Public interest rationale not as obvious as for data collection and dissemination
- Included among EIA functions in DOE Organization Act
 - "adequacy of energy resources (for) the near and longer term future"
 - And not subject to executive branch review
- EST concluded presumption of a public interest remains valid
 - Need for objective analyses and forecasts
 - Function is needed within the executive branch

Product and Program Review

- **Programs over which EIA has discretion**
 - These core programs well justified
 - Appropriate exercise of discretion in initiating and discontinuing programs as circumstances warranted
- **Programs specifically mandated by Congress**
 - Three not justified; inappropriate and diversionary; recommend termination or transfer
 - Financial Reporting System
 - Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Survey
 - Survey of Alternative Fueled Vehicles
 - Better use of Consumption Surveys; better use of micro-data and access for research community

Budget Stringency and Policy Analysis

- **A Developing Resource Problem**
 - Demise of policy analysis function in DOE has shifted this activity increasingly onto EIA
 - Increasing demands from Congress for specific analyses and evaluations
 - Real resources have declined steadily from early 1980s
- A problem created in part by EIA's success, but new demands not accompanied by additional resources
- Result has been a diminution of discretionary analysis in EIA and deferral of data quality control