



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your March 25 letter of support for the United States (U.S.) Energy Information Administration (EIA) to conduct a mandatory annual survey of data centers. We appreciate your interest in this critical issue.

EIA is actively engaged in the process of collecting energy and infrastructure data on data centers. We are operating three preliminary pilot studies under EIA Generic Clearance Information Collection Request, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No. 1905-0186¹, which requires that responses to these pilots are voluntary. These pilots will cover companies operating data center facilities in Texas, Washington, and the Northern Virginia-District of Columbia region. A data center facility is broadly defined to encompass dedicated buildings or delineated portions primarily housing computer servers and associated IT equipment, including power, cooling, and network support systems. Information gathered through EIA's Generic Clearance will be used to enhance our questionnaires and data collection procedures. While this data will not be official government statistics, it can be used to produce research reports, publications, and white papers, both for internal analysis and external dissemination to the public.

In my judgment as Administrator of EIA, these pilot studies are a necessary step in the methodical development of a nationwide mandatory survey that upholds EIA's highest standards for analytical rigor and adheres to requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act (5 C.F.R. § 1320). We will evaluate the results of these pilot surveys and launch a second tranche of pilots with a further refined questionnaire, covering at least three more states.

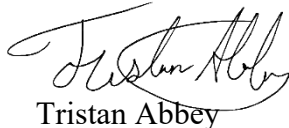
Taken together, these pilots will gather data on a range of important topics, including information about onsite generation, or behind-the-meter power generation. We are also asking questions on annual electricity consumption; classification of data center types; facility characteristics such as year of construction and square footage; and IT infrastructure metrics like Power Usage Effectiveness and server metrics. We are also planning to collect information on cooling systems and core infrastructure characteristics. To minimize the burden on respondents in these pilots, only specific subsets of questions will be administered, tailored to the particular location of each data center facility.

¹ OMB Control No. 1905-0186, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAViewICR?ref_nbr=202506-1905-001

EIA has determined that use of these voluntary pilots is the most cost effective and efficient means to understand the types of questions that would yield high-quality data on a mandatory survey. EIA requested responses to the first three voluntary pilots by May 2026. We expect to have completed pilots of both tranches no later than September 30, 2026. Following evaluation of the pilot studies and resulting data, we currently plan to develop a mandatory survey(s) under the notice and public comment procedures of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

We are committed, as always, to providing objective, accurate, and useful data and analysis to inform policymakers and the broader public. If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Scott Marks, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Senate Affairs, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tristan Abbey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tristan" being more prominent than the last name "Abbey".

Tristan Abbey
Administrator
U.S. Energy Information Administration