

# Form EIA-819 Monthly Oxygenate Report

## Explanatory Notes

### Background

Beginning November 1992, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required that all gasoline sold in carbon monoxide nonattainment areas have an oxygen content of 2.7 percent (by weight) during wintertime months. Beginning in 1995 further requirements were that only reformulated gasoline having an average oxygen content of 2.0 percent be sold in the nine worst ozone nonattainment areas.

In 1992, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) conducted a frame identifier survey of companies that produce, blend, store, or import oxygenates. The purpose of this survey was to (1) identify all U.S. producers, blenders, storers, and importers of oxygenates; and (2) collect supply, and blending data for January - June, 1992 inventory data on those oxygenates blended into motor gasoline.

In 2004, the Form EIA-819 was revised to provide production and end-of-month stock data from oxygenate producers only. End-of month stock data are only reported by ethanol plants and merchant MTBE plants. The data reported on the Appendix D table include stocks held at refineries, bulk terminals, pipelines, motor gasoline blending facilities, and oxygenate production facilities.

### Overview

In order to continue to provide relevant information about U.S. and regional gasoline supply, the EIA began an oxygenate data collection program. The Form EIA-819 (formally called the EIA-819M, "Monthly Oxygenate Telephone Report") collects information on oxygenate production and stocks by Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts (PADD's). Data are aggregated and presented on the table of this appendix.

All data are displayed in thousand barrels (42 U.S. Gallons per Barrel) or thousand barrels per day.

### Collection Methods

Data for the EIA-819 survey are due to be reported to the EIA by the 20th calendar day following the end of the report period. Information is collected by email and can be transmitted to the EIA by facsimile. Receipt of the data is monitored using an automated respondent mailing list. Follow-up telephone calls are made to nonrespondents prior to the publication deadline.

### Sample Frame

Prior to 2003 the EIA-819 was a sample survey. The sample of companies that report on the Form EIA-819 was selected from the universe of companies that reported on

Forms EIA-810, 811 and 812. The universe consisted of (1) operators of facilities that produce (manufacture or distill) oxygenates (including MTBE plants, petrochemical plants, and refineries that produce oxygenates as part of their operations); (2) operators of petroleum refineries; and (3) operators of bulk terminals, motor gasoline blending plants, and other non-refinery facilities that store and/or blend oxygenates. Beginning in 2004 the form was modified. The frame was reduced to collect data only from the universe of oxygenate producers.

### Frames Maintenance

The Petroleum Division (PD) maintains complete lists of respondents to its monthly surveys. Each survey has a list of companies and facilities required to submit petroleum activity data. This list is known as the survey frame. Frame maintenance procedures are used to monitor the status of petroleum companies and facilities currently contained in each survey frame as well as to identify new members to be added to the frame. As a result, all known petroleum supply organizations falling within the definition of "Who Must Submit" participate in the frames survey.

The activities for frames maintenance are conducted within two time frames: monthly and annually. Monthly frames maintenance procedures for the EIA-819 focus on examining several frequently published industry periodicals that report changes in status (births, deaths, sales, and acquisitions) of oxygenate production facilities. These sources are augmented by articles in newspapers, letters from respondents indicating changes in status, and information received from survey systems operated by other offices. Survey managers review these sources to monitor changes in company operations and to develop lists of potential respondents. These activities assure coverage of the reporting universe and maintain accurate facility information on addresses and ownership.

### Quality Control and Data Revision

#### Quality Control

Survey forms are periodically reviewed for completeness, meaningfulness, and clarity. Modifications are made, when needed, to maintain efficient measure of the intended data items and to track product movement accurately throughout the industry. Through this process, the EIA can maintain consistency among forms, minimize respondent burden, and eliminate ambiguity.

Response error, the difference between the true value and the value reported on the survey form, is the major factor affecting the accuracy of Petroleum Supply Reporting System data. Among the causes of response error are data entry error, error due to misunderstanding of what is to be reported, and error due to the use of preliminary data when

final data are not available. Errors can also be introduced during data processing by transcribing the wrong number or putting it in the wrong cell.

To help detect and minimize reporting errors, automated editing procedures are used to check current data for consistency with past data as well as for internal consistency. Flagged data are thoroughly checked before being aggregated into the published total.

The 819 oxygenate data serve as leading indicators of the oxygenate data which are published in the *Petroleum Supply Monthly*.

### **Response Rate**

The response rate is usually 99 to 100 percent. Chronic nonrespondents and late filing respondents are contacted by telephone or in writing and reminded of their requirement to report. Companies that file late or fail to file are subject to criminal fines, civil penalties, and other sanctions as provided by Section 13(i) of the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) Act.

### **Resubmissions**

Resubmissions are any changes to the originally submitted data that were either requested by the EIA or initiated by the respondent. If the resubmissions change a published aggregate by more than 5 percent, a revised number accompanied by an "R" is published. Such revisions occur only rarely.

### **Data Imputation**

In any survey, nonresponse can be a major concern because the effects can cause serious bias in survey results. Nonresponse occurs whenever requested information is not obtained from all units in a survey. The EIA-819 has a very high response rate. Whenever survey responses are not received in time to be included in published statistics, the data are imputed. Although imputing for missing data may not eliminate the total error associated with nonresponse, it can serve to reduce the

error. The data reported in the previous month are used as imputed values for missing data. After the data files have been edited and corrected, aggregation is done for production and stocks by each geographic region.

## **Confidentiality**

The information reported on the Form EIA-819 will be kept confidential and not disclosed to the public to the extent that it satisfies the criteria for exemption under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552, the DOE regulations, 10 C.F.R. §1004.11, implementing the FOIA, and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. §1905. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) will protect company level information in accordance with its confidentiality and security policies and procedures.

The Federal Energy Administration Act requires the EIA to provide company-specific data to other Federal agencies when requested for official use. The information reported may also be made available, upon request, to another component of the Department of Energy (DOE); to any Committee of Congress, the General Accounting Office, or other Federal agencies authorized by law to receive such information. A court of competent jurisdiction may obtain this information in response to an order. The information may be used for any nonstatistical purposes such as administrative, regulatory, law enforcement, or adjudicatory purposes.

Company specific data are also provided to other DOE offices for the purpose of examining specific petroleum operations in the context of emergency response planning and actual emergencies.

Disclosure limitation procedures are not applied to the statistical data published from this information. Thus, there may be some statistics that are based on data from fewer than three respondents, or that are dominated by data from one or two large respondents. In these cases, it may be possible for a knowledgeable person to estimate the information reported by a specific respondent.