



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 22, 2005

Jeffrey R. Pillon, Chair
Energy Data and Security Committee
National Association of State Energy Officials
1414 Prince Street, Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Jeff:

Thank you for writing to me regarding your concerns about the status and future of the State Energy Data Program.

I want to assure you that the Energy Information Administration (EIA) takes our commitment to provide accurate and comprehensive State energy data very seriously, and we intend to continue that commitment subject, of course, to continued funding by Congress. All of the 2002 petroleum data—consumption, prices, and expenditures—were posted publicly on the EIA Website on August 10, 2005. That release included the detailed data for each individual petroleum product. Next, we will complete 2002 and 2003 consumption, price, and expenditure updates for natural gas, which are in final review now before Web posting. As soon as we can resolve a few remaining issues with the electricity, coal, and renewable energy data, both years (2002 and 2003) will go public for those series, followed soon by the 2002 total energy series. Then we will return to the petroleum products for 2003 and total energy 2003. While work on the 2003 petroleum series is underway, we will be working on the 2004 data as well.

In addition, ETA will soon release an entirely new Website, including what we believe is a much improved State Energy Data page that should make access to the State data easier. Included on the new State page will be a schedule of actual and planned releases for the State Energy Data Program.

The 2001 data update mentioned in your letter implemented major upgrades to the data that involved significant time and resources. The most important change in that year's data was a shift of fuel consumed by non-utility power producers out of the industrial sector and into the electric power sector and a shift of fuel consumed by combined-heat-and-power producers at commercial facilities out of the industrial sector and into the commercial sector. Many fuels over many years were affected by that change, and there were numerous other improvements incorporated during that cycle as well. In sum, the changes were, perhaps, the most extensive upgrades we have ever undertaken in one year on the State data project; they were costly, but necessary.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/ Guy F. Caruso

Administrator

Energy Information Administration