

SEC. ____ STANDARDIZED METADATA FORMATS FOR
ENERGY PRICES.

(a) Purpose.—The purpose of this section is to improve the ability of retail rate utility customers to compare tariff options by making the most up-to-date utility tariffs available in a standard online format that can be read and manipulated electronically.

(b) Phase 1, beginning with the passage of this act: Tariff Analysis Project Expansion.—The Secretary of Energy shall expand the tariff analysis project of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory—

(1) to ensure that the online database of that project can be periodically updated and expanded, as necessary; and

(2) by redesigning the web interface for the tariff analysis project database (including necessary security) to allow individuals and institutions other than the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

to enter tariff data.

(c) Phase 2: Longer term effort, also beginning with the passage of this act: Standardized Metadata Formats.—The Secretary of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall coordinate to—

(1) develop standardized metadata formats for online publication in consultation with the National Laboratories, the utility industry, large energy consumers, the information technology industry, regulatory commissions, and nongovernmental organizations. These formats should be based on the latest information about how utility tariffs are developed and used;

(2) after standardized formats are developed, assist States in adopting and implementing the metadata formats for utility reporting of rate data in their jurisdictions (including working with State public utility commissions and other potential early adopters of the metadata formats).

(3) develop software that can automatically read in tariff data submitted by utilities on a regular basis and (if necessary, based on the Tariff Analysis Project work in Phase 1) convert the tariff data to a standard metadata format, and compile all available data in a central database, based on those formats;

(4) develop an online web interface site to make freely available for consumers the metadata formats and all available data converted to those formats.

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Deleted: (4) after consensus standards are developed, assist States in implementing the standards (including by working with State public utility commissions and other potential early adopters of the standards).

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