



Department of Energy Seeks Public Comment on Supply Chain Security and Policy

**By Susan Lindberg
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Companies and stakeholders across the energy sector have the opportunity to provide written comments to the U.S. Department of Energy on cybersecurity, technology, supply chain issues, and a host of other topics in response to a new [Request For Information \(RFI\) published on November 29, 2021](#). The RFI is part of a large-scale effort to improve the security of the nation's energy infrastructure. Comments are due January 15, 2022.

Comments Sought for Energy Industry Digital Supply Chain

The DOE seeks information on a broad range of digital supply chain questions as they pertain to the energy sector, including

- hardening the supply chain for digital components,
- improving the trustworthiness of digital components against cyber threats including ransomware,
- reconciling security requirements of suppliers and asset owners,
- data as a commodity in the energy industry,
- managing the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities in energy sector systems, and
- developing a workforce skilled in cybersecurity.

DOE specifically requests comment on policy steps the government should take in certain areas, including providing incentives for the private sector to “include more national security risk considerations in their business risk decisions.”

Although much of the RFI focuses on specific energy industry segments (as discussed below), the RFI appears to seek information on digital supply chain across the entire energy sector industrial base.

Comments Sought on Carbon Capture Topics

The DOE seeks comments on carbon capture, conversion, transport, and storage; in particular: materials critical for such activities, short- and long-term availability of those materials, supply chain vulnerabilities, and workforce development. The DOE requests input on government actions or policies in these areas.

Other Energy Supply Chain Issues

Cybersecurity and carbon capture are only two of fourteen different areas in which the DOE seeks information. The RFI also requests comments on supply chain and sustainability issues specific to solar power, wind, energy storage technologies, electric grid, hydropower, nuclear supply chain topics. Specific questions address expansion of domestic manufacturing capacity, workforce opportunities, responsible sourcing of materials, supply chain constraints/vulnerabilities, and public policy on all of the above.

Supply Chain Executive Order

The RFI is in response to [President Biden's mandate](#) in a February 2021 Executive Order on America's Supply Chains. The DOE is only one of many federal agencies tasked with supply chain assessments in the E.O., towards the stated objective of having resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains. The Executive Order requires the DOE to submit a report on supply chains for the energy sector industrial base.

How to Comment

Comments must be submitted electronically, by posting at www.regulations.gov/docket/DOE-HQ-2021-0020, or if the commenter is not able to submit comments online, by email to supplychain@hq.doe.gov. Note that responses will be publicly posted at <https://www.regulations.gov>. The name, organization, correspondence containing comments, and any documents submitted with the comments, will be publicly viewable. DOE has requested that submittals be no more than 10 pages in length. [See the RFI](#) for details.



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