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EIA is Under Attack. That's Dangerous for the Entire Energy Sector.

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Takeaways

- EIA, considered the gold standard for energy data worldwide, is in trouble. Led by a highly ideological administrator, it has lost a third of its staff and unexpectedly canceled multiple reports.
- These conditions have raised concerns that federal energy data could be manipulated for political gain. In a recent report, the American Statistical Association rated EIA resources as "WEAK."
- EIA's data is used to move oil markets, set energy policy, and guide trillion-dollar investment decisions. If we cannot trust it, the ramifications will be far-reaching and potentially dangerous.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) has been called the gold standard of energy data, but the second Trump Administration has systematically hollowed it out like Swiss cheese. The people who depend on the data—industry leaders, oil traders, researchers, associations, and former administrators—are worried that the EIA can no longer be trusted to produce reliable data for an energy-dominant position.

The consequences are widespread, with both economic and national security implications. EIA's projections shape trillion-dollar investment decisions, inform state and federal energy policy, guide utility planning, and give the public an authoritative, nonpartisan read on what energy actually costs. But a partisan EIA that serves the administration's interests over reliable, actionable data is not an energy agency. It is a political tool with a federal seal.

Without independence, EIA's credibility vanishes, at high cost to the US economy.

Looking at the Trump administration's actions, it's impossible not to worry about political manipulation. The Trump Administration cut 30–40 percent of EIA's analytical staff via DOGE. It installed a fossil-fuel advocate as EIA administrator, the first in the agency's history to have an ideological rather than technical background.

You can see the result in EIA's publications. Working papers are on indefinite hold. The International Energy Outlook, EIA's flagship global analysis, was canceled outright in 2025.

The Petroleum Supply Monthly was delayed for the first time in its history.

On the day EIA published its own Annual Energy Outlook, a DOE spokesperson publicly attacked the findings, calling them “a disastrous path.”

Experts are sounding the alarms. The American Statistical Association released The Nation’s Data at Risk: 2025 Report, a comprehensive independent assessment of federal agencies. The EIA-specific findings rated the agency’s resources as “WEAK” owing to a “sharp drop in staffing and report delays, omissions, and suspensions.” The core report finding (page 6) was:

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“Immediate action must be taken to halt the severe decline in the federal statistical agencies’ ability to meet their basic mission and be positioned to keep up with increasing information needs and to address uncertainty in the trustworthiness of federal statistics.”

This echoes former EIA Administrator Adam Sieminski, who warned publicly in August 2025 that “staffing reduction increased the risk of eroding trust in the energy statistics and projections needed to make business and policy decisions and respond to energy crises.”

EIA’s partisan leadership has systematically stripped away the safeguards to protect the agency’s data from manipulation. Through oversight, Congress must counter any effort by the Trump administration to spin EIA data in its favor. Congress should also provide funding and mandate that EIA adequately staff its operations.

In all likelihood, restoring EIA’s integrity and repairing its reputational damage will be a job for the next administration. In the meantime, those who depend on its data should continue to demand transparency and accuracy from this critical agency.

