

result in serious injuries and fatalities. It is essential that MSHA inspectors be able to verify that mine operators are properly inspecting their hoist equipment for unsafe conditions.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Records of Tests and Examinations of Personnel Hoisting Equipment.

OMB Number: 1219-0034.

Agency Number: MSHA 720.

Recordkeeping: All records are required to be retained for one year, except for the wire rope test and that is required for the life of the wire rope.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

| Cite/reference | Total respondents | Frequency | Total responses | Average time per response | Burden hours |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| EXAMINATION 56/57.19023 | 86 | Daily | 22,360 | 20 minutes .. | 7,379 |
| (a) and (d), 56/57.19121 | 86 | Weekly | 4,472 | 10 minutes .. | 745 |
| 56/57.19129, 56/57.19131, 56/57.19132, 56/57.19133, 56/57.19134. | 86 | Bi-weekly | 2,236 | 45 min. | 1,677 |
| RECORDING 56/57.19023 (a) and (d) | 86 | Daily | 22,360 | 5 min. | 1,863 |
| 56/57.19121, 56/57.19129 | 86 | Weekly | 4,472 | 5 min. | 373 |
| 56/57.19131, 56/57.19132, 56/57.19133, 56/57.19134 | 86 | Bi-weekly | 2,236 | 5 min. | 186 |
| EXAMINATION 56/57.19022, 56/57.19023(c), 56/57.19023(e) | 86 | 2/year | 172 | 1 hour | 172 |
| RECORDING | 86 | 2/year | 172 | 9 minutes | 26 |
| EXAMINATION 75.1400-4, 75.1433(d), 77.1404, 77.1433(d), 77.1906. | 274 | On occasion | 18,084 | 1 hour | 18,084 |
| RECORDING | 274 | On occ. | 18,084 | 5 minutes | 1,506 |
| EXAMINATION 75.1432, 75.1433(e), 77.1432, 77.1433(e) | 274 | Semi-annual | 548 | 1 hour | 548 |
| RECORDING | 274 | Semi-annual | 548 | 0.15 hr | 82 |
| EXAMINATION 75.1400-2 | 274 | 6/yr | 1,644 | 9 minutes | 247 |
| RECORDING | 274 | 6/year | 1,644 | 1 hour | 1,644 |
| TOTALS | | | 99,032 | 21 min. | 34,532 |

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): This cost is based upon the mine operator's decision as to whether or/ not to install a personnel hoist or elevator.

Total Burden Cost (operating/ maintaining): \$1,304,201.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 2, 1998.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-24188 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Refuse Piles and Impounding Structures, Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed

and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.

Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection related to the Refuse Piles and Impounding Structures, Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements. MSHA is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other

technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 627, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via E-mail to psilvey@msha.gov, along with an original printed copy. Ms. Silvey can be reached at (703) 235-1910 (voice) or (703) 235-5551 (facsimile).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Theresa M. O'Malley, Program Analysis Officer, Office of Program Evaluation and Information Resources, U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 719, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Mrs. O'Malley can be reached at TOMalley@msha.gov (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-1470 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 was amended by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977

after the Buffalo Creek dam failure in 1972 in West Virginia. The refuse pile and impoundment standards, Title 30 CFR Sections 77.215 and 77.216 had been enacted earlier in 1975 and were incorporated into the Act. Additional parts of these Sections were promulgated and enacted in 1992.

The standards require that the agency approve prudently engineered design plans for dams and their impoundments, as well as the plans for hazardous refuse piles that are routinely constructed by coal mine operators. Plan revisions are also required to be submitted for approval. In addition, the standards also require plans when one of these sites is to be abandoned. And plans are required when spontaneous fires erupt and need to be extinguished at the burning site. Records of weekly inspections and instrument monitoring are also required to ensure that the sites remain safe. Finally, the mine operators are also required to submit an annual status report and certification that guarantees that the site is being constructed in accordance with the

approved plan, and the site has not been altered during the construction year.

II. Current Actions

There are approximately 750 coal mine impounding structures, of which at least 250 are high-hazard sites. In addition, there are hundreds of refuse piles, and of these, it is estimated that 25 are hazardous. All impoundments and hazardous refuse piles are required by the standards to be constructed and operated in an approved manner. In addition, coal mine operators frequently revise construction plans to accommodate mining conditions, cycles or markets. Since these revisions to the structures can adversely affect a great number of people, such changes are required to be planned in a prudent manner and approved by the agency.

Fire extinguishing plans are only required from an operator when a spontaneous combustion has occurred, and the operator is directed to extinguish the fire.

Inspections on a weekly basis, or inspections at a longer interval for long-established and stable impoundments (after the regulation changes in 1992),

are required to ensure that precipitation, seismic activity, or perhaps an unknown construction flaw, has not adversely affected any part of the dam site. The annual status report and certification ensures that the company's engineers confirm that the site is in accordance with the approved engineering plan.

An abandonment plan approved by the agency, ensures that a hazardous site is not left in place after all mining activity has ceased.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Impounding Structures and Refuse Piles, Reporting Requirements, Certifications and Recordkeeping.

OMB Number: 1219-0015.

Agency Number: MSHA 211.

Recordkeeping: 3 years.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Cite/Reference/Form/etc: 30 CFR Sections 77.215 and 77.216.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): None.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$3,618,412.

| Cite/Reference | Total respondents | Frequency | Total responses | Average time per response (hours) | Burden hours |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 77.215 New Refuse Piles | 24 | Annually | 50 | 16 | 800 |
| Fire Ext. Plans | 24 | Annually | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Abandonment Plans | 25 | Annually | 25 | 8 | 200 |
| Certification | 15 | Annually | 15 | 2 | 30 |
| 77.216 New Impoundments | 731 | Annually | 50 | 1,300 | 65,000 |
| Revisions | 100 | Annually | 100 | 5 | 500 |
| Annual Certification | 100 | Annually | 100 | 2 | 200 |
| Inspections w/monitoring Instruments | 300 | On Occasion | 5,100 | 3 | 15,300 |
| Without Monitoring Instruments | 431 | Annually | 7,327 | 2 | 14,654 |
| Totals | 755 | | 12,768 | | 96,688 |

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: September 2, 1998.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-24189 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. ICR-98-9]

Gear Certification (29 CFR part 1919); Announcement of OMB Approval of Information Collection Requirements

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

ACTION: Notice; Announcement of the OMB approval of information collection requirements.

SUMMARY: The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is announcing that the collections of information found in the standard on Gear Certification (29 CFR part 1919) have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction

Act of 1995). This document announces the OMB approval number and expiration date.

DATES: Effective September 9, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Theda Kenney, Directorate of Safety Standards Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3605, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone (202) 219-8061, ext. 100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of March 6, 1998 (63 FR 11311), the Agency announced its intent to request renewal of its current OMB approval for 29 CFR part 1919, Gear Certification. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), OMB has renewed its approval for the information collection and assigned OMB control