

Trade Agreements/Bilateral/ Republic of Korea FTA/ asset_upload_file253_8899.pdf, respectively. In February, USTR announced its intention to hold a public hearing on March 14, 2006, for the interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) to receive written comments and oral testimony from the public to assist USTR in formulating positions and proposals with respect to all aspects of the negotiations (71 FR 6820) (Feb. 9, 2006). USTR intends to launch the negotiations in May 2006.

The Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–210) (the Trade Act) sets forth special procedures (Trade Promotion Authority) for approval and implementation of Agreements subject to meeting conditions and requirements in Division B of the Trade Act, “Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority.” Section 2102(a)–(c) of the Trade Act includes negotiating objectives and a listing of priorities for the President to promote in order to “address and maintain United States competitiveness in the global economy” in pursuing future trade agreements. The President assigned several of the functions in section 2102(c) to the Secretary of Labor. (E.O. 13277). These include the functions set forth in section 2102(c)(8), which requires that the President “in connection with any trade negotiations entered into under this Act, submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a meaningful labor rights report of the country, or countries, with respect to which the President is negotiating,” and the function in section 2102(c)(9), which requires that the President “with respect to any trade agreement which the President seeks to implement under trade authorities procedures, submit to the Congress a report describing the extent to which the country or countries that are parties to the agreement have in effect laws governing exploitative child labor.”

II. Information Sought

Interested parties are invited to submit written information as specified below to be taken into account in drafting the required reports. Materials submitted are expected to be confined to the specific topics of the reports. In particular, agencies are seeking written submissions on the following topics:

1. Labor laws of the Republic of Korea, including laws governing exploitative child labor, and that country’s implementation and enforcement of its labor laws and regulations;

2. The situation in the Republic of Korea with respect to core labor standards;

3. Steps taken by the Republic of Korea to comply with International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor; and

4. The nature and extent, if any, of exploitative child labor in the Republic of Korea.

Section 2113(6) of the Trade Act defines “core labor standards” as:

- (A) The right of association;
- (B) The right to organize and bargain collectively;
- (C) A prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor;
- (D) A minimum age for the employment of children; and
- (E) Acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health.

III. Requirements for Submissions

This document is a request for facts or opinions submitted in response to a general solicitation of comments from the public. To ensure prompt and full consideration of submissions, it is strongly recommended that interested persons submit comments by electronic mail to the following e-mail address: FRFTAKorea@dol.gov. Persons making submissions by e-mail are expected to use the following subject line: “The Republic of Korea: Labor Rights and Child Labor Reports.” Documents must be submitted in WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT) format. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets is acceptable in Quattro Pro or Excel format. Persons who make submissions by e-mail need not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter is expected to be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission are expected to be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. Written comments will be placed in a file open to public inspection at the Department of Labor, Room S–5317, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210, and in the USTR Reading Room in Room 3 of the annex of the Office of the USTR, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. An appointment to review the file at the Department of Labor may be made by contacting Howard R. Dobson at (202) 693–4871. An appointment to review the file at USTR may be made by calling (202) 395–6186. The USTR Reading Room is generally open to the public from 10 a.m.–12 noon and 1 p.m.–4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments

must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Signed at Washington, DC this 23rd of February 2006.

Martha E. Newton,

Acting Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs.

[FR Doc. E6–2879 Filed 2–28–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment Standards Administration

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

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 Employment Standards Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed collection: Rehabilitation Maintenance Certificate (OWCP–17). A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this Notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before May 1, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Ms. Hazel M. Bell, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S–3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–0418, fax (202) 693–1451, e-mail bell.hazel@dol.gov. Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: I. *Background:* The Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs (OWCP) administers the Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act (LHWCA) and the Federal Employees’ Compensation Act (FECA). These Acts provide vocational rehabilitation services to eligible workers with

disabilities. Section 8111(b) of the FECA and section 908(g) of the LHWCA provide that persons undergoing such vocational rehabilitation may receive maintenance allowances as additional compensation. The OWCP-17 serves as a bill submitted by the program participant to OWCP, requesting reimbursement of incidental expenses incurred due to participation in an approved rehabilitation effort for the preceding four week period or fraction thereof. This information collection is currently approved for use through August 31, 2006.

II. *Review Focus:* The Department of Labor 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.

III. *Current Actions:* The Department of Labor seeks approval for the extension of this information collection in order to carry out its responsibility to provide vocational rehabilitation services to injured workers currently unemployed as a result of their injury, to enhance their employment potential.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Employment Standards Administration.

Title: Rehabilitation Maintenance Certificate.

OMB Number: 1215-0161.

Agency Number: OWCP-17.

Affected Public: Individual or households; business or other for-profit.

Total Respondents: 1,300.

Total Responses: 15,600.

Time per Response: 10 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 2,605.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.

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: February 23, 2006.

Sue Blumenthal,

Acting Chief, Branch of Management Review and Internal Control, Division of Financial Management, Office of Management, Administration and Planning, Employment Standards Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Summary of Decisions Granting in Whole or in Part Petitions for Modification

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice of affirmative decisions issued by the Administrators for Coal Mine Safety and Health and Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health on petitions for modification of the application of mandatory safety standards.

SUMMARY: Under section 101 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) may allow the modification of the application of a mandatory safety standard to a mine if the Secretary determines either that an alternate method exists at a specific mine that will guarantee no less protection for the miners affected than that provided by the standard, or that the application of the standard at a specific mine will result in a diminution of safety to the affected miners.

Final decisions on these petitions are based on the petitioner's statements, comments and information submitted by interested persons, and a field investigation of the conditions at the mine. As designee of the Secretary, we have granted or partially granted the requests for modification listed below. In some instances, the decisions are conditioned upon compliance with stipulations stated in the decision. The term FR Notice appears in the list of affirmative decisions below. The term refers to the **Federal Register** volume and page where we published a notice of the filing of the petition for modification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Petitions and copies of the final decisions are available for examination by the public in the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA,

1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2350, Arlington, Virginia 22209. For further information contact Barbara Barron at 202-693-9447.

Dated at Arlington, Virginia this 22nd day of February 2006.

Robert F. Stone,

Acting Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

Affirmative Decisions on Petitions for Modification

Docket No.: M-2005-004-C.

FR Notice: 70 FR 7760.

Petitioner: Lone Mountain Processing, Inc.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.901(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to use a 480-volt, three-phase, 300KW/375kVA diesel-powered generator (DPG) set to supply power to a three-phase wye connected 300 KVA autotransformer and three-phase, 480-volt and 995-volt power circuits. This is considered an acceptable alternative method for the Clover Fork Mine No. 1. The petition for modification is granted for the use of the 300 Kilowatt (kW)/375 Kilovolt Amperes (KVA), 480-volt, diesel-powered generator (DPG) set to supply power to three-phase 480- and 995-volt power circuits to move mobile equipment around the mine at the Clover Fork Mine No. 1 with conditions.

Docket No.: M-2005-034-C.

FR Notice: 70 FR 32379.

Petitioner: Hopkins County Coal, LLC.
Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.1103-4(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to install a low-level carbon monoxide detection system as an early warning fire detection system in all belt entries where a monitoring system identifies a sensor location in lieu of identifying each belt flight. This is considered an acceptable alternative method for the Elk Creek Mine. The petition for modification is granted for the use of a carbon monoxide monitoring system that identifies the location of sensors in lieu of identifying belt flights at the Elk Creek Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-2005-041-C.

FR Notice: 70 FR 35710.

Petitioner: McElroy Coal Company.
Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.507.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to use non-permissible submersible pumps installed in bleeder and return entries and sealed areas of the McElroy Mine. This is considered an acceptable alternative method for the McElroy Mine. The petition for modification is granted for the use of low- and medium-voltage, three phase,