

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Mine Safety and Health Administration****Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Mine Ventilation System Plan****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 Mine Ventilation System Plan. 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 Better Information Contact section of this notice.

DATES: Submit comments on or before August 24, 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:

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 715, 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**

Underground mines present harsh and hostile working environments. The ventilation system is the most vital life support system in underground mining and a properly operating ventilation system is essential for maintaining a safe and healthful working environment. Lack of adequate ventilation in underground mines has resulted in fatalities from asphyxiation and explosions.

II. Current Actions

A well planned mine ventilation system is necessary to ensure a fresh air supply to miners at all working places, to control the amounts of harmful airborne contaminants in the mine atmosphere, and to dilute possible accumulation of explosive gases.

The standard requires mine operators to prepare a written plan of the mine's ventilation system and to update the plan annually. The purposes are to insure that each operator routinely plans, reviews, and updates the plan; to insure the availability of accurate and correct information; and to provide MSHA with the opportunity to alert the mine operator to potential hazards.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Mine Ventilation System Plan.

OMB Number: 1219-0016.

Agency Number: MSHA 401.

Recordkeeping: 1 year.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Cite/Reference/Form/etc: 30 CFR 57.8520.

Total Respondents: 240.

Frequency: Annually.

Total Responses: 240.

Average Time per Response: 24 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 5,760.
Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): 0.
Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$46,080.00.

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: June 17, 1998.

Theresa M. O'Malley,

Acting Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-16758 Filed 6-23-98; 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; Operations Under Water****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 Operations Under Water. 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 August 24, 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: 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 715, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Mrs. O'Malley can be reached at tomalley@msha.gov (Internet E-Mail), (703) 235-8378 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Title 30, CFR 75.1716, 75.1716-1 and 75.1716-3 require operators of underground coal mines to notify MSHA of proposed mining under bodies of water and to obtain a permit to mine under a body of water if, in the

judgment of the Secretary, it is sufficiently large to constitute a hazard to miners. This is a statutory provision contained in Section 317(r) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. The regulation is necessary to prevent the inundation of underground coal mines with water, which has the potential of drowning miners.

The coal mine operator submits an application for the permit to the District Manager in whose district the mine is located. Applications contain the name and address of the mine; projected mining and ground support plans; a mine map showing the location of the river, stream, lake or other body of water and its relation to the location of all working places; a profile map showing the type of strata and the distance in evaluation between the coal bed and the water involved.

II. Current Actions

Section 317(r) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 requires that when a mine operator mines coal from a mine that requires construction, operation, and maintenance of tunnels under any river, stream, lake or other body of water that could potentially pose a hazard to miners, such operator is required to obtain a permit from the Secretary, which shall include such terms and conditions as deemed appropriate to protect the safety of miners working or passing through such tunnels from cave-ins and other hazards. This section of the Act is enforced through application 30 CFR 75.1716, which requires the underground mine operators to notify MSHA prior to mining under any body of water (30 CFR 75.1716-1) and to submit a permit application to mine under a body of water (30 CFR 75.1716-3), for the MSHA District Manager's approval prior to mining under the body

of water. MSHA is obligated to respond in writing to the notice (30 CFR 75.1716-2) and to the permit application (30 CFR 75.1716-4). MSHA routinely receives the notice and the permit application as a single correspondence due to the annual review of the mine ventilation plan map one year mining projections [30 CFR 75.317(b)(14)] and the annual submittal of a certified mine map, which is required to show the locations of mines above and below and bodies of water above the active mine [30 CFR 75.1200-(I and j) and 30 CFR 75.1203]. The annual review of these maps provide early detection of potential inundation hazards and as a result reduce or eliminate the need for a separate notice under 30 CFR 75.1716-1.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Operations Under Water.

OMB Number: 1219-0020.

Agency Number: MSHA 207.

Recordkeeping: The CFR does not mention whether or not a record of the permit should be kept and for how long. However, MSHA maintains a copy of the permit application and the correspondence granting the permit in the mine file through the active life of the mine. In addition, both the permitted mine workings and the location and extent of the body of water are a permanent part of the information required on the certified mine map. MSHA occasionally will require the conditions under which a permit application is approved to be included in the mine roof control plan (30 CFR 75.220) where the District Manager determines such information is necessary to adequately protect miners.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Cite/reference	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response	Burden
75.1716 75.1716.1	Included in 75.1716-3	Occasional Included in 75.1716-3.	Included in 75.1716-3 Included in 75.1716-3	5 hours 5 hours	Included in 75.1716-3. Included in 75.1716-3.
75.1716-3	14 new or revised notices/ permit appls.	On occasion	14	5 hours	70 hours.
Totals	14	On occasion	14	5 hours	70 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Cost:
\$3,010.00.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):
Certified Mail \$210.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/
maintaining):* None.

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: June 18, 1998.

Theresa M. O'Malley,

*Acting Director, Program Evaluation and
Information Resources.*

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