

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 20, 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 O'Malley, Program Analysis Office, 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

When rock bursts occur in an underground mine, they pose a serious threat to the safety of miners in the area affected by the burst. These bursts may reasonably be expected to result in the entrapment of miners, death, and serious physical harm. Recent mining technology has disclosed scientific methods of monitoring rock stresses which will allow the prediction of an oncoming burst. These predictions can be used by the mine operator to move miners to safer locations and to establish areas which need relief drilling.

Title 30 Section 57.3461 requires operators of underground metal and nonmetal mines to develop a rock burst control plan within 90 days after a rock burst has been experienced.

II. Current Actions

This information collection needs to be extended to provide for the protection of miners from entrapment, death, or serious physical harm in metal and nonmetal underground mines with a history of rock bursts.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Rock Burst Control Plan.

OMB Number: 1291-0097.

Agency Number: MSHA 417.

Record keeping: The control plan must be maintained at all times and updated as conditions warrant.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Cite/Reference/Form/etc.: 30 CFR Section 57.3461.

Total Respondents: 2 per year.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Responses: 2 per year.

Average Time per Response: 12 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 24 burden hours.

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

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$864.

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: July 15, 1998.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 98-19352 Filed 7-20-98; 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; Respirator Program Records

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 respirator program records. 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 in 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 September 21, 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 O'Malley, Program Analysis Office, 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 tomally@msha.gov (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-1370 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 101(a)(7) of the Mine Act mandates in part that mandatory standards prescribe the use of protective equipment where appropriate to protect miners against hazards. Where protective equipment or respirators are required because of exposure to harmful substances, MSHA must ensure that such equipment offers adequate protection for workers. A written respirator program that addresses such issues as selection, fitting, use, and maintenance of respirators is essential

for ensuring that workers are properly and effectively using the equipment. Records of fit-testing and essential for determining that the worker is wearing the proper respirator.

Title 30 CFR Sections 56.5005 and 57.5005 require metal and nonmetal mine operators to institute a respirator program governing selection, maintenance, training, fitting, supervision, cleaning and use of respirators. To control those occupational diseases caused by breathing air contaminated with harmful dusts, fumes, mists, gases, or vapors, the primary objective is to prevent atmospheric contamination. MSHA's current policy, as prescribed by regulation, is to require that this be accomplished by feasible engineering and administrative control measures. When effective controls are not feasible, or while they are being instituted, or during occasional entry into hazardous atmospheres to perform maintenance or

investigations, appropriate respirators are to be used in accordance with established procedures protecting the miners.

Sections 56.5005 and 57.5005 incorporate by reference requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI Z88.2-1969). These incorporated requirements mandate that miners who must wear respirators be fit-tested to the respirators that they will use. Certain records are also required to be kept in connection with respirators, including records of the date of issuance of the respirator, and fit-test results. The fit-testing records are essential for determining that the worker is wearing the proper respirator.

II. Current Actions

The mine operator uses the information to properly issue respiratory protection to miners when feasible engineering and/or administrative controls do not reduce the exposure to permissible levels. Fit-

testing records are used to ensure that a respirator worn by an individual is in fact the one for which that individual received a tight fit. MSHA uses the information to determine compliance with the standard.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Respirator Program Records.

OMB Number: 1219-0048.

Agency Number: MSHA 404.

Record keeping: None.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Cite/Reference/Form/etc: 30 CFR Sections 56.5005 and 57.5005.

Total Respondents: 600.

Frequency: As required.

Total Responses: 15,900.

Average Time per Response: 5 hours and 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 3,973 hours.

Cite/Reference	Total respondents	Frequency (per year)	Total responses	Average time per response (hours)	Burden (hours)
Program Requirements	600	12	7,200	5.000	3,000
Fit Test	1,500	1	1,500	.250	375
ANSI Recordkeeping	600	12	7,200	.083	598
Totals	2,700	15,900	5.353	3,973

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): None.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$131,666.

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: July 15, 1998.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

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BILLING CODE 4510-43-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Working Group Studying Retirement Plan Leakage—Cashing In Your Future from ERISA Employer-Sponsored Pension Plans; Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefits Plans; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 512 of the Employee Retirement

Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. 1142, a public meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 1998, of the Retirement Plan Leakage—Cashing in Your Future—Working Group of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans. The group is studying pre-retirement distributions, including in-service distribution, hardship loans and participant loans from ERISA employer-sponsored pension plans.

The purpose of the open meeting, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to approximately noon in Room N-4437 C&D, U.S. Department of Labor Building, Second and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210, is for Working Group members to continue taking testimony on the import of these "pension preservation" issues.

Members of the public are encouraged to file a written statement pertaining to the topic by submitting 20 copies on or before August 4, 1998, to Sharon Morrissey, Executive Secretary, ERISA Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-5677, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210. Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the

Working Group should forward their request to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 219-8733. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes, but an extended statement may be submitted for the record. Individuals with disabilities, who need special accommodations, should contact Sharon Morrissey by August 4, 1998, at the address indicated in this notice.

Organizations or individuals also may submit statements for the record without testifying. Twenty (20) copies of such statements should be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Council at the above address. Papers will be accepted and included in the record of the meeting if received on or before August 4.

Signed at Washington, DC this 15th day of July, 1998.

Meredith Miller,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-19348 Filed 7-20-98; 8:45 am]

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