

collection expenses and respondent burden, while permitting efficient re-allocation of program resources. Volatile, technologically sophisticated, and never-before-sampled SICs now may be updated or introduced into the PPI in a timelier manner.

C. Publication

The PPI mission includes a mandate requiring the program to work toward publication, wherever possible, of output price indexes for every four-digit industry defined by the SIC Manual. Historically, the PPI had been a family of indexes focusing on the Mining, Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Forestry sectors. This publication mandate has resulted in expansion of coverage into non-goods producing sectors of the economy. PPI sampling and data collection methodology have permitted systematic retrieval of specific service-industry classifications, and have resulted in the publication of various four-digit SIC aggregate indexes, as well as service-line and detailed service-category price indexes. The PPI currently publishes about fifty industry-based indexes for service-sector activities. Over the preceding decade,

the PPI has introduced indexes encompassing Transportation, Real Estate, Health, Legal, Accounting, and many other service-based industries. Industry expansion continues on a regular basis, as funding permits. As recently as the July 1998 data release, the PPI introduced price indexes for SIC 6331 (Property and Casualty Insurance). In addition, the PPI is conducting research and preparing to collect data for Wholesale and Retail Trade Establishments, as well as Investment Bankers and Stock Brokers.

D. NAICS Classification

At present, sampling and data collection are conducted according to the SIC Manual system of organization. However, the PPI already has begun to make modifications that will permit smooth conversion to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

E. Electronic Data Collection

The PPI is developing electronic data collection procedures that will further contribute to reducing respondent burden and increasing efficiency. The program has been conducting a pilot project where a subset of respondents

receives monthly price quotation forms and provides responses through fax technology. Response rates are better using fax, suggesting that this method of distributing and receiving the forms will be successful. Based on these results, the PPI plans to offer faxing as an option to approximately 30 percent of respondents in the near future.

F. Internet-Based Data Collection

BLS-wide efforts are being made to test the feasibility of permitting respondents to provide data through an Internet web-browser connection. While this procedure, if implemented, would result in a major data collection enhancement, a large number of security issues must be addressed first. Systems and procedures that protect the confidentiality of individual respondents' micro-data, as well as the integrity of the BLS network as a whole, must be developed and tested.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: Producer Price Index Survey.

OMB Number: 1220-0008.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit.

Form No.	Total number of respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Average time per response	Total burden hours
BLS 1810A, A1, B, C, C1, and E	6,342	Once	6,342	2 Hours	12, 684
BLS 473P	105,000	Monthly	1,260,000	18 Minutes ...	378,000

Total annual burden: 390,684 hours.
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 also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 23rd day of October 1998.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,

*Chief, Division of Management Systems,
Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 98-29001 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Petitions for Modification

The following parties have filed petitions to modify the application of mandatory safety standards under

section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

1. Headache Coal Company, Inc.

[Docket No. M-98-87-C]

Headache Coal Company, Inc., Route 1, Box 419-A1, Gray, Kentucky 40734 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.380(f)(4)(i)(escapeways; bituminous and lignite mines) to its Roses Creek Mine (I.D. No. 15-17074) located in Whitley County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to install two 10 pound portable chemical fire extinguishers in the operators deck or in the scoop of each Mescher Tractor at the mine and have the extinguishers readily accessible to the operator; to have the equipment operator inspect each fire extinguisher daily before entering the escapeway; to have the equipment operator maintain at the mine a record of daily inspections; and to have a sufficient number of spare fire extinguishers maintained at the mine in case a defective fire extinguisher is detected. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would

provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

2. Headache Coal Company, Inc.

[Docket No. M-98-88-C]

Headache Coal Company, Inc., Route 1, Box 419-A1, Gray, Kentucky 40734 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.342 (methane monitors) to its Roses Creek Mine (I.D. No. 15-17074) located in Whitley County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use hand-held continuous-duty methane and oxygen indicators instead of machine-mounted methane monitors on three-wheel tractors with drag bottom buckets. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

Request for Comments

Persons interested in these petitions are encouraged to submit comments via e-mail to "comments@msha.gov", or on a computer disk along with an original hard copy to the Office of Standards,

Regulations, and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 627, Arlington, Virginia 22203. All comments must be postmarked or received in that office on or before November 30, 1998. Copies of these petitions are available for inspection at that address.

Dated: October 21, 1998.

Carol J. Jones,

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

[FR Doc. 98-29026 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Combined Arts Advisory Panel Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Combined Arts Advisory Panel, Dance Section (Heritage & Preservation and Education & Access categories) to the National Council on the Arts will be held on November 17-20, 1998. The panel will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on November 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on November 18th and 19th, and from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 20th, in Room 716 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20506. A portion of this meeting, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on November 20th, will be open to the public for a policy discussion on field issues and needs, Leadership Initiatives, Millennium projects, and guidelines.

The remaining portions of this meeting, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on November 17th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on November 18th and 19th, and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 20th, are for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency by grant applicants. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of May 14, 1998, these sessions will be closed to the public pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Any person may observe meetings, or portions thereof, of advisory panels which are open to the public, and, if

time allows, may be permitted to participate in the panel's discussions at the discretion of the panel chairman and with the approval of the full-time Federal employee in attendance.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of AccessAbility, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20506, 202/682-5532, TDY-TDD 202/682-5496, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, or call 202/682-5691.

Dated: October 22, 1998.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

Panel Coordinator, Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 98-28951 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7537-01-M

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Arts; Combined Art Advisory Panel Meeting

Pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463), as amended, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Combined Arts Advisory Panel, Local Arts Agencies Section (Heritage & Preservation, Education & Access, and Planning & Stabilization categories) to the National Council on the Arts will be held on November 18-19, 1998. The panel will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on November 18th and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on November 19th, in Room 730 at the Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20506. A portion of this meeting, from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. on November 19th, will be open to the public for a policy discussion on field issues and needs, Leadership Initiatives, Millennium projects, and guidelines.

The remaining portions of this meeting, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on November 18th and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on November 19th, are for the purpose of Panel review, discussion, evaluation, and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including information given in confidence to the agency by grant applicants. In accordance with the determination of the Chairman of May 14, 1998, these sessions will be closed

to the public pursuant to subsection (c)(4), (6) and (9)(B) of section 552b of Title 5, United States Code.

Any person may observe meetings, or portions thereof, of advisory panels which are open to the public, and, if time allows, may be permitted to participate in the panel's discussions at the discretion of the panel chairman and with the approval of the full-time Federal employee in attendance.

If you need special accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Office of AccessAbility, National Endowment for the Arts, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20506, 202/682-5532, TDY-TDD 202/682-5496, at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Further information with reference to this meeting can be obtained from Ms. Kathy Plowitz-Worden, Office of Guidelines & Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506, or call 202/682-5691.

Dated: October 22, 1998.

Kathy Plowitz-Worden,

Panel Coordinator, Panel Operations, National Endowment for the Arts.

[FR Doc. 98-28952 Filed 10-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7537-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Electrical and Communications Systems; Notice of Meetings

In accord with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meetings:

Name: Special Emphasis Panel in Electrical and Communications Systems (1196).

1. *Date and Times:* November 16, 1998; 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Contact: Dr. Usha Varshney, Program Director, Division of Electrical Communications Systems, Room 675, 703-306-1340.

2. *Dates and Times:* November 16-17, 1998; 8:30 to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Contact: Dr. Magdy Iskander, Program Director, Division of Electrical Communications Systems, Room 675, 703-306-1340.

Place: National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

Type of Meetings: Closed.

Purpose of Meetings: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate CAREER-ECS proposals submitted to the Division as part of the selection process for awards.

Reasons for Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including