that the Department is adding three medical articles to the official rulemaking record and invites comments on those articles.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 21, 1997.

ADRESSES: Send written comments on the proposed rule to James L. DeMarce, Director, Division of Coal Mine Worker's Compensation, Room C-3520, Frances Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20210.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James L. DeMarce, (202) 219-6692.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the Federal Register of January 22, 1997 (62 FR 3338-3435), the Department of Labor published a proposed rule intended to amend and revise the regulations implementing the Black Lung Benefit Act, subchapter IV of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended. Interested persons were requested to submit comments on or before March 24, 1997. In the Federal Register of February 24, 1997 (62 FR 8201), the Department extended the comment period through May 23, 1997. The trade association representing coal mine operators has requested that the Department once again extend the comment period. The trade association seeks additional time to analyze existing medical evidence and submit its analysis to peer review. The Department deems it desirable to extend the comment period for all interested persons. Therefore, the comment period for the proposed rule, amending and revising 20 CFR Parts 718, 722, 725, 726 and 727, is extended through August 21, 1997.