

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 Record of Examination for Hazardous Conditions. 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 in the For Further Information Contact section of this notice.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before August 25, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 627, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Comments are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via E-mail to [psilvey@msha.gov](mailto: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:** George M. Fesak, Director, 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. Mr. Fesak can be reached at [gfesak@msha.gov](mailto:gfesak@msha.gov) (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-8378 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

Coal mine operators are required by 30 CFR 77.1713 to conduct

examinations of each active working area of surface mines, active surface installations at these mines, and preparation plants not associated with underground coal mines for hazardous conditions during each shift. A report of any hazardous conditions detected must be entered into a record book, along with a description of any corrective actions taken.

A number of potential hazards can exist at surface coal mines and facilities. Highwalls, mining equipment, travelways, and the handling of mining materials each present possible hazardous conditions. Since promulgation of 30 CFR 77.1713 in 1971, numerous miners have either lost their lives at the areas affected by the subject standard or received injuries of varying degrees of seriousness. The majority of the injuries and fatalities resulted from hazardous conditions that had not been detected or corrected.

##### II. Current Actions

By conducting an on-shift examination for hazardous conditions, the mine operator better guarantees a safe working environment for the miners and a reduction in accidents. Examinations for hazardous conditions are required to be conducted each shift. To do so less frequently could allow unsafe conditions to go undetected that might result in an accident.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration.

*Title:* Record of Examination for Hazardous Conditions.

*OMB Number:* 1219-0083.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit institutions.

*Cite/Reference/Form/etc:* 30 CFR 77.1713.

*Total Respondents:* 1,818.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Total Responses:* 616,302.

*Average Time per Response:* 1.5 hours.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 924,453.

*Estimated Total Burden Hour Cost:* \$38,827,026.

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

*Estimated Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining):* \$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: June 18, 1997.

**George M. Fesak,**

*Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.*

[FR Doc. 97-16496 Filed 6-23-97; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Antarctic Tour Operators Meeting

The National Science Foundation announces the following meeting:

*Name:* Antarctic Tour Operators Meeting.  
*Date and Time:* July 9, 1997, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, Room 375, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

*Type of Meeting:* Open.

*Contact Person:* Nadene G. Kennedy, Polar Coordination Specialist, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, Telephone: (703) 306-1033; Fax: (703) 306-0139.

*Purpose of Meeting:* Pursuant to the National Science Foundation's responsibilities under the Antarctic Conservation Act (P.L. 95-541) and the Antarctic Treaty, the U.S. Antarctic Program Managers plan to meet with Antarctic Tour Operators to exchange information concerning dates and procedures for visiting U.S. antarctic stations, review the latest Antarctic Treaty Recommendations concerning the environment and protected sites, and other items designed to protect the Antarctic environment.

#### Agenda

- Introduction and Overview.
- Review of 1996-97 Visits to McMurdo, Palmer and South Pole Stations.
- Tour Operator's Comments on 1996-97 Season Visits.
- 1997-98 Visits to McMurdo, Palmer and South Pole Stations.
- Report from the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO).
- Information Exchange, Status and Reviews.
- Presentations.
- Discussions with IAATO and EPA on development of Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Other Items.

**Nadene G. Kennedy,**

*Polar Coordination Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.*

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Advisory Committee for Biological Sciences; Committee of Visitors; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-