

For example, we know that many people who have mental disorders might not need benefits from us if they could get treatment before their disorders make them unable to work. Others may be disabled and unable to work, but may not need to remain unemployed, if they receive treatment or other interventions. Many people with permanent disorders can work if they have a supporting safety net (including title II disability benefits and SSI payments). Work can also be therapeutic for some people. Although the Act and our regulations include some access to health care through Medicare and Medicaid, some provision for vocational rehabilitation, and a number of work incentives, these provisions are generally for people who already qualify for benefits under our disability programs.

We are interested in your ideas for how we may be able to improve our programs for people who have mental disorders, especially those who would like to work full-time or part-time with supports. Your ideas can address our existing rules and regulations or suggest changes to the law. We will consider your ideas as we develop the NPRM we intend to publish for public comment, and, where applicable, as part of our long-term planning for the disability program.

Other Information

Who Can Get Disability Benefits?

Under title II of the Act, we provide for the payment of disability benefits if you are disabled and belong to one of the following three groups:

- Workers insured under the Act,

- Children of insured workers, and
- Widows, widowers, and surviving divorced spouses (see 20 CFR 404.336) of insured workers.

Under title XVI of the Act, we provide for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments on the basis of disability if you are disabled and have limited income and resources.

How Do We Define Disability?

Under both the title II and title XVI programs, disability must be the result of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment or combination of impairments that is expected to result in death or which has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months. Our definitions of disability are shown in the following table:

If you file a claim under . . .	And you are . . .	Disability means you have a medically determinable impairment(s) as described above and that results in . . .
Title II	an adult or a child	the inability to do any substantial gainful activity (SGA).
Title XVI	a person age 18 or older	the inability to do any SGA.
Title XVI	a person under age 18	marked and severe functional limitations.

What Are the Listings?

The listings are examples of impairments that we consider severe enough to prevent a person from doing any gainful activity, or that result in “marked and severe functional limitations” in children seeking SSI payments under title XVI of the Act. Although we publish the listings only in appendix 1 to subpart P of part 404 of our rules, we incorporate them by reference in the SSI program in § 416.925 of our regulations, and apply them to claims under both title II and title XVI of the Act.

How Do We Use the Listings?

The listings are in two parts. There are listings for adults (part A) and for children (part B). If you are a person age 18 or over, we apply the listings in part A when we assess your claim, and we never use the listings in part B.

If you are a person under age 18, we first use the criteria in part B of the listings. If the listings in part B do not apply, and the specific disease process(es) has a similar effect on adults and children, we then use the criteria in part A. (See §§ 404.1525 and 416.925.)

If your impairment(s) does not meet any listing, we will also consider whether it medically equals any listing; that is, whether it is as medically severe. (See §§ 404.1526 and 416.926.)

We use the listings only to decide that people are disabled or that they are still disabled. We will never deny your claim

or decide that you no longer qualify for benefits simply because your impairment(s) does not meet or medically equal a listing. If you have a severe impairment(s) that does not meet or medically equal any listing, we may still find you disabled based on other rules in the “sequential evaluation process” that we use to evaluate all disability claims. (See §§ 404.1520, 416.920, and 416.924.)

List of Subjects

20 CFR Part 404

Administrative practice and procedure, Blind, Disability benefits, Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Social Security.

20 CFR Part 416

Administrative practice and procedure, Aged, Blind, Disability benefits, Public assistance programs, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 14, 2003.

Jo Anne B. Barnhart,

Commissioner of Social Security.

[FR Doc. 03-6278 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-U

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

30 CFR Parts 70, 72, 75, and 90

RIN 1219-AB14; 1219-AB18

Verification of Underground Coal Mine Operators’ Dust Control Plans and Compliance Sampling for Respirable Dust; Determination of Concentration of Respirable Coal Mine Dust

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Proposed rules; notice of public hearings; close of record.

SUMMARY: MSHA will hold public hearings to receive comments on the proposed rule addressing Verification of Underground Coal Mine Operators’ Dust Control Plans and Compliance Sampling for Respirable Dust (Plan Verification), and the notice of reopening addressing Determination of Concentration of Respirable Coal Mine Dust (Single Sample), both published in the **Federal Register** on March 6, 2003.

These hearings will be held pursuant to section 101 (30 U.S.C. 811) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act).

DATES: Post-hearing comments must be received on or before June 4, 2003.

The public hearing dates and locations are listed in the Public Hearings section below under

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

If individuals or organizations wish to make an oral presentation for the record, please submit your request at least 5 days prior to the hearing date.

ADDRESSES: You may use mail, facsimile (fax), or electronic mail to send us your requests to make oral presentations at the public hearings. Clearly identify your requests and send them (1) By mail to MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 1100 Wilson Blvd., Room 2313, Arlington, Virginia 22209-3939; (2) By fax to (202) 693-9441; or (3) By electronic mail to: comments@msha.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marvin W. Nichols, Jr., Director, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances, MSHA; phone: (202) 693-9440; facsimile: (202) 693-9441; E-mail: nichols-marvin@msha.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On March 6, 2003, (68 FR 10784), MSHA published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** that would require mine operators to verify through sampling the effectiveness of the dust control parameters for each mechanized

mining unit (MMU) specified in the approved mine ventilation plan. For samples to be valid, the operator would be required to sample on a production shift during which the amount of material produced by an MMU is at or above the verification production level using only the dust control parameters listed in the ventilation plan.

The use of approved powered, air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) and/or verifiable administrative controls would be allowed as a supplemental means of compliance when MSHA determines that all feasible engineering or environmental controls are being used. The proposed rule would also rescind operator compliance sampling in underground coal mines. The use of a personal, continuous dust monitor (PCDM), once developed and approved, could be used by an operator in conjunction with the dust control parameters specified in the mine ventilation plan. The proposed rule would significantly improve miners' health protection by limiting the exposure of individual miners to respirable coal mine dust.

Also, on March 6, 2003 (68 FR 10940), the Secretaries of Labor and Health and

Human Services published a notice, "Determination of Concentration of Respirable Coal Mine Dust (Single Sample)," reopening the rulemaking record on a July 7, 2000 joint proposed rule that would determine that the average concentration of respirable dust to which each miner in the active workings of a coal mine is exposed can be accurately measured over a single shift. In that proposed rule the Secretaries proposed to rescind a previous 1972 finding by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, on the accuracy of single shift sampling (63 FR 42068).

The Agency will hold public hearings to receive further comment on the Plan Verification proposed rule and the Single Sample proposed rule.

II. Public Hearings

The public hearings will begin at 8 a.m. each day and end after the last scheduled speaker.

The public hearings will be held on the following dates and at the following locations:

Date	Location	Phone
May 6, 2003	Holiday Inn at the Meadows 340 Racetrack Road Washington, PA 15301	(724) 222-6200
May 8, 2003	Country Inn & Suites by Carlson 105 Alex Lane Charleston, WV 25304	(304) 925-4300
May 13, 2003	Holiday Inn 4101 U.S. Highway 41 North Evansville, IN 47711	(812) 424-6400
May 15, 2003	Sheraton Suites Lexington 2601 Richmond Road Lexington, KY 40509	(859) 268-0060
May 20, 2003	Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport 5000 Richard Arrington Blvd. Birmingham, AL 35212	(205) 591-6900
May 22, 2003	Holiday Inn Grand Junction 755 Horizon Drive Grand Junction, CO 81506	(970) 243-6790

III. Conduct of Public Hearings

The hearings will begin with an opening statement from MSHA, followed by an opportunity for members of the public to make oral presentations. You do not have to make a written request to speak. Speakers will speak in the order that they sign in. Any unallotted time will be made available for persons making same-day requests. At the discretion of the presiding official, the time allocated to speakers for their presentation may be limited. Speakers and other attendees may also present information to the MSHA panel for inclusion in the rulemaking record.

The hearings will be conducted in an informal manner. The hearing panel may ask questions of speakers. Although formal rules of evidence or cross-examination will not apply, the presiding official may exercise discretion to ensure the orderly progress of the hearing and may exclude irrelevant or unduly repetitious material and questions.

A verbatim transcript of the proceedings will be prepared and made a part of the rulemaking record. The transcripts will be made available for public review and can be accessed from MSHA's homepage at [http://](http://www.msha.gov)

www.msha.gov, Statutory and Regulatory Information, Comments and Hearing Transcripts.

We will accept additional written comments and other appropriate data for the record from any interested party, including those not presenting oral statements. Written comments and data submitted to us will be included in the rulemaking record.

IV. Close of Rulemaking Record

To allow for the submission of post-hearing comments, the rulemaking record will remain open until June 4, 2003.

Dated: March 11, 2003.

John R. Caylor,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

[FR Doc. 03-6220 Filed 3-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR 206

RIN 1010-AC59

Geothermal Resources: Proposal To Convene Discussions To Develop Consensus on Royalty Valuation Approaches

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Request for comments, solicitation of interest.

SUMMARY: In conjunction with the President's National Energy Policy on renewable energy resources, MMS proposes to convene discussions with geothermal producers and other stakeholders to explore the possibility of developing a consensus on geothermal royalty valuation approaches. The discussions will be in the form of public workshops and written comments and will be open for both electrical generation and direct-use valuation. MMS wishes to gauge the extent to which geothermal producers and other stakeholders desire new or modified royalty valuation approaches. Accordingly, MMS at this time requests the following information: Comments on the need for new or modified valuation procedures; an expression of interest in holding workshops to discuss alternative valuation procedures, with the goal of developing a consensus on new or modified approaches; and suggestions for alternatives or modifications to the existing procedures, with the objective of maintaining royalty neutrality.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before April 16, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Address your comments and suggestions regarding this proposal to Paul Knueven, Manager, Records and Information Management Team.

By regular U.S. mail: Center for Excellence, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, P.O. Box 25165, MS 320B2, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; or

By overnight mail or courier: Center for Excellence, Minerals Revenue Management, Minerals Management Service, Building 85, Room F421,

Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165; or

By email: MRM.comments@mms.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Also, please include "Attn: Geothermal Proposal 2003" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation that we have received your Internet message, call the contact person listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sharron L. Gebhardt at telephone (303) 231-3211, fax (303) 231-3781, email sharron.gebhardt@mms.gov, or PO Box 25165, MS 320B2, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background: The current geothermal valuation rules (30 CFR 206.350 *et seq.*) have been in effect since January 1, 1992. One of the primary reasons for promulgating the current rules was to establish procedures to value the increasing volume of geothermal production used by lessees in their own power plants or direct-use facilities; that is, production not subject to sales transactions, or the so-called "no-sales" resources. After considering all the comments, MMS adopted the netback procedure for valuing the no-sales electrical generation resources and the alternative fuel method for valuing the no-sales direct-use resources (56 FR 57256, November 8, 1991). These two procedures have now become the predominant methods of valuing geothermal production from Federal leases for royalty purposes.

In response to concerns raised by stakeholders over declining royalties in 1999, MMS reopened the geothermal valuation rules to public comment to consider alternatives to both the netback procedure and the alternative fuel method (Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 64 FR 45213, August 19, 1999). However, owing to successful resolution of the concerns that prompted this action, as well as no clear consensus from industry to alter the existing rules, MMS withdrew the proposed rulemaking (65 FR 49957, August 16, 2000).

On May 17, 2001, the President released his National Energy Policy (NEP) that emphasized the importance of renewable energy in contributing to the nation's electricity supply. In response to recommendations in the NEP, the Departments of the Interior and Energy co-sponsored a national conference in Washington, DC, on November 28, 2001, to hear testimony on opportunities to expand renewable energy production from public lands. A

follow-up conference was held in Palm Springs, California, on February 27, 2002, for more in-depth discussions of the issues raised in November. Few industry representatives at either conference commented on the current Federal geothermal valuation methods. However, those representatives who did speak raised concerns about the effects of royalty valuation on project costs.

II. Proposal and Request: In response to the comments made at the conferences, and to further the NEP's goal of increasing production of renewable energy on public lands, MMS proposes to convene informal discussions among geothermal producers and other stakeholders to explore the possibility of developing a consensus on geothermal royalty valuation approaches for the no-sales resources. The discussions will be in the form of public workshops and written comments. Additionally, valuation of both electrical generation and direct-use resources will be open to discussion.

MMS wishes to gauge the extent to which geothermal producers and other stakeholders desire new or modified royalty valuation approaches. In this regard we request responses to the following questions:

1. Is there a need for new or modified geothermal royalty valuation approaches, especially for the no-sales resources? Why or why not.

2. Are you interested and would you participate in public workshops to discuss alternative valuation procedures, with the goal of developing a consensus on new or modified approaches?

3. What alternatives or modifications to the existing valuation procedures do you propose? (See further discussion under "Goals of Valuation Alternatives" below.)

Depending on the responses to questions 1 and 2, MMS will schedule public workshops in the spring or summer of 2003. MMS proposes two workshops, one in Denver, Colorado, and the other in either Sacramento, California, or Reno, Nevada. Please indicate your preference. We will consider other locations if there is enough interest.

III. Goals of Valuation Alternatives: The goals of any proposed alternatives to the current valuation procedures, particularly with respect to the no-sales resources, should be threefold. First, the proposed method should derive a value of the resource that reflects its market value. Second, the proposed method should be easy to apply and readily verifiable. Third, the proposed method should not cause a significant royalty reduction for both present and future