

testimony that may aid the Commission's deliberations may request permission to present a short statement at the conference.

Written submissions.—As provided in sections 201.8 and 207.15 of the Commission's rules, any person may submit to the Commission on or before May 8, 2003, a written brief containing information and arguments pertinent to the subject matter of the investigation. Parties may file written testimony in connection with their presentation at the conference no later than three days before the conference. If briefs or written testimony contain BPI, they must conform with the requirements of sections 201.6, 207.3, and 207.7 of the Commission's rules. The Commission's rules do not authorize filing of submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means, except to the extent permitted by section 201.8 of the Commission's rules, as amended, 67 FR 68036 (November 8, 2002).

In accordance with sections 201.16(c) and 207.3 of the rules, each document filed by a party to the investigation must be served on all other parties to the investigation (as identified by either the public or BPI service list), and a certificate of service must be timely filed. The Secretary will not accept a document for filing without a certificate of service.

Authority: This investigation is being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice is published pursuant to section 207.12 of the Commission's rules.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: April 16, 2003.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 03-9850 Filed 4-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance 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. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of "General Inquiries to State Agency Contacts." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the Addresses section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section below on or before June 23, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Amy A. Hobby, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212, telephone number 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll-free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy A. Hobby, BLS Clearance Officer, telephone number 202-691-7628. (See **ADDRESSES** section).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) awards funds to State agencies in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa (hereinafter referred to as the "States") in order to jointly conduct BLS/State Labor Market Information and Occupational Safety and Health Statistics cooperative statistical programs, which themselves have been approved by OMB separately, as follows:

Current Employment Statistics—1220-0011
Local Area Unemployment Statistics—1220-0017
Occupational Employment Statistics—1220-0042
Employment and Wages Report—1220-0012
Annual Refiling Survey—1220-0032
Multiple Worksite Report—1220-0134
Mass Layoff Statistics—1220-0090
Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses—1220-0045
Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries—1220-0133

(This list of BLS/State cooperative statistical programs may change over time.)

To ensure the timely flow of data and to be able to evaluate and improve the programs, it is necessary to conduct ongoing communications between BLS and its State partners. Whether information requests deal with program deliverables, program enhancements, or administrative issues, questions and

dialogue are crucial to the successful implementation of these programs.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The BLS is particularly interested in comments that:

- 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.

III. Current Action

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance is being sought for General Inquiries to State Agency Contacts. Information collected under this clearance is used to support the administrative and programmatic needs of jointly conducted BLS/State Labor Market Information and Occupational Safety and Health Statistics cooperative statistical programs.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: General Inquiries to State Agency Contacts.

OMB Number: 1220-0168.

Affected Public: State, local, or tribal government.

Total Respondents: 55.

Frequency: As needed.

Total Responses: 23,890.

Average Time Per Response: 40 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 15,762 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 OMB approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed in Washington, DC, this 7th day of April, 2003.

Jesús Salinas,

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

[FR Doc. 03-9876 Filed 4-21-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Summary of Decisions Granting in Whole or in Part Petitions for Modification

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

ACTION: Notice of affirmative decisions issued by the Administrators for Coal Mine Safety and Health and Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health on petitions for modification of the application of mandatory safety standards.

SUMMARY: Under section 101 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) may allow the modification of the application of a mandatory safety standard to a mine if the Secretary determines either that an alternate method exists at a specific mine that will guarantee no less protection for the miners affected than that provided by the standard, or that the application of the standard at a specific mine will result in a diminution of safety to the affected miners.

Final decisions on these petitions are based upon the petitioner's statements, comments and information submitted by interested persons, and a field investigation of the conditions at the mine. MSHA, as designee of the Secretary, has granted or partially granted the requests for modification listed below. In some instances, the decisions are conditioned upon compliance with stipulations stated in the decision. The term "AFR Notice" appears in the list of affirmative decisions below. The term refers to the **Federal Register** volume and page where MSHA published a notice of the filing of the petition for modification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Petitions and copies of the final decisions are available for examination by the public in the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2352, Arlington, Virginia 22209. Contact Barbara Barron at 202-693-9447.

Dated in Arlington, Virginia this 16th day of April, 2003.

Marvin W. Nichols, Jr.,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

Affirmative Decisions on Petitions for Modification

Docket No.: M-2002-003-C.

FR Notice: 67 FR 11717.

Petitioner: Knott County Mining Company.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.900.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to use contactors to obtain under-voltage protection instead of using circuit breakers and to train all qualified persons who perform work on the equipment and circuits on safe maintenance procedures. This is considered an acceptable alternative method for the Mallet Branch Mine. MSHA grants the petition for modification to allow the use of contactors to provide under-voltage, grounded phase, and monitor the grounding conductors for low voltage power circuits serving three-phase alternating current equipment, other than portable and mobile equipment, located at the Mallet Branch Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-2002-005-C.

FR Notice: 67 FR 11718.

Petitioner: Cannelton Industries, Inc.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.503 (18.41(f) of part 18).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to use a spring-loaded device on battery plug connectors on mobile battery-powered machines in lieu of a padlock to prevent the plug connector from accidentally disengaging while under load and provide a warning tag that states "Do Not Disengage Under Load" on all battery plug connectors. This is considered an acceptable alternative method for the Mine No. 130 and Shadrick Mine. MSHA grants the petition for modification for use at the Mine No. 130 and Shadrick Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-2002-006-C.

FR Notice: 67 FR 11718.

Petitioner: Point Mining, Inc.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.503 (18.41(f) of part 18).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to use a threaded ring and a spring-loaded device on battery plug connectors on mobile battery-powered machines instead of using padlocks to prevent the plug connector from accidentally disengaging while under load, and to provide instructions to all persons who operate or maintain the battery-powered machines on the safe practices and provisions for complying

with the alternative method. This is considered an acceptable alternative method for the Campbells Creek No. 4 Mine. MSHA grants the petition for modification for use at the Campbells Creek No. 4 Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-2002-007-C.

FR Notice: 67 FR 13196.

Petitioner: Solid Rock Construction, Inc.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.503 (18.41(f) of part 18).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to use permanently installed, spring-loaded locking devices to secure battery plugs on mobile battery-powered machines to prevent unintentional loosening of the battery plugs from battery receptacles, and to eliminate the potential hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations. The petitioner asserts that use of padlocks to secure battery plugs would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. This is considered an acceptable alternative method for the No. 1 Mine. MSHA grants the petition for modification for use at the No. 1 Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-2002-008-C.

FR Notice: 67 FR 13196.

Petitioner: Aaron Coal Company, LLC.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.503 (18.41(f) of part 18).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to use permanently installed, spring-loaded locking devices to secure battery plugs on mobile battery-powered machines to prevent unintentional loosening of the battery plugs from battery receptacles, and to eliminate the potential hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations. The petitioner asserts that using padlocks would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. This is considered an acceptable alternative method for the No. 2 Mine. MSHA grants the petition for modification to permit the use of a spring-loaded device with specific fastening characteristics in lieu of a padlock to secure plugs and electrical type connectors to batteries and to the permissible mobile battery-powered equipment for use at the No. 2 Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-2002-019-C.

Petitioner: White County Coal, LLC.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.503 (18.41(f) of part 18).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal is to use a round, eye-bolt snap spring-loaded locking device to secure screw caps in place on battery plugs of battery operated scoops and tractors in lieu of using its presently approved bolt