DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment Standards Administration

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continued effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance 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. Currently, the Employment Standards Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed collection: Operator Response to Schedule for Submission of Additional Evidence (CM–2970) and Operator Response to Notice of Claim (CM–2970A). A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office 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 July 16, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Ms. Hazel M. Bell, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room S–3201, Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693–0418, fax (202) 693–1451, E-mail bell.hazel@dol.gov. Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or e-mail).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Division of Coal Mine Workers’ Compensation administers the Black Lung Benefits Act (30 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) which provides benefits to coal miners totally disabled due to pneumoniosis, and their surviving dependents. When the Division of Coal Mine Workers’ Compensation (DCMWC) makes a preliminary analysis of a claimant’s eligibility for benefits, and if a coal mine operator has been identified as potentially liable for payment of those benefits, the responsible operator is notified of the preliminary analysis. Regulations require that a coal mine operator be identified and notified of potential liability as early in the adjudication process as possible. Forms CM–970 and CM–970a are now obsolete and renewal will not be requested in the extension request for information collection 1215–0058. The CM–970 and CM–970a will be replaced by CM–2970 and CM–2970a. Regulatory authority is found in 20 CFR 725.410 for the CM–2970 and 20 CFR 725.408 for the CM–2970A. This information collection is currently approved for use through October 31, 2007.

II. Review Focus

The Department of Labor 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.

III. Current Actions

The Department of Labor seeks the extension of approval to collect this information in order to carry out its responsibility to administer the Black Lung Benefits Act.

Type of Review: Revision.

Agency: Employment Standards Administration.


OMB Number: 1215–0058.

Agency Number: CM–2970 and CM–2970A.
Investigate conditions in such industries and 29 CFR part 511, I hereby appoint Special Industry Committee for All Industries in American Samoa a competitive advantage over any industry in the United States outside of American Samoa. 4. Where the committee finds that a higher minimum wage may be determined for employees engaged in certain activities or in the manufacture of certain products in the industry than may be determined for other employees in the industry, the committee shall recommend such reasonable classifications within the industry as it determines to be necessary for the purpose of fixing for each classification the highest minimum wage rate that can be determined for it under the principles set forth herein and in 29 CFR 511.10, that will not substantially curtail employment in such classification and will not give a competitive advantage to any group in the industry. No classification shall be made, however, and no minimum wage rate shall be fixed solely on a regional basis or on the basis of age or sex. In determining whether there should be classifications within an industry, in making such classifications, and in determining the minimum wage rates for such classifications, the committee shall consider, among other relevant factors, the following:

(a) Competitive conditions as affected by transportation, living, and production costs;
(b) Wages established for work of like or comparable character by collective labor agreements negotiated between employers and employees by representatives of their own choosing; and
(c) Wages paid for work of like or comparable character by employers who voluntarily maintain minimum wage standards in the industry.

5. Prior to the hearing, the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, shall prepare an economic report containing the information that has been assembled pertinent to the matters referred to the committee. Copies of this report may be obtained at the Office of the Governor, Pago Pago, American Samoa, the National Office of the Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210, or the Wage and Hour Division Web site (www.wagehour.dol.gov). Upon request, the Wage and Hour Division will mail copies to interested persons who make a written request to the Wage and Hour Division. To facilitate mailing, such persons should make advance written request to the Wage and Hour Division. The committee will take official notice of the facts stated in this report. Parties, however, shall be afforded an opportunity to refute such facts by evidence received at the hearing.

6. The provisions of Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, part 511, will govern the procedure of this industry committee. Copies of this part of the regulations will be available at the Office of the Governor, Pago Pago, American Samoa, the National Office of the Wage and Hour Division, and the Wage and Hour Division Web site at www.dol.gov/dol/allcfr/ESA/Title29/Part_511/loc.htm. The proceedings will be conducted in English, but in the event that a witness should wish to testify in Samoan, an interpreter will be provided. As a prerequisite to participation as a party, interested persons shall file six copies of a prehearing statement at the aforementioned