DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Slope and Shaft Sinking Plans, 30 CFR 77.1900 (Pertains to Surface Work Areas of Underground Coal Mines)

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 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to assure 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 Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the extension of the information collection for Slope and Shaft Sinking Plans, 30 CFR 77.1900.

DATES: All comments must be received by midnight Eastern Daylight Savings Time on November 15, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Comments must clearly be identified with the rule title and may be submitted to MSHA by any of the following methods:
(1) Electronic mail: zzMSHA-Comments@dol.gov.
(2) Facsimile: (202) 693–9441.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mario Distasio, Chief of the Economic Analysis Division, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at distasio.mario@dol.gov (e-mail), 202–693–9445 (voicemail), 202–693–9441 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. 813, authorizes MSHA to collect information necessary to carry out its duty in protecting the safety and health of miners.

Underground coal mine operators are required to submit for approval a plan that will provide the safety of workmen in each slope or shaft that is commenced or extended from the surface to the underground coal mine. Each slope or shaft sinking operation is unique in that each operator uses different methods and equipment and encounters different geological strata which make it impossible for a single set of regulations to assure the safety of the miners under all circumstances. This makes an individual slope or shaft sinking plan necessary.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

MSHA 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 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 section of this notice, or viewed on the Internet by selecting “Rules &Regs”, and then selecting “FedReg Docs”. On the next screen, select “Paperwork Reduction Act Supporting Statement” to view documents supporting the Federal Register notice.

III. Current Actions

This request for collection of information contains notification and recordkeeping provisions for the Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Safety Defects; Examination, Correction and Records, Slope and Shaft Sinking Plans, 30 CFR 77.1900. MSHA does not intend to publish the results from this information collection and is not seeking approval to either display or not display the expiration date for the OMB approval of this information collection. There are no certification exceptions identified with this information collection and the collection of this information does not employ statistical methods.

Type of Review: Extension. Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

OMB Number: 1219–0019.

Frequency: On Occasion.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.


Total Burden Respondents: 73.

Total Number of Responses: 73.

Total Burden Hours: 1,460.

Total Hour Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): $123,662.

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.

Patricia W. Silvey,
Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Ventilation Plan and Main Fan Maintenance Record 30 CFR 57.8520, § 57.8525 (Pertains to Metal and Nonmetal Underground Mines)

ACTION: Notice.