

following as an alternative to the existing standard:

(a) Use nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment when equivalent permissible electronic surveying equipment is not available.

Nonpermissible equipment will include portable battery-operated total station surveying equipment, mine transits, distance meters, and data loggers.

(b) All nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment to be used within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces will be examined by surveying personnel prior to use to ensure the equipment is being maintained in safe operating condition. These examinations will include:

(i) Checking the instrument for any physical damage and the integrity of the case.

(ii) Removing the battery and inspecting for corrosion.

(iii) Inspecting the contact points to ensure a secure connection to the battery.

(iv) Reinserting the battery and powering up and shutting down to ensure proper connections.

(v) Checking the battery compartment cover to ensure that it is securely fastened.

(c) The results of such examinations will be recorded and retained for one year and made available to MSHA on request.

(d) A qualified person as defined in 30 CFR 75.151 will continuously monitor for methane immediately before and during the use of nonpermissible surveying equipment within 150 feet of pillar workings.

(e) Nonpermissible surveying equipment will not be used if methane is detected in concentrations at or above one percent for the area being surveyed. When methane is detected at such levels while the nonpermissible surveying equipment is being used, the equipment will be deenergized immediately and withdrawn further than 150 feet from pillar workings.

(f) All hand-held methane detectors will be MSHA-approved and maintained in permissible and proper operating condition as defined in 30 CFR 75.320.

(g) Batteries in the surveying equipment will be changed out or charged in fresh air more than 150 feet from pillar workings.

(h) Qualified personnel who use surveying equipment will be properly trained to recognize the hazards associated with the use of nonpermissible surveying equipment in areas where methane could be present.

(i) The nonpermissible surveying equipment will not be put into service

until MSHA has inspected the equipment and determined that it is in compliance with all the terms and conditions in this petition.

Within 60 days after the Proposed Decision and Order becomes final, the petitioner will submit proposed revisions for its approved 30 CFR part 48 training plan to the District Manager. The revisions will specify initial and refresher training regarding the terms and conditions in the Proposed Decision and Order.

The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection as that afforded by the existing standard.

**Sheila McConnell,**

*Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.*

[FR Doc. 2017-27850 Filed 12-26-17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4520-43-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

#### Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation; Proposed Extension of Existing Collection; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Currently, the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is soliciting comments concerning the proposed collection: Miner's Claim for Benefits under the Black Lung Benefit's Act (CM-911) and Employment History (CM-911A). A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addresses section of this Notice. 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.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before February 26, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by mail, delivery service, or by hand to Ms. Yoon Ferguson, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Room S-3323, Washington, DC 20210; by fax to (202) 354-9647; or by Email to [ferguson.yoon@dol.gov](mailto:ferguson.yoon@dol.gov). Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail/delivery, fax, or Email). Please note that comments submitted

after the comment period will not be considered.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing 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).

I. Background: The Black Lung Benefits Act (BLBA), (30 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) provides benefits to coal miners who are totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis (black lung disease) and to certain survivors of miners. Miners entitled to benefits also receive medical benefits for treatment related to their pneumoconiosis and resulting disability. A miner who applies for black lung benefits must complete the CM-911 (application form). The completed form gives basic identifying information about the applicant and is the beginning of the development of the black lung claim. Title 20 CFR 725.304a authorizes this information collection. The CM-911A (employment history form), when completed, provides a complete history of the miner's employment and helps to establish whether the individual currently or formerly worked in the nation's coal mines and how long that employment lasted. Title 20 CFR 725.404(a) authorizes this information collection.

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 approval for the extension of this currently-approved

information collection in order to carry out its responsibility to administer the Black Lung Benefits Act.  
 Agency: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

Type of Review: Extension.  
 Title: Miner's Claim for Benefits under the Black Lung Benefit's Act (CM-911) and Employment History (CM-911A).

OMB Number: 1240-0038.  
 Agency Number: CM-911 and CM-911A.  
 Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Form	Time to complete	Frequency of response	Number of respondents	Number of responses	Hours burden
CM-911 .....	45	once .....	4,920	4,920	3,690
CM-911A .....	40	once .....	4,920	4,920	3,280
Totals .....			9,840	9,840	6,970

Total Respondents: 9,840.  
 Total Annual Responses: 9,840.  
 Average Time per Response: 42.5 minutes.  
 Estimated Total Burden Hours: 6,970.  
 Frequency: On occasion.  
 Total Burden Cost (Capital/Startup): \$0.  
 Total Burden Cost (Operating/Maintenance): \$1,791.

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: December 20, 2017.

Yoon Ferguson,

Agency Clearance Officer, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, US Department of Labor.

[FR Doc. 2017-27963 Filed 12-26-17; 8:45 am]

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**LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**

**Notice of Solicitation of Proposals for Calendar Year 2018 Basic Field Grant Awards**

AGENCY: Legal Services Corporation.  
 ACTION: Solicitation of proposals for the provision of civil legal services.

SUMMARY: The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is a federally established and funded organization that funds civil legal aid organizations across the country and in the U.S. territories. Its mission is to expand access to justice by funding high-quality legal representation for low-income people in civil matters.

In anticipation of a congressional appropriation to LSC for Fiscal Year 2018, LSC hereby announces that it is reopening the basic field grants solicitation for calendar year 2018 funding for service area GU-1 in Guam. LSC is soliciting grant proposals from interested parties who are qualified to provide effective, efficient and high quality civil legal services to the eligible client population living in Guam.

The availability and the exact amount of congressionally appropriated funds, as well as the date, terms, and conditions of funds available for grants for calendar year 2018, have not been determined. LSC anticipates that the funding amount will be similar to current funding, which is \$242,838.

DATES: See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for the dates of the grants process.

ADDRESSES: Legal Services Corporation—Notice of Funds Availability, 3333 K Street NW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20007-3522.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of Program Performance by email at [lscgrants@lsc.gov](mailto:lscgrants@lsc.gov), or visit the LSC website at <http://www.lsc.gov/grants-grantee-resources/our-grant-programs/basic-field-grant/lsc-service-areas>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Request for Proposals (RFP) containing the Notice of Intent to Compete (NIC) and grant application guidelines, proposal content requirements, service area description, and selection criteria, is currently available from <https://www.lsc.gov/grants-grantee-resources/our-grant-programs/basic-field-grant>. Applicants are required to use the "LSC 2018 Request for Proposals" narrative instructions to prepare the grant proposal. Applicants must file a NIC to participate in this grants process. Applicants must file the NIC by January 31, 2018, 5:00 p.m. E.T. Applicants must submit their grant proposal and complete the LSC Fiscal Grantee Funding Application (FGFA) by February 28, 2018, 5:00 p.m. E.T. The dates in this notice supersede the dates contained in the RFP. Applicants should access and complete the grant application and FGFA at [https://lscgrants.lsc.gov/EasyGrants\\_Web\\_LSC/Implementation/Modules/Login/LoginModuleContent.aspx?Config=LoginModuleConfig&Page=Login](https://lscgrants.lsc.gov/EasyGrants_Web_LSC/Implementation/Modules/Login/LoginModuleContent.aspx?Config=LoginModuleConfig&Page=Login).

LSC is seeking proposals from: (1) Non-profit organizations that have as a purpose the provision of legal assistance to eligible clients; (2) private attorneys;

(3) groups of private attorneys or law firms; (4) state or local governments; and (5) sub-state regional planning and coordination agencies that are composed of sub-state areas and whose governing boards are controlled by locally elected officials.

LSC will post all updates and/or changes to this notice at <https://www.lsc.gov/grants-grantee-resources/our-grant-programs>. Interested parties are asked to visit <https://www.lsc.gov/grants-grantee-resources/our-grant-programs> regularly for updates on the LSC grants process.

Dated: December 21, 2017.

Stefanie K. Davis,

Assistant General Counsel.

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**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

[Notice: 17-090]

**Applied Sciences Advisory Committee; Meeting.**

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announces a meeting of the Applied Sciences Advisory Committee (ASAC). This Committee functions in an advisory capacity to the Director, Earth Science Division, in the NASA Science Mission Directorate. The meeting will be held for the purpose of soliciting, from the applied sciences community and other persons, scientific and technical information relevant to program planning.

DATES: Thursday, February 1, 2018, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, February 2, 2018, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Local Time.