provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How the agency might 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 submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information (PII) in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your PII—may be made publicly available at your entire comment, including your email address, or other personally identifiable 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 submission of response.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

Jill Franks,
Associate Program Coordinator, Earthquake Hazards External Research.

Response:

There are no non-hour cost burdens associated with this Information Collection.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, nor is a person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

Jill Franks,
Associate Program Coordinator, Earthquake Hazards External Research.

[FR Doc. 2022–06778 Filed 3–30–22; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary

Request for Information To Inform Interagency Working Group on Mining Regulations, Laws, and Permitting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior is announcing the formation of an interagency working group to gather information and develop recommendations for improving Federal hardrock mining regulations, laws, and permitting processes, and is inviting public comments to help inform the efforts of the working group. Virtual or in-person public listening sessions will be announced in the upcoming months.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments by 11:59 p.m. on July 31, 2022. When public listening sessions are scheduled, the dates will be published in the Federal Register.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted through https://www.regulations.gov and will be available for public viewing and inspection. In the Search box, enter the docket number presented above in the document headings. For best results, do not copy and paste the number; instead, type the docket number into the Search box using hyphens. Then, click on the Search button. You may submit a comment by clicking on “Comment.” Comments may also be submitted by mail using the following address: Bureau of Land Management, Division of Solid Minerals, 1849 C Street NW, Room 5645, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Feldgus, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management. (202) 208–6754 or by email at miningreform@ios.doi.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting (Mr. Feldgus). Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 24, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order (E.O.) 14017, “America’s Supply Chains.” On June 8, 2021, the White House released the 100-Day reviews directed by E.O. 14017, which included a recommendation for the Federal government to establish “an interagency team with expertise in mine permitting and environmental law to identify gaps in statutes and regulations that may need to be updated to ensure new production meets strong environmental standards throughout the lifecycle of the project; ensure meaningful community consultation and consultation with tribal nations, respecting the government-to-government relationship, at all stages of the mining process; and examine opportunities to reduce time, cost, and risk of permitting without compromising these strong environmental and consultation
adjustments to the current system, such
as leasing, or consider a broad range of issues related
implement those changes. The IWG will
recommendations to the appropriate
to meet the goals laid out in the
report to Congress by November 15,
2022, that “identifies additional
measures, including regulatory and
legislative proposals, if appropriate, that
would increase the timeliness of
permitting activities for the exploration
and development of domestic critical
minerals.”

To respond to these directives and the
rulemaking petition, the Department has created an interagency working group (IWG) on Federal hardrock mining laws, regulations, and permitting, chaired by the Department of the Interior and including the
Department of Agriculture through the
U.S. Forest Service; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Army Corps of
Engineers; the Departments of
Commerce, Energy, and State; the
Council on Environmental Quality; and the National Economic Council. For the purposes of the IWG, “hardrock”
minerals are those mineral resources
that are subject to disposal under the
Mining Law of 1872.

The IWG intends to convene agency
experts and receive input from the
public in order to assess the adequacy of
existing laws, regulations, and
permitting processes, determine
whether changes to those are necessary
to meet the goals laid out in the
recommendation from the E.O. 14017
100-Day reviews, and if it concludes
that changes are necessary, make
recommendations to the appropriate
Federal agencies or Congress on how to
implement those changes. The IWG will
consider a broad range of issues related
to mining, such as:
• Would alternatives to the existing
claim system, such as leasing, or
adjustments to the current system, such
as incorporating mining into
comprehensive federal lands use
assessments and planning, lead to better
outcomes for communities, environment
and a secure domestic supply of
minerals? If so, how should such an
alternative or adjusted system be
structured?
• Are there international mining best
practices or standards that the United
States should consider adopting, or
encouraging the U.S. mining industry to
adopt? If so, which practices or
standards and what improvements or
benefits would they provide?
• If the U.S. were to place royalties on
hardrock minerals produced from
domain lands, what factors should be
considered and what structures would
best protect the interests of the taxpayer while
reasonably incentivizing production?.
In addition, if royalties were collected,
how should those revenues be
allocated?
• What changes to financial assurance
requirements for mining should be
considered?
• How might the U.S. best support
reclamation of existing AML sites
including the development of
meaningful good Samaritan proposals as
well as remining and reprocessing of
mine tailings and waste, where feasible?
• What would a successful mine
reclamation program include? Are there
existing programs that the U.S. should
adopt?
• How can Tribes and local
communities be effectively engaged
early in the process to ensure that they
have meaningful input into the
development of mine proposals?
• How could updates to the Mining
Law of 1872, or other relevant statutes,
help provide more certainty and
timeliness in the permitting process?
• What improvements can be made to
the mine permitting process without
reducing opportunities for public input
or limiting the comprehensiveness of
environmental reviews?
• What types of incentives would be
appropriate to encourage the
development of critical minerals, and
what is the proper definition of a
“critical mineral mine”?*
• Are there areas that should be
limits from mining, and if so, how
should those be identified?
• What science and data should be
included in any decisions to permit and
develop mines?

This list is not meant to be
comprehensive; it is simply a reflection of
the breadth of the issues under the
IWG’s purview.

To inform the IWG’s deliberations,
additional to soliciting comment from any
interested member of the public through
the end of July 2022, the IWG will host
a series of roundtables, either virtually
or in-person, for different stakeholder
groups, including but not limited to:
• Native American Tribes;
• state and local governments;
• environmental justice groups;
• labor organizations;
• the hardrock mining industry;
• Non-governmental organizations
representing environmental,
conservation, and recreation interests;
• scientists; and
• other experts in mining laws,
regulations, and permitting.

Additional information regarding these
roundtables will be provided at a
later date through publication in the
Federal Register and on agency
websites. The roundtables will be open
to the public but speaking opportunities
will be by invitation only. The
Department welcomes nominations for
speakers for each of the stakeholder
groups listed above, and also
suggestions for roundtables for
additional stakeholder groups that are
not listed.

Before including your address, phone
number, email address, or other
personal identifying information in your
comment you should be aware that
your entire comment—including your
personal identifying information—may
be made publicly available at any time.
While you can ask us in your comment
to withhold your personal identifying
information from public review, we
cannot guarantee that we will be able to
do so.


Tommy Beaudreau,
Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the
Interior.

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BILLING CODE 4334–63–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNV0000–L51100000–GN0000–LVEF190482A 19X MO: 4500154824]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement for
the Bald Mountain Mine Plan of
Operations Amendment Juniper
Project White Pine County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the
National Environmental Policy Act of
1969, as amended (NEPA), and the
Federal Land Policy and Management
Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the

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