

Compensation Act (LS-200, LS-201, LS-203, LS-204, LS-262, LS-267, LS-271, LS-513).

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the addressee section of this Notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before July 28, 2003.

**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, Email [hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov](mailto:hbelle@fenix2.dol-esa.gov). Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or Email).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. *Background:* The Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, as amended (20 CFR 702.162, 702.174, 702.175, 20 CFR 702.242, 20 CFR 702.285, 702.321, 702.201, and 702.111) pertains to the provision of benefits to workers injured in maritime employment on the navigable waters of the United States or in an adjoining area customarily used by an employer in loading, unloading, repairing, or building a vessel, as well as coverage extended to certain other employees. The Longshore Act administration requirements include: payment of compensation liens incurred by Trust Funds; certification of exemption and reinstatement of employers who are engaged in the building, repairing, or dismantling of exclusively small vessels; settlement of cases under the Act; reporting of earnings by injured claimants receiving benefits under the Act; filing applications for relief under second injury provisions; and, maintenance of injury reports under the Act. This information collection is currently approved for use through November 30, 2003.

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 (DOL) seeks extension of approval to collect this information in order to carry out its responsibility to insure that Longshore beneficiaries are receiving appropriate benefits.

Failure to request this information, would result in no way to insure beneficiaries are receiving the correct amount of benefits.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Agency:* Employment Standards Administration.

*Title:* Regulations Governing the Administration of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

*OMB Number:* 1215-0160.

*Agency Number:* (LS-200, LS-201, LS-203, LS-204, LS-262, LS-267, LS-271, LS-513).

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, Businesses or other for profit, Small businesses or organizations.

*Total Respondents:* 128,152.

*Total Responses:* 128,152.

*Average Time Per Response for Reporting:*

LS-200—10 minutes.

LS-201, 203, 204, 262—15 minutes.

LS-267—2 minutes.

LS-271—2 hours.

LS-513—30 minutes.

*Frequency:* On Occassion.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 63,049.

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$0.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* \$56,806.

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: May 21, 2003.

**Bruce Bohanon,**

*Chief, Branch of Management Review and Internal Control, Division of Financial Management, Office of Management, Administration and Planning, Employment Standards Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 4510-CF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Mine Safety and Health Administration

#### Finding of Exception Pursuant to Section 501(f) of the Mine Act

**AGENCY:** Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is granting an exception to certain mandatory safety standards to the Mathies Mine pursuant to section 501(f) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act).

**DATES:** This notice is effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ray McKinney, Administrator for Coal Mine Safety and Health, 1100 Wilson Blvd., Room 2424, Arlington, Virginia 22209-3939; phone: 202-693-9502; fax: 202-693-9501; E-mail: [mckinney-ray@msha.gov](mailto:mckinney-ray@msha.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is granting to the Mathies Mine in Union Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania an exception to certain mandatory safety standards for the purpose of allowing researchers from Carnegie Mellon University to conduct an experiment by testing a self-propelled, robot device in the mine. This exception is granted pursuant to section 501(f) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act).

Section 501(f) of the Mine Act states that:

The Secretary is authorized to grant on a mine-by-mine basis an exception to any mandatory health or safety standard under this Act for the purpose of permitting, under such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, accredited educational institutions the opportunity for experimenting with new and improved techniques and equipment to improve the health and safety of miners. No such exception shall be granted unless the Secretary finds that the granting of the exception will not adversely affect the health and safety of miners and publishes his findings.

The robot device, known as "Groundhog," will conduct an exploratory underground survey of a haulageway through a section of the Mathies Mine which has been unoccupied and in non-producing status for one year. The haulageway consists of two naturally ventilated passages from the storage yard to the preparation plant. Groundhog will start its exploration at the storage yard portal, pass through the entire length of the haulageway, and emerge at the