

I. Background

Under Section 103(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is required to “* * * issue regulations required operators to maintain accurate records of employee exposures to potentially toxic materials or harmful physical agents which are required to be monitored or measured under any applicable mandatory health or safety standard promulgated under this Act.”

Gamma radiation occurs anywhere that radioactive materials are present, and has been associated with lung cancer and other debilitating occupational diseases. Gamma radiation hazards may be found near radiation sources at surface operations using X-ray machines, weightometers, nuclear and diffraction units.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

MSHA 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.

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice, or viewed on the Internet by accessing the MSHA home page (<http://www.msha.gov>) and then choosing “Statutory and Regulatory Information” and “Federal Register Documents.”

III. Current Actions

Annual gamma radiation surveys are required to be conducted—in all underground mines where radioactive ores are mined. Where the average gamma radiation measurements are in excess of 2.0 milliroentgens per hour in the working place, all persons affected

are to be provided with gamma radiation dosimeters and records of cumulative individual gamma radiation exposures be kept.

Type of Review: Extension.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Title: Gamma Radiation Exposure Records.

OMB Number: 1219-0039.

Recordkeeping: Records of cumulative occupational radiation exposures aid in the protection of workers, in the control of subsequent radiation exposure, and are used by MSHA in evaluation of the effectiveness of the protection program in demonstrating compliance with regulatory requirements.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Respondents: 2.

Average Time Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Total Burden Hours: 2 hours.

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

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): \$0.

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 at Arlington, Virginia, this 2nd day of September, 2003.

David L. Meyer,

Director, Office of Administration and Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Mine Rescue Teams; Arrangements for Emergency Medical Assistance; and Arrangements for Transportation for Injured Persons

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

(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 Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the extension of the information collection related to the 30 CFR Sections 49.2 through 49.4, 49.6 through 49.9, 75.1713-1, and 77.1702; Mine Rescue Teams; Arrangements for Emergency Medical Assistance; and Arrangements for Transportation for Injured Persons.

DATES: Submit comments on or before November 10, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Jane Tarr, Management Analyst, Administration and Management 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2171, Arlington, VA 22209-3939. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on computer diskette, or via Internet E-mail to Tarr-Jane@Msha.Gov. Ms. Tarr can be reached at (202) 693-9824 (voice), or (202) 693-9801 (facsimile).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane Tarr, Management Analyst, Records Management Group, U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 2171, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209-3939. Ms. Tarr can be reached at Tarr-Jane@Msha.Gov (Internet E-mail), (202) 693-9824 (voice), or (202) 693-9801 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 115 (e) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act) required the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to publish proposed regulations which provide that mine rescue teams be available for rescue and recovery work to each underground mine in the event of an emergency. In addition, the costs of making advance arrangements for such teams are to be borne by the operator of each such mine.

Congress considered the ready availability of mine rescue in the event of an accident to be vital protection for miners. Congress was concerned that too often in the past, rescue efforts at a disaster site have had to await the delayed arrival of skilled mine rescue teams. In responding to Congressional concerns, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) promulgated 30 CFR Part 49, Mine Rescue Teams. The regulations set standards related to the