

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

1:30 p.m.—Committee on Productivity, Technology and Growth—Meeting Room 9

1. Status of the Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections programs
2. Perspectives on issues important to the 2002–2012 projections
3. Wage calculation in the Occupational Employment Survey compared to Current Population Survey earnings data
4. Trends in productivity and hours in non-farm business and manufacturing since 2001
5. Recent developments in the industry productivity program; newly released industry productivity data on a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) basis; new multifactor productivity measure for Airlines

6. Topics for the next meeting
Committee on Foreign Labor Statistics—Meeting Room 9

1. Study of family structure and employment patterns for 12 developed countries
2. Recent activities of the Division of International Technical Cooperation
3. Topics for the next meeting

Friday, December 19, 2003

1:30 p.m.—Committee on Occupational Safety and Health Statistics—Meeting Room 9

1. Results of the 2002 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries
2. Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Update OSHA recordkeeping changes conversion to NAICS, Internet collection
3. New hours data for days away from work cases, including a review of what hours data would be available from the three States (Oregon, Washington, and Delaware) that use workers' compensation data
4. Special surveys on occupational safety and health issues
5. Fatal and nonfatal work injuries sustained by Hispanic agricultural workers
6. Topics for the next meeting

The meetings are open to the public. Persons planning to attend these meetings as observers may want to contact Wilhelmina Abner on 202–691–5970.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 5th day of November, 2003.

Kathleen P. Utgoff,
Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Mine Safety and Health Administration**

Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Ventilation Plans, Tests, and Examinations in 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 (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 75.310, 312, 342, 351, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 370, 371, and 382.

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 12, 2004.

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 disk, or via Internet e-mail to stoehr.melissa@dol.gov. Ms. Stoehr can be reached at (202) 693–9827 (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 stoehr.melissa@dol.gov (Internet e-mail), (202) 693–9827 (voice), or (202) 693–9801 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

An underground mine is a maze of tunnels that must be adequately ventilated with fresh air to provide a safe environment for miners. Methane is liberated from the strata, and noxious

gases and dusts from blasting and other mining activities may be present. The explosive and noxious gases and dusts must be diluted, rendered harmless, and carried to the surface by the ventilating currents. Sufficient air must be provided to maintain the level of respirable dust at or below 2 milligrams per cubic meter of air and air quality must be maintained in accordance with MSHA standards. Mechanical ventilation equipment of sufficient capacity must operate at all times while miners are in the mine. Ground conditions are subject to frequent changes, thus sufficient tests and examinations are necessary to ensure the integrity of the ventilation system and to detect any changes that may require adjustments in the system. Records of tests and examinations are necessary to ensure that the ventilation system is being maintained and that changes which could adversely affect the integrity of the system or the safety of the miners are not occurring. These examination requirements of §§ 75.310, 75.312, 75.342, 75.351, 75.360 through 75.364, 75.370, 75.371, and 75.382 also incorporate examinations of other critical aspects of the underground work environment such as roof conditions and electrical equipment which have historically caused numerous fatalities if not properly maintained and operated.

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