

The industry/government/union Task Force for Byssinosis Prevention sponsors research to develop washing techniques which reduce bioactivity and create processable cotton. That Task Force has recommended that OSHA add an additional washing process, batch kier processing, to those that receive partial exemption, because batch kier processing, according to a specified protocol, greatly reduces bioactivity. That recommendation is supported by studies and recommendations of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, industry groups and unions. Consequently, OSHA is taking prompt action to implement that recommendation and increase the flexibility available to the cotton textile industry while protecting textile worker health.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 18th day of October, 2000.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

[FR Doc. 00-31188 Filed 12-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-P

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

December 4, 2000.

TIME AND DATE: 2 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2000.

PLACE: Room 6005, 6th Floor, 1730 K Street, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Commission will consider and act upon the following:

1. Northern Illinois Steel Supply Co., Docket No. LAKE 99-78-RM, etc. (Issues include whether Northern Illinois Steel Supply Company is an "operator" under section 3(d) of the Mine Act).

TIME AND DATE: The Commission meeting will commence following upon the conclusion of the Commission meeting to consider Northern Illinois Steel Supply Co., Docket No. LAKE 99-78-RM, etc., which commences at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2000.

PLACE: Room 6005, 6th Floor, 1730 K Street, NW., Washington DC.

STATUS: Closed [Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 55b(c)(10)].

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: It was determined by a majority vote of the Commission that the Commission considered and act upon the following in closed session:

1. Disciplinary Proceeding, Docket No. D 2000-1.

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2000.

PLACE: Room 6005, 6th Floor, 1730 K Street, NW., Washington, DC.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Commission will consider its general procedures for handling requests to vacate defaults and requests to reopen matters that have become final Commission orders under section 105(a) of the Mine Act.

Any person attending an open meeting who requires special accessibility features and/or auxiliary aids, such as sign language interpreters, must inform the Commission in advance of those needs. Subject to 29 CFR §§ 2706.150(a)(3) and 2706.160(d).

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean Ellen (202) 653-5629/(202) 708-9300 for TDD Relay/1-800-877-8339 for toll free.

Jean H. Ellen,

Chief Docket Clerk.

[FR Doc. 00-31354 Filed 12-5-00; 3:57 pm]

BILLING CODE 6735-01-M

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Public Hearing

The National Transportation Safety Board will convene a public hearing beginning at 11 a.m., local time on Wednesday, December 13-15, 2000, in the Safety Board's Boardroom and Conference Center at 429 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20594 concerning Alaska Airlines Flight 261 off the coast of California near Port Hueneme on January 31, 2000. For more information, contact Dick Rodriguez, NTSB Office of Aviation Safety at (202) 314-6317 or Terry N. Williams NTSB Office of Public Affairs at (202) 314-6100.

Individuals requesting specific accommodation should contact Mrs. Carolyn Dargan on 202-314-6305 by Friday December 8, 2000.

Dated: December 4, 2000.

Rhonda Underwood,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-31169 Filed 12-6-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7533-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Notice of Opportunity to Comment on the Proposed Information Collection Initiative

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has prepared a proposed initiative for the *voluntary* submittal of information by external stakeholders about the impact that licensing actions and other regulatory activities have on maintaining safety and reducing unnecessary regulatory burden for commercial nuclear power plants. The purpose of this initiative is to obtain information to assist the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff in (1) allocating staff resources and (2) measuring how the work NRR staff completes contributes to the agency goals of maintaining safety and reducing unnecessary regulatory burden. The staff is requesting comments on this proposed information collection initiative.

DATES: The comment period expires January 22, 2001. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted in person or via U.S. mail.

Submit written comments to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, U.S. NRC, Mail Stop T6-D59, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Hand deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

Copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC's Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pat Madden, Mail Stop O8E6, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone 301-415-2854, email pmm@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As applicants submit requests for regulatory deliverables (e.g., license amendment approvals, topical report reviews, rulemaking petitions), they would voluntarily provide information

about the impact their request would have on maintaining safety and reducing unnecessary regulatory burden. Ideally, measures for safety impact would include changes in person-rem dose or changes in core damage frequency (CDF). Similarly, measures for regulatory burden reduction would include changes in licensee costs or power production capability. However, the staff recognizes that it may not be possible or practical to provide actual risk metrics or dollar savings, and that more qualitative measurements may be more realistic. The staff invites comments from our external stakeholders to ensure that the measures are uniform, practical, and meaningful, and provide the appropriate yardstick for measuring the impact that a proposed activity has on safety and regulatory burden. This information would be collected for many types of external stakeholder submittals including license amendments, topical reports, rulemaking petitions, and license renewal applications. The staff encourages suggestions on what other submittals such information should be collected for in response to this initiative. Recognizing that there are many factors that could inhibit licensees and other stakeholders from providing such information, we invite comments to obtain an understanding of what the factors are and how they may be overcome.

The information described above would assist NRR in (1) allocating staff resources and (2) measuring how the work NRR staff completes contributes to the agency goals of maintaining safety and reducing unnecessary regulatory burden. The staff is requesting comments on this proposed information collection initiative.

With respect to the first purpose, allocating staff resources, NRR would use the information collected to improve its effectiveness by pursuing those regulatory activities that maintain safety (or involve acceptable reductions in margin) but provide the highest return in reducing unnecessary regulatory burden. NRR is establishing a "work planning center" to centralize the planning and scheduling of NRR work activities, including the prioritization of specific work items. The priority factors include consideration of public health and safety, operational significance, statutory significance, and stakeholder standing and merit. Also factored into the work prioritization process is the required responsiveness (*e.g.*, normal, increased, or immediate). The information collected through this initiative would become part of the

input for this work planning and scheduling.

This use of information provided by licensees in order to prioritize agency work is similar to a regulatory approach employed by the agency and licensees in the early 1990's for cost beneficial licensing actions (CBLAs). In this approach, licensees identified for the agency those licensing actions that had high economic benefits, minimal impact on safety, and required minimal agency review time. Such actions were termed CBLAs, and the agency afforded these actions higher priority treatment. One difference between this proposed information collection initiative and the CBLA approach is that the latter was limited in its scope to licensing actions meeting the above criteria. A second, more important distinction between the two is that this proposed initiative has another purpose, which we describe in the following paragraph.

With respect to the second purpose, measuring how the work NRR staff completes contributes to the agency goals of maintaining safety and reducing unnecessary regulatory burden, the information collected would support the agency's efforts toward becoming a performance-based organization. This is consistent with the enactment of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The agency has established a framework for implementing the performance-based approach called the Planning, Budgeting, and Performance Management (PBPM) process. This PBPM process consists of setting the strategic direction, budgeting resources, and measuring and assessing performance. The agency reports the measures and assessment of performance in yearly reports to the President and the Congress. The information collected as described in this initiative would be used in these yearly reports to demonstrate to stakeholders that safety is being maintained even as the staff allows for unnecessary burden reduction. The staff would also use the information collected to demonstrate to stakeholders what the staff has accomplished with the resources that we have been given. This type of information would allow the staff to better align its outputs (*e.g.*, license amendments) to NRR performance goals (*e.g.*, maintain safety). By compiling this type of information over the fiscal year, instead of simply stating that the NRR staff completed 1500 licensing actions per year (outputs), the staff can also quantify such performance measures as direct cost savings to licensees, person-rem savings, and reduced shutdown risk

that resulted from approval of those licensing actions (outcomes).

The success of this voluntary initiative is dependent on industry's willingness to provide the information. The staff realizes that there may be concerns with how we will use the information collected to prioritize work within NRR. The staff invites comments and suggestions such that we may directly address such concerns. We also recognize that this information collection initiative should be as simple as possible while still providing meaningful information. We encourage comments on how to most simply characterize the safety and regulatory burden impact such that this information collection initiative does not become time-consuming or resource-intensive.

After receiving formal comments in response to this **Federal Register** notice, the staff plans to hold a public meeting to develop a consensus as to the type of voluntary information that could be used to measure impact on safety and reduction in unnecessary regulatory burden. This meeting is currently planned for February 2001. Finally, if reasonable and acceptable metrics can be developed and made available to all stakeholders, the staff expects to begin using voluntary information submitted under this initiative after October 1, 2001.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of December, 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

Director, Division of Licensing and Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 00-31155 Filed 12-6-00; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of Mr. William Kimbley Mrs. Joan Kimbley; Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities (Effective Immediately)

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Mr. William Kimbley and Mrs. Joan Kimbley were previously officers of Midwest Testing, Inc., an entity that was a holder of NRC License No. 13-24866-02 issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission pursuant to 10 CFR Part 30. The license authorized the possession and use cesium-137 and americium-241 as sealed sources in moisture density gauges. The license was issued on August 19, 1992, and was terminated on June 12, 1995.