

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of the Secretary****Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request**

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506–3507), the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection requirement for review and clearance.

OMB Number: 1225–0072.

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Applicant Background Questionnaire.

Description: The form gathers information concerning the gender, race or ethnic background, and disability status of applicants for employment. Applicants for employment are asked to voluntarily complete these questions to assist the agency in evaluating and improving its efforts to publicize job openings and to encourage applications for employment, from a diverse group of qualified candidates, including minorities and persons with disabilities. The Department will use the information to assess the effectiveness of specific outreach efforts and means of communicating information on job vacancies. The currently approved form is being extended with no revision.

DATES: Comments will be considered if received on or before April 5, 2004.

Send or deliver written comments to: William Anderson Glasgow, U.S. Department of Labor, Human Resource Center, 200 Constitution Ave., NW., Room N–5470, Washington, DC 20210.

For copies of the form, and further information contact William Anderson Glasgow on (202) 693–7738, or e-mail address glasgow.william@dol.gov.

Estimated number of respondents: 3000.

The average estimated response time: 5 minutes.

Total estimated public burden: 250 hours.

Signed at Washington, DC this 27th day of February, 2004.

Daliza Salas,

Director of Human Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Mine Safety and Health Administration****Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Applications for a Permit to Fire More Than 20 Boreholes, for the Use of Nonpermissible Blasting Units, Explosives, and Shot-firing Units**

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance 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 proposed extension of the information collection related to the application for a permit to fire more than 20 boreholes, for the use of nonpermissible blasting units, and for the use of nonpermissible explosives and nonpermissible shot-firing units, and posting of warning notices with regard to mis-fired explosives.

DATES: Submit comments on or before May 3, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Darrin King, Chief, Records Management Division, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2139, Arlington, VA 22209–3939. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via e-mail to king.darrin@dol.gov, along with an original printed copy. Mr. King can be reached at (202) 693–9838 (voice) or 202–693–9801 (facsimile).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the proposed information collection request and further information may be obtained by contacting Darrin King, Chief, Records Management Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2139, Arlington, VA 22209–3939. Mr. King can be reached at king.darrin@dol.gov (Internet e-mail), (202) 693–9838 (voice), or (202) 693–9801 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

Under section 313 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. 873, a mine operator is required to use permissible explosives in underground coal mines. The Mine Act also provides that under safeguards prescribed by the Secretary of Labor, a mine operator may permit the firing of more than 20 shots and the use of nonpermissible explosives in sinking shafts and slopes from the surface in rock. Title 30 CFR 75.1321 outlines the procedures by which a permit may be issued for the firing of more than 20 boreholes and/or the use of nonpermissible shot-firing units in underground coal mines. In those instances in which there is a misfire of explosives, 30 CFR 75.1327 requires that a qualified person post each accessible entrance to the affected area with a warning to prohibit entry. Title 30 CFR 77.1909–1 outlines the procedures by which a coal mine operator may apply for a permit to use nonpermissible explosives and/or shot-firing units in the blasting of rock while sinking shafts or slopes for underground coal mines.

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.

III. Current Actions

Title 30 CFR 75.1321, 75.1327 and 77.1901–1 provide MSHA District Managers with the authority to address unusual but reoccurring blasting practices needed for breaking rock types more resilient than coal and for misfires in blasting coal. MSHA uses the information requested to issue permits to mine operators or shaft and slope