

A copy of the proposed information collection request may be obtained by contacting the employee listed below in the For Further Information Contact section of this notice.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before May 6, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 627, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via E-mail to [psilvey@msha.gov](mailto:psilvey@msha.gov), along with an original printed copy. Ms. Silvey can be reached at (703) 235-1910 (voice) or (703) 235-5551 (facsimile).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George M. Fesak, Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Information Resources, U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 715, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Mr. Fesak can be reached at [gfesak@msha.gov](mailto:gfesak@msha.gov) (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-8378 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. Background

Each operator of a surface coal mine is required under 30 CFR 77.1000 to establish and follow a ground control plan that is consistent with prudent engineering design and which will ensure safe working conditions. The plans are based on the type of strata expected to be encountered, the height and angle of highwalls and spoil banks, and the equipment to be used at the mine. Ground control plans are required by 30 CFR 77.1000-1 to be filed with the MSHA District Manager in the district in which the mine is located. The plans are reviewed by MSHA to ensure that highwalls and spoil banks are maintained in safe condition through the use of sound engineering design.

II. Current Actions

MSHA is seeking to continue the requirement for mine operators to submit ground control plans to ensure that highwalls and spoil banks are maintained in safe condition so that a safe working environment is provided for miners.

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement (without change).

*Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration.

*Title:* Ground Control Plan.

*OMB Number:* 1219-0026.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit institutions.

*Cite/Reference/Form/etc:* 30 CFR 77.1000 and 77.1000-1.

*Total Respondents:* 159.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Total Responses:* 159.

*Average Time per Response:* 39 hours.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 6,204 hours.

*Estimated Total Burden Cost:* \$204.

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: February 27, 1997.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-5647 Filed 3-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-M

**Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Identification of Independent Contractors**

**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 reinstatement of the information collection related to the Identification of Independent Contractors. 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 below in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before May 6, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Room 627, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via E-mail to [psilvey@msha.gov](mailto:psilvey@msha.gov), along with an original printed copy. Ms. Silvey can be reached at (703) 235-1910 (voice) or (703) 235-5551 (facsimile).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George M. Fesak, Director, Office of Program Evaluation and Information Resources, U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 715, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203-1984. Mr. Fesak can be reached at [gfesak@msha.gov](mailto:gfesak@msha.gov) (Internet E-mail), (703) 235-8379 (voice), or (703) 235-1563 (facsimile).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. Background

Title 30 CFR 45.3 provides that independent contractors may voluntarily obtain a permanent MSHA identification number by submitting to MSHA their trade name and business address, a telephone number, an estimate of the annual hours worked by the contractor on mine property for the previous calendar year, and the address of record for service of documents upon the contractor. Independent contractors performing services or construction at mines are subject to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act and are responsible for violations of the Act committed by them or their employees.

Although independent contractors are not required to apply for the identification number, they will be assigned one by MSHA the first time they are cited for a violation of the Mine act. MSHA used the information to issue a permanent MSHA identification number to the independent contractor.

## II. Current Actions

MSHA uses the information to issue a permanent MSHA identification number to the independent contractor. This number allows MSHA to keep track of a contractor's violation history so that appropriate civil penalties can be assessed for violations of the Mine Act or its accompanying mandatory health and safety standards.

There are no revisions to this existing collection, MSHA is requesting that the approval be extended for three years.

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement.

*Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration.

*Title:* Identification of Independent Contractors.

*OMB Number:* 1219-0043.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Cite/Reference/Form/etc.:* 30 CFR 45.3.

*Total Respondents:* 1,207.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Total Responses:* 1,207.

*Average Time per Response:* 8 minutes.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 161 hours.

*Estimated Total Burden Cost:* \$387.

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: February 28, 1997.

George M. Fesak,

Director, Program Evaluation and Information Resources.

[FR Doc. 97-5648 Filed 3-6-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-M

## Occupational Safety and Health Administration

### Proposed information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution; Electrical Protective Equipment (1218-0190)

**ACTION:** None.

**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 (PRA 95) (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 impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of approval for the paperwork requirement of 29 CFR 1910.269 and 1910.137, Electric power generation, transmission, and distribution; and electrical protective equipment.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 6, 1997.

Written comments should:

- 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.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments are to be submitted to the Docket Office, Docket No. ICR-97-2, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone: (202) 219-7894. Written comments limited to 10 pages or less in length may also be transmitted by facsimile to (202) 219-5046.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bonnie Friedman, Office of Information and Consumer Affairs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3647, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone: (202) 219-8148. Copies of the referenced information collection request are available for inspection and copying in the Docket Office and will be mailed immediately to persons who request copies by telephoning Vivian Allen at (202) 219-8076. For electronic copies, contact OSHA's WebPage on Internet at <http://www.osha.gov/>.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Background

OSHA issued this standard to address the work practices to be used during the operation and maintenance of electric power generation, transmission, and distribution facilities [59 FR 4320, January 31, 1994]. This standard includes requirements relating to enclosed spaces, hazardous energy control, working near energized parts, grounding for employee protection, work on underground and overhead installations, line-clearance tree trimming, work in substations and generating plants, and other special conditions and equipment unique to the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy. Compliance with these requirements will prevent injuries to employees working on electric power systems.

OSHA, at the same time, revised the electrical protective equipment requirements contained in the General Industry Standards. The revision replaced the incorporation of out-of-date consensus standards with a set of performance-oriented requirements. Additionally, OSHA issued new requirements for the safe use and care of electrical protective equipment to complement the equipment design provisions. These revisions will prevent accidents caused by inadequate electrical protective equipment.

OSHA currently has approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for certain information collection requirements contained in 29 CFR 1910.269 and 1910.137. That approval will expire on March 31, 1997, unless OSHA applies for an extension of the OMB approval. This notice initiates the process for OSHA to request an extension of the current OMB approval. This notice also solicits public comment on OSHA's existing paperwork burden estimates from those interested parties and to seek public response to several questions related to the development of OSHA's estimation. Interested parties are requested to review OSHA's existing estimates, which are based upon information available during rulemaking, and to comment on their accuracy or appropriateness in today's workplace situation.

### II. Current Actions

This notice requests an extension of the current OMB approval of the paperwork requirements in 29 CFR 1910.269, Electric power generation, transmission, and distribution; and 29 CFR 1910.137, Electrical protective equipment.