

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR****Mine Safety and Health Administration****Proposed Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Independent Contractor Registration and Identification****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 proposed extension of the information collection related to the Independent Contractor Registration and Identification.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before November 29, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration, John Rowlett, Director, Management Services Division, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2134, Arlington, VA 22209-3939. Commenters are encouraged to send their comments on a computer disk, or via e-mail to [Rowlett.John@dol.gov](mailto:Rowlett.John@dol.gov), along with an original printed copy. Mr. Rowlett can be reached at (202) 693-9827 (voice), or (202) 693-9801 (facsimile).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Contact the employee listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

Independent contractors performing services or construction at mines are subject to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. Title 30 CFR 45.4(b) requires mine operators to maintain a written summary of information concerning each independent contractor present on the mine site. The information includes the trade name, business address, and telephone number; a brief description and the

location on the mine of the work to be performed; MSHA identification number, if any; and the contractor's business address of record. This information is required to be provided for inspection and enforcement purposes by the mine operator to any MSHA inspector upon request.

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 of 1977 (Mine Act) and are responsible for violations of the Mine 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 uses the information to issue a permanent MSHA identification number to the independent contractor.

**II. Desired Focus of Comments**

Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection requirement related to Independent Contractor Registration and Identification. MSHA is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of MSHA's functions, including whether the information has practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of MSHA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
  - Suggest methods to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
  - Address 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) to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond.

A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or

viewed on the Internet by accessing the MSHA home page (<http://www.msha.gov>) and then choosing "Compliance Assistance", "Compliance Information" and the "Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."

**III. Current Actions**

The information obtained from the contractors is used by MSHA during inspections to determine proper responsibility for compliance with safety and health standards.

*Type of Review:* Extension.

*Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration.

*Title:* Independent Contractor Registration and Identification.

*OMB Number:* 1219-0040.

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

*Cite/Reference/Form/etc:* 30 CFR part 45.

*Total Respondents:* 15,140.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Total Responses:* 100,665.

*Estimated Total Burden Hours:* 13,396 hours.

*Estimated Total Burden Cost:*

\$183,742.

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 20th day of September, 2005.

**David L. Meyer,**

*Director, Office of Administration and Management.*

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

[Docket No. ICR 1218-0247 (2005)]

**State Plans for the Development and Enforcement of State Standards; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information-Collection (Paperwork) Requirements**

**AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** OSHA solicits public comment concerning its request for an extension of the information collection requirements associated with its regulations and program regarding State Plans for the development and enforcement of state standards (29 CFR 1902, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956).