



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Disclosure of Medical Evidence

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

DATES: The OMB will consider all written comments that the agency receives on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicole Bouchet by telephone at 202-693-0213, or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Black Lung Benefits Act (BLBA), 30 U.S.C. 901 et seq., may require parties to exchange all medical information about the miner they develop in connection with a claim for benefits, including information parties do not intend to submit as evidence in the claim. BLBA regulations help protect a miner's health, assist unrepresented parties, and promote accurate benefit determinations. The potential parties to a BLBA claim include the benefits claimant, the responsible coal mine operator and its insurance carrier, and the Director of OWCP. Under BLBA, a party of a party's agent who receives medical information about the miner must send a copy to all other parties within 30 days after receipt or, if a hearing before an administrative law judge has already been scheduled, at least 20 days before the hearing. The exchanged information is entered into the record of the claim only if a party submits it into evidence. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the Federal Register on March 4, 2025 (90 FR 11191).

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

Agency: DOL-OWCP.

Title of Collection: Disclosure of Medical Evidence.

OMB Control Number: 1240-0054.

Affected Public: Private Sector— Businesses or other for-profits.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 6,797.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 6,797.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 1,135 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: \$16,041.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D))

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