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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

[OMB Control No. 1219-0148]

Proposed Extension of Information Collection: Proximity Detection Systems for Continuous Mining Machines in Underground Coal Mines

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program for all information collections, to provide the public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed collections of information, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. 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. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments on the information collection titled "Proximity Detection Systems for Continuous Mining Machines in Underground Coal Mines."

DATES: All comments must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning the information collection requirements of this notice may be sent by any of the methods listed below. Please note that comments received after the deadline will not be considered.

- Federal E-Rulemaking Portal: *https://www.regulations.gov*. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for docket number MSHA-2026-0860.

- Mail/Hand Delivery: DOL-MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210. Before visiting MSHA in person, call 202-693-9440 to make an appointment.
- MSHA will post all comments as well as any attachments, except for information submitted and marked as confidential, in the docket at *https://www.regulations.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Corliss A. Josephs-Conway, Acting Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at *MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov* (email); (202) 693–9440 (voice); or (202) 693–9441 (facsimile). These are not toll-free numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Legal Authority

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), as amended, 30 U.S.C. 813(h), authorizes the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to collect information necessary to carry out its duty in protecting the safety and health of miners. Further, section 101(a) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 811(a), authorizes the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to develop, promulgate, and revise, as may be appropriate, improved mandatory health or safety standards for the protection of life and prevention of injuries in coal and metal and nonmetal (MNM) mines.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) governs paperwork burdens imposed on the public by Federal agencies when using identical questions to collect information from 10 or more persons. The PRA defines paperwork burden in 44 U.S.C. 3502(2) as the time, effort, or financial resources expended to generate, maintain, or provide information to or for a Federal agency. Under 44 U.S.C. 3507, the PRA also establishes policies and procedures for information collection to control paperwork burdens imposed by Federal agencies on the public, including evaluating public comments.

B. Information Collection

To fulfill its statutory mandate to promote miners' health and safety, MSHA requires information under the ICR request titled "Proximity Detection Systems for Continuous Mining Machines in Underground Coal Mines." This information collection is intended to ensure that components of proximity detection systems at underground coal mines are intact, the system is functioning properly, and take action to correct any defects.

Burden costs associated with the ICR include:

1. Certifying and recording machine-mounted components;

2. Recording miner-wearable components;

3. Recording persons trained in proximity detection systems; and

4. Maintaining records.

The associated standards that authorize the collection of information are described below.

1. Certifying and Recording Machine-mounted Components (30 CFR 75.1732(d)(1))

Under 30 CFR 75.1732(c)(1), operators must designate a person who must perform a check of machine-mounted components of the proximity detection system to verify that components are intact, that the system is functioning properly, and take action to correct defects—

(i) At the beginning of each shift when the machine is to be used; or

(ii) Immediately prior to the time the machine is to be operated if not in use at the beginning of a shift; or

(iii) Within 1 hour of a shift change if the shift change occurs without an interruption in production.

Under 30 CFR 75.1732(d)(1), at the completion of the check of the machine-mounted components of the proximity detection system, a certified person must certify by initials, date, and time that the check was conducted. The certified person is defined under 30 CFR 75.100 as a person who has been certified as a mine foreman (mine manager), an assistant mine foreman

(section foreman), or a preshift examiner (mine examiner). Defects found as a result of the check, including corrective actions and dates of corrective actions, must be recorded before the end of the shift.

2. Recording Miner-wearable Components (30 CFR 75.1732(d)(2))

Under 30 CFR 75.1732(c)(2), operators must check for proper operation of miner-wearable components at the beginning of each shift that the components are to be used and correct defects before the components are used.

Under 30 CFR 75.1732(d)(2), the operator must make a record of the defects found as a result of the check of miner-wearable components at the beginning of each shift, as required under 30 CFR 75.1732(c)(2), including corrective actions and dates of corrective actions.

3. Recording Persons Trained in Proximity Detection Systems (30 CFR 75.1732(d)(3))

Under 30 CFR 75.1732(b)(6), a proximity detection system must be installed and maintained in proper operating condition by a person trained in the installation and maintenance of the system.

Under 30 CFR 75.1732(d)(3), the operator must make a record of the persons trained in the installation and maintenance of proximity detection systems in proper operating condition, as required under 30 CFR 75.1732(b)(6).

4. Maintaining records (30 CFR 75.1732(d)(4) and (d)(5))

Under 30 CFR 75.1732(d)(4), the operator must maintain records in a secure book or electronically in a secure computer system not susceptible to alteration.

Under 30 CFR 75.1732(d)(5), the operator must retain records for at least one year and make them available for inspection by authorized representatives of the Secretary and representatives of miners.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

MSHA is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection titled "Proximity Detection Systems for Continuous Mining Machines in Underground Coal Mines." MSHA is particularly interested in comments that:

- 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 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
- 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 submission of responses.

The ICR is available on *https://www.regulations.gov*. MSHA cautions commenters against providing any information in the submission that should not be publicly disclosed. Full comments, including personal information provided, will be made available on *https://www.regulations.gov* and *https://www.reginfo.gov*.

The public may also examine publicly available documents at DOL-MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210. Before visiting MSHA in person, call 202-693-9440 to make an appointment.

Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION section of this notice.

III. Current Actions

This ICR concerns provisions for Proximity Detection Systems for Continuous Mining Machines in Underground Coal Mines. MSHA has updated the data with respect to the number

of respondents, responses, time burden, and burden costs supporting this ICR from the previous ICR.

Type of Review: Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration

OMB Control Number: 1219-0148

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit entity

Number of Annual Respondents: 142

Frequency: On occasion

Number of Annual Responses: 229,744

Annual Time Burden: 653 hours

Annual Recordkeeping Costs: $0

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the proposed ICR; they will become a matter of public record and be available at *https://www.reginfo.gov*.

Corliss A. Josephs-Conway,
Certifying Officer,
Mine Safety and Health Administration.
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