

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management****Agency Information Collection Activities; Revision; Comment Request; DOL Generic Solution for “Touch-Base” Activities****ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the DOL Generic Solution for “Touch-Base” Activities information collection request (ICR), as part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

DATES: Submit written comments on or before February 1, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Contact Michel Smyth by telephone at 202–693–4129 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov to request additional information, including requesting a copy of this ICR. Submit comments regarding this ICR, including suggestions for reducing the burden, by sending an email to DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov. Comments may also be sent to Michel Smyth, Departmental Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room N–1301, Washington, DC 20210.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DOL has a need periodically to collect information from the public that help assess Departmental policies, products, and services and lead to improvements in areas deemed necessary. This information collection activity provides a means to garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner. By qualitative feedback the DOL means information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but does not entail statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues interest, or focus attention on areas where communication, training, or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative, and actionable communications between the DOL and its customers and

stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management. This information collection is subject to the PRA.

More specifically, the DOL will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance if it meets the following conditions:

- The collection is voluntary;
- The collection is low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden-hours per respondent) and is low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- The collection may focus on high-level stakeholder views regarding emerging topics of pressing policy interest or on operational issues and DOL products and services that may not be suitable for clearance under the DOL generic solution for qualitative feedback on service delivery;
- The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or issues under consideration;
- Information gathered will yield qualitative information; the collection will not be designed or be expected to yield statistically reliable results or be used as though the results are generalizable to the population of study.

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 it is approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the PRA 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 if the collection of information does not display a valid Control Number. *See* 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6. The DOL obtains OMB approval for this information collection under Control Number 1225–0059. This ICR would revise the collection to clarify that it may be used for policy choices, and would be similar to an ICR approved specifically for the Employment and Training Administration that is designed to get quick feedback on issues of interest to that agency.

The DOL, 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 an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections

of information before they are submitted to the OMB. This program helps to ensure 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 can be properly assessed. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to the individual listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Comments must be written to receive consideration, and they will be summarized and may be included in the request for OMB approval of the final ICR. The comments will become a matter of public record.

The DOL 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 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 submission of responses.

Agency: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title of Collection: DOL Generic Solution for “Touch-Base” Activities.

OMB Control Number: 1225–0059.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Private Sector—businesses or other for-profits, farms, and not for-profit institutions; and State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 375,000.

Frequency: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 375,000.

Estimated Average Time per Response: 6 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 37,500 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Cost Burden: \$0.

Dated: November 25, 2015.

Michel Smyth,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA-2014-0022]

Nucor Steel Connecticut Incorporated; Application for Permanent Variance and Interim Order; Grant of Interim Order; Request for Comments

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this notice, OSHA announces the application of Nucor Steel Connecticut Incorporated for a permanent variance and interim order from the provisions of OSHA standards that regulate the control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout) and presents the Agency's preliminary finding to grant the permanent variance. OSHA invites the public to submit comments on the variance application to assist the Agency in determining whether to grant the applicant a permanent variance based on the conditions specified in this notice of the application.

DATES: Submit comments, information, documents in response to this notice, and requests for a hearing on or before January 4, 2016. The interim order described in this notice became effective on December 2, 2015, and shall remain in effect until December 2, 2016 or until it is modified or revoked, whichever occurs first.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments by any of the following methods:

1. *Electronically:* Submit comments and attachments electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for making electronic submissions.

2. *Facsimile:* If submissions, including attachments, are not longer than 10 pages, commenters may fax them to the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-1648.

3. *Regular or express mail, hand delivery, or messenger (courier) service:* Submit comments, requests, and any attachments to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. OSHA-2014-0022, Technical Data Center, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room N-2625, Washington, DC 20210; telephone: (202) 693-2350 (TTY

number: (877) 889-5627). Note that security procedures may result in significant delays in receiving comments and other written materials by regular mail. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for information about security procedures concerning delivery of materials by express mail, hand delivery, or messenger service. The hours of operation for the OSHA Docket Office are 8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m., e.t.

4. *Instructions:* All submissions must include the Agency name and the OSHA docket number (OSHA-2014-0022). OSHA places comments and other materials, including any personal information, in the public docket without revision, and these materials will be available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, the Agency cautions commenters about submitting statements they do not want made available to the public, or submitting comments that contain personal information (either about themselves or others) such as Social Security numbers, birth dates, and medical data.

5. *Docket:* To read or download submissions or other material in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> or the OSHA Docket Office at the address above. All documents in the docket are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through the Web site. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for assistance in locating docket submissions.

6. *Extension of comment period:* Submit requests for an extension of the comment period on or before January 4, 2016 to the Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room N-3655, Washington, DC 20210, or by fax to (202) 693-1644.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information regarding this notice is available from the following sources:

Press inquiries: Contact Mr. Frank Meilinger, Director, OSHA Office of Communications, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room N-3647, Washington, DC 20210; telephone: (202) 693-1999; email: Meilinger.francis2@dol.gov.

General and technical information: Contact Mr. Kevin Robinson, Director,

Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room N-3655, Washington, DC 20210; phone: (202) 693-2110 or email: Robinson.kevin@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Copies of this Federal Register notice. Electronic copies of this **Federal Register** notice are available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. This **Federal Register** notice, as well as news releases and other relevant information, also are available at OSHA's Web page at <http://www.osha.gov>.

Hearing Requests. According to 29 CFR 1905.15, hearing requests must include: (1) A short and plain statement detailing how the proposed variance would affect the requesting party; (2) a specification of any statement or representation in the variance application that the commenter denies, and a concise summary of the evidence adduced in support of each denial; and (3) any views or arguments on any issue of fact or law presented in the variance application.

I. Notice of Application

On September 22, 2014, Nucor Steel Connecticut Incorporated (hereafter, "NSCI" or "the applicant") 35 Toelles Road, Wallingford, CT 06492, submitted under Section 6(d) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 ("OSH Act"; 29 U.S.C. 655) and 29 CFR 1905.11 ("Variances and other relief under section 6(d)") an application for a permanent variance from several provisions of the OSHA standard that regulates the control of hazardous energy ("lockout/tagout" or "LOTO"), as well as a request for an interim order pending OSHA's decision on the application for variance (Ex. OSHA-2014-0022-0003) at its Wallingford, Connecticut facility. Specifically, NSCI seeks a variance from the provisions of the standard that require: (1) Lockout or tagout devices be affixed to each energy isolating device by authorized employees (29 CFR 1910.147(d)(4)(i)); and (2) lockout devices, where used, be affixed in a manner to that will hold the energy isolating devices in a "safe" or "off" position (29 CFR 1910.147(d)(4)(ii)). NSCI also requested an interim order pending OSHA's decision on the application for variance.

According to its application, NSCI manufactures steel wire rod and coiled rebar from billets of steel by using rolling and forming processes. Further, NSCI's description of its operation indicates that the hot steel billets are