

Supporting Statement
Request for State or Federal Compensation Information
1240-0032

A. Justification.

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collections. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and of each regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

The Black Lung Benefits Act (30 U.S.C. 901, et. seq.) and its implementing regulations necessitate this information collection. The regulations at 20 CFR 725.535 authorize the collection of this information. The regulation requires benefit payments to a beneficiary for any month be reduced by any other payments of state or federal benefits for workers' compensation due to pneumoconiosis. See 30 U.S.C. 932(g). To ensure compliance with this mandate, the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation (DCMWC) must collect information regarding the status of any state or Federal workers' compensation claim, including dates of payments, weekly or lump sum amounts paid, and other fees or expenses paid out for this award, such as attorney fees and related expenses associated with pneumoconiosis.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

This form is submitted to Federal or state agencies for completion when the beneficiary has filed a claim for workers' compensation benefits due to pneumoconiosis, or is receiving benefits that may need to be offset. State or Federal workers' compensation programs are directed to notify DCMWC of any rate changes or cessation of compensation benefits. Usually only one CM-905 is sent; however, a second CM-905 may be sent if the claims staff suspects recent activity regarding a claimant's state workers' compensation claim, but has no recent CM-905 information in file. Information is used by DCMWC claims staff in determining the amounts of black lung benefits paid to beneficiaries. Benefit amounts are reduced, dollar for dollar, for other black lung related workers' compensation awards the beneficiary may be receiving from state or Federal programs.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

In the OWCP Black Lung GPEA Forms Final Transformation Status report, OWCP determined that the CM-905 form should not be made available on the Internet because it is initiated by the DCMWC claims staff 100% of the time. It is not usable by the state workers' compensation official unless it contains identifying information supplied by DCMWC. It requires the signatures of both the claims staff and the state official. Because workers' compensation information is covered by the Privacy Act or similar state privacy statutes, the DCMWC claims staff's personal or digital signature is usually required for the state to release information, and an on-line or PDF form on the DCMWC website would not permit submission to the state workers' compensation agency. No electronic version of this information collection has been received. The form can be completed by hand and mailed or completed and submitted online through the COAL Mine Portal at <https://eclaimant.dol-esa.gov/bl>

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item A.2 above.

There are no similarly approved forms used within the program. No other OWCP program or Federal agency has similar requirements. The collection of this information is specific for workers' compensation benefits due to pneumoconiosis.

5. If the collection information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

No small businesses are affected by the collection of this information.

6. Describe the consequence of Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

This information is collected only at the time a beneficiary indicates that s/he has filed an occupational disease claim for pneumoconiosis with a state government or another Federal workers' compensation program. DCMWC must verify that the claimant filed for Federal or state benefits and any amount of compensation the claimant may receive due to black lung disease. Without this information, an overpayment may occur to the claimant because state benefits offset federal black lung benefits.

7. Explain any special circumstance that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

There are no special circumstances for this information collection.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8 (d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments.

A Federal Register Notice inviting public comment was published on November 25, 2019 [84 FR 64935]. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

Respondents do not receive gifts or payments to furnish the requested information.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulations, or agency policy.

Since the completed form is maintained in the beneficiary's case file, the information collected is covered by the Privacy Act System of Records, DOL/OWCP-2, published at 81 Federal Register 25765, 25858 (April 29, 2016), or as updated and republished.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary; the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons

from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

The collection contains no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not make special surveys to obtain information on which to base burden estimates. Consultation with a sample of potential respondents is desirable. If the burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated burden and explain the reason for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information.

The public burden estimate of this information collection is approximately 1,500 hours. The estimated burden is based on the submission of approximately 6,000 forms. This represents approximately 6,000 black lung claimants who have filed a workers' compensation claim for pneumoconiosis with DCMWC. Each response averages 15 minutes per form for a total of 1,500 hours to collect the data for 6,000 forms.

$6,000 \times 15 \text{ minutes} = 90,000 / 60 = 1,500 \text{ hours}$

The estimated annualized cost to respondents to provide this information is \$42,000.00 (1,500 hours x \$28.00 per hour). The hourly wage of \$2800 is taken from the Establishment Data Earnings Table B-8 for August 2019 published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, under the heading of Professional and Business Services. The table may be found at: http://www.bls.gov/opub/ee/2019/ces/table8b_201902.pdf .

13. Annual Costs to Respondents (capital/start-up & operation and maintenance).

(a) Total capital and start-up costs: None.

(b) Total operation, maintenance, and purchases of services component:

Estimated mailing costs: \$3,480.00

((55¢ stamp + 3¢ envelope) 58¢ x 6,000 = \$3,480.00)

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

The estimated cost to the Federal Government for these 6,000 forms is approximately \$66,030.00. The cost is figured as follows:

(a) Estimated printing cost: \$0.00

(b) Estimated mailing cost: \$3,480.00
(55¢ plus 3¢ per envelope for a total of 58¢ per form)
(.58 X 6,000 = \$3,480.00)

(c) The estimated processing cost: \$62,550.00
(One CE GS-12/6 spends about 15 minutes evaluating each form or 1,500 hours (\$41.70 x 1,500 = \$62,550.00).
https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2019/RUS_h.pdf

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

Minor changes have been made to CM-905.

Description of changes:

Eliminated requirement for the miner's full social security number and requiring only the last four digits.

Added two options to file this form (mail or electronically submit through the COAL Mine Portal.

Provided updated language for the Privacy Act Statement.

Provided updated language for the Notice.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

There are no plans to publish this information.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

This ICR does not seek a waiver from the requirement to display the expiration date.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement in ROCIS.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods.

Statistical methods are not used for the collection of this information.