

Main fan operation and inspection (I-A, II-A, III, and V-A mines)

OMB Control Number: 1219-0030

OMB Expiration Date: 7/31/2022

This Information Collection Request (ICR) seeks to extend, without change, a currently approved information collection.

Supporting Statement

Information Collection Title: Main fan operation and inspection (I-A, II-A, III, and V-A mines)

Collection Instrument(s): None

OMB No.: 1219-0030

30 CFR Citation: 57.22204

General Instructions

A Supporting Statement, including the text of the notice to the public required by 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(i)(iv) and its actual or estimated date of publication in the Federal Register, must accompany each request for approval of a collection of information. The Supporting Statement must be prepared in the format described below, and must contain the information specified in Section A below. If an item is not applicable, provide a brief explanation. When the question “Does this ICR contain surveys, censuses or employ statistical methods” is checked “Yes”, Section B of the Supporting Statement must be completed. OMB reserves the right to require the submission of additional information with respect to any request for approval.

Specific Instructions

A. Justification

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

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 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, authorizes the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to develop, promulgate, and revise as may be appropriate, improved

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mandatory health or safety standards for the protection of life and prevention of injuries in coal and metal and nonmetal mines.

Potentially gassy (explosive) conditions underground are largely controlled by the main fans. When accumulations of explosive gases, such as methane, are not swept from the mine by the main fans, they may reasonably be expected to contact an ignition source. The results of such contacts are usually disastrous, and multiple fatalities may be reasonably expected to occur. The standard contains significantly more stringent requirements for main fans in "gassy" mines than for main fans in other mines. Title 30 CFR 57.22204, which only applies to metal and nonmetal underground mines that are categorized as "gassy," requires main fans to have pressure-recording systems. This standard also requires main fans to be inspected daily while operating if persons are underground and certification made of such inspections by signature and date. Certifications and pressure recordings must be retained for one year and made available to authorized representatives of the Secretary.

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.

Information collected through the pressure recordings has been and continues to be used by mine operators and MSHA for constant monitoring of mine ventilation and for ensuring that unsafe conditions are identified early and corrected. Technical consultants may occasionally review such information in addressing main fan or ventilation problems.

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.

No improved information technology has been identified that would reduce the recordkeeping burden; however, in order to comply with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act, mine operators may retain the records of certifications and pressure recordings by whatever method they choose, which may include the use of computer technology.

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 2 above.

Fan pressure recordings are required to be kept on file at the mine. There are no duplicate records that could be used. The ventilation at each mine is unique to that

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mine; therefore, there is no similar data that could be used.

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

This information collection does not have a significant impact on small businesses or other small entities.

6. Describe the consequence to 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.

Title 30 CFR 57.22204 requires mine operators to inspect main mine fans daily while operating if persons are underground. MSHA has determined that maintaining proper ventilation is critical to providing miners with a safe atmosphere in which to work. To require mine operators to inspect fans and certify such inspections less frequently than on a daily basis would increase the risk that harmful gases might accumulate and create an explosion hazard.

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

- * requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- * requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- * requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- * requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than three years;**
- * in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- * requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- * that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- * requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

Although section 57.22204 has no specific requirement that mine operators retain the information collection described above for more than one year, the standard requires that a mine operator make daily inspections of main fans, and record and certify that such inspections were made, while the main fan is operating if persons are

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underground. In addition, the standard requires that the certified records and the pressure recordings must be maintained at the mine for a period of one year. The requirements are consistent with the general information collection guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

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. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years - even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

MSHA published a 60-day *Federal Register* notice on January 26, 2022 (87 FR 4048). MSHA received no public comments.

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

MSHA does not provide any payment or gift to the respondents.

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

No assurance of confidentiality is provided to respondents.

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.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

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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 conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**

*** If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.**

*** Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included under Item 13.**

All information related to quantities and inspection rates are estimated by MSHA's Headquarters Enforcement Division based on field experience with different types of mining operations, sizes of mines, and the frequency of inspections dictated by statute. Mine operators provide MSHA Headquarters Enforcement Division the number of mines and employment, and from this information MSHA tracks the number of active and inactive mines and mine types throughout the United States.

Annual burden hours and related costs calculations is shown below. MSHA used data from the May 2020 Occupational Employment Wage Statistics (OEWS) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for hourly wage rates¹ and adjusted the rates for benefits² and wage inflation³.

¹ Options for obtaining OEWS data are available at item "E3. How to get OEWS data. What are the different ways to obtain OEWS estimates from this website?" at https://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm.

² The benefit-scaler comes from BLS Employer Costs for Employee Compensation access by menu <http://www.bls.gov/data/> or directly with <http://download.bls.gov/pub/time.series/cm/cm.data.0.Current>. The data series CMU2030000405000P, Private Industry Total benefits for Construction, extraction, farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, is divided by 100 to convert to a decimal value. MSHA used the latest 4-quarter moving average 2020Qtr3-2020Qtr2 to determine that 32.9 percent of total loaded wages are benefits. MSHA computes the scaling factor with a number of detailed calculations but it may be approximated with the formula and values $1 + (\text{benefit percentage}/(1-\text{benefit percentage})) = 1 + (.329/(1-.329)) = 1.49$.

³ Wage inflation is the change in Series ID: CIS2020000405000I; Seasonally adjusted; Series Title: Wages and salaries for Private industry workers in Construction, extraction, farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, Index. (<https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/srgate>; Qtr 2 2021/Qtr 2 2020).

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MSHA estimates that approximately 6 mines will be affected by this standard. MSHA's records show that there is an average of 2 main fans per mine and that a mine operates approximately 330 days per year. It is estimated that the examination and recording of pressure readings in the log book would require an average of 30 minutes (per main fan and an average of 2 minutes for a supervisor to certify the records by countersigning). It has been MSHA's experience that these examinations and records are made by an hourly employee of the mine operator earning an hourly wage⁴ of \$45.52 and the certification by countersigning is done by the mine supervisor with an hourly wage⁵ of \$62.86.

Estimated Annualized Burden Hours and Costs								
Type of Respondent	Information Collection/ Standard	No. of Respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total No. of Responses (whole numbers)	Avg. Burden per Response (in hours)	Total Annual Burden	Avg. Hourly Wage Rate	Monetized Value of Time
Business or other for-profit	Examination and Recording/ Section 57.22204	6	660	3,960	.50 h (30 min)	1,980.00	\$45.52	\$90,129.60
Business or other for-profit	Supervisor Countersigning/ Section 57.22204	6	330	1,980	0.0333333333 h (2 min)	65.99	\$62.86	\$4,148.13
Total		6		5,940		(rounded) 2,046		(rounded) \$94,278

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected on the burden worksheet).

*** The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates**

⁴ For MNM mines, the nonsupervisory hourly wage is the employment weighted average of the rates for multiple SOCs within 2 industry sector groups from the BLS May 2020 OEWS data for NAICS codes 212200 and 212300. Weighted average rate \$45.52 = \$29.46 x 1.49 benefit adjustment x 1.037 inflation adjustment.

⁵ For MNM mines, the supervisory hourly wage is the employment weighted average of the rates for multiple SOCs within 2 industry sector groups from the BLS May 2020 OEWS data for NAICS codes 212200 and 212300. Weighted average rate \$62.86 = \$40.68 x 1.49 benefit adjustment x 1.037 inflation adjustment.

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should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.

* If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collections services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.

* Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

MSHA's ventilation division at the Pittsburgh Safety and Health Technology Center estimates the average cost of a pressure-recording system to be \$2,500.00 per system with a service life of 10 years. MSHA estimates that 10 percent of the 12 pressure recorders in use will be replaced each year. The annual maintenance costs are estimated to be approximately \$250.00 per system (10 percent of the average cost of the system).

Description	Cost
<u>Annual Replacement Cost:</u>	
6 mines x 2 recording systems x 0.10 x \$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
<u>Annual Maintenance Cost:</u>	
6 mines x 2 recording systems (1 system per fan) x \$250.00 per system	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Rounded Total Annual Cost	\$6,000

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14. Provide estimates of annualized costs to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies may also aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

No Federal inspection costs have been associated specifically for this information collection. The examination of these records is just one aspect of an MSHA inspection. As mentioned in response to Item 1, above, under section 103(a) of the Mine Act, inspections of the entire mine are required 4 times a year for underground mines and twice a year for surface mines.

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

Respondents: There has been no change in the number of respondents (6). This is due to all previously classified mines remaining active, and no mines added.

Responses: There has been no change in the number of responses (5,940). This is due to all previously classified mines remaining active, and no mines added.

Burden Hours: There has been no change in hours (from 2,046 to 2,046) due to rounding.

Cost: There has been an increase in the estimated annual cost of pressure recording systems from \$2,400 to \$6,000. This is due to estimated increases in equipment and labor costs.

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 of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

The results from this information collection will not be published.

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.

There are no forms associated with this collection. Therefore, MSHA is not seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection.

18. Explain each exception to the topics of the certification statement.

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There are no certification exceptions identified with this information collection.

B. Collection of Information Employing Statistical Methods

As statistical analysis is not required by the regulation, questions 1 through 5 do not apply.