

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Mine Safety and Health Administration  
1100 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3939



**OCT 01 2009**

Mr. Dennis O'Dell  
Administrator, United Mine Workers of America  
Department of Occupational Health and Safety  
8315 Lee Highway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031-2215

Dear Mr. O'Dell:

Thank you for the comments that the United Mine Workers of America submitted on the Proposed Information Collection Request for fire protection at underground coal mines (OMB Control Number 1219-0054). MSHA will carefully consider these comments during this periodic review.

To clarify this request for public comment, please be advised that this is not considered rulemaking. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, all government agencies must periodically review and justify the paperwork burden that is imposed on industry and the public. This review includes opportunities to reduce the paperwork burden such as electronic records. This periodic review also includes an updated estimate of the burden hours and costs for this information collection package. However, any substantive changes in statutory reporting requirements would necessitate that MSHA go through public notice and comment rulemaking.

Thank you for your comments and your continued interest in the health and safety of our nation's miner's. If you have any additional questions concerning this matter, please contact Erik Sherer, Division of Safety, at (202) 693-9523.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcus A. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marcus" being the most prominent.

Marcus A. Smith  
Acting Chief, Division of Safety  
Coal Mine Safety and Health