



FAX COVER SHEET

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FROM: Dennis O'Dell - UMWA

DATE: 4-28-14 PAGES: 9 (Including Cover)
 ✓ confirmation sheet
 from 4/28/14

MESSAGE:

Attached are the UMWA's comments
 on Proposed Information Collection Request
 for Comments on MSHA Docket Number 2013-
 0042; MSHA Docket Number 2013-0043;
 and MSHA Docket Number 2013-0044.

If there are any problems with this transmission, please contact: Linda
 at 703-291-2424.

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MSHA Office of Standards, Regulations & Variations

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FROM: Dennis O'Dell - UMWA

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MESSAGE:

Attached are the UMWA's comment
on Proposed Information Collection Reg
for Comments on MSHA Docket Number 2012-0047

Comments of the United Mine Workers of America
On the Proposed Information Collection; Training Plans and Records of Training for
Underground Miners and Miners Working at Surface Mines and Surface Areas of
Underground Mines
April 28, 2014
[MSHA Docket Number 2013-0043]

MSHA indicates that this proposal is part of the Department of Labor's continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This proposal provides the general public and Federal Agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The recordkeeping rules being considered in this action are Title 30 CFR 48.3 and 48.23 which require training plans for underground and surface mines and 30CFR 48.9 and 48.29 which require records of training for underground and surface mines.

30CFR §48.3 and §48.23 requires training plans to be submitted for approval to the MSHA District Manager for the mine. As MSHA points out, the plans must contain the following:

1. Company Name
2. Mine Name
3. MSHA identification number of the mine
4. The name and position of the person designated by the operator who is responsible for health and safety training at the mine.
5. A list of MSHA-approved instructors with whom the operator proposes to make arrangements to teach the courses and the courses each instructor is qualified to teach
6. The location where training will be given for each course
7. A description of the teaching methods and the course materials which are to be used in training
8. The approximate number of miners employed at the mine and the maximum number who will attend each session of training
9. The predicted time or periods of time when regularly scheduled refresher training will be given including the titles of courses to be taught.
10. The total number of instruction hours for each course, and
11. The predicted time and length of each session of training for new task training including a complete list of task assignments, the titles of personnel conducting the training, the outline of training procedures used, and the evaluation procedures used to determine the effectiveness of the training.

UMWA COMMENT

These sections of the code spell out the things that must be contained in the training plan for a mine. This is vital information that is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency and has practical utility. The training plan is central to seeing that miners are properly trained in all aspects central to health and safety in the mine in which they work. The training plan covers such topics as roof control, ventilation, escape, maps, self-rescuers, mine gases, and hazard recognition to name a few. These are all essential to operating a safe coal mine with well-trained miners. Miners are taught how to escape in the event of an emergency and as a last resort how to barricade themselves in refuge chambers. All this is essential safety knowledge the miner must know in the event of an emergency. The mine site should have one hard copy of the plan available to those who want to review it, however, we would have no problem with these plans being submitted to MSHA electronically for approval. A copy of the plan should also be stored electronically at the mine site and made available to those who want to review it.

30CFR §48.9 and §48.29 requires records of training for underground and surface mines. Upon completion of each training program, the mine operator certifies on a form approved by the Secretary (MSHA Form 500-23) that the miner has received the specified training in each subject area of the approved health and safety training plan. The certificates are to be maintained by the operator for a period of two years for current employees and sixty days for terminated employees and must be available for inspection at the mine site. In addition, the miner is entitled to a copy of the certificate upon completion of the training and when he/she leaves the operator's employment.

UMWA COMMENT

These standards require that the mine operator certify on an MSHA approved form which certifies that the miner has received training. These certificates are to be maintained by the operator for two years for active employees and sixty days for terminated employees. These records are to be available for inspection at the mine site. The miner must continue to receive a copy of this record for their personal files, however, if the mine operator desires to maintain such records electronically, the UMWA would not oppose doing so as long as the interested parties has access to them.