DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

[Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Permanent Regulatory Program - Small Operator Assistance Program]

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

ACTIONS: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) are proposing to renew an information collection for the Permanent Regulatory Program - Small Operator Assistance Program (SOAP).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Send written comments on this information collection request (ICR) to the
Office of Management and Budget’s Desk Officer for the Department of the Interior by email at OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov; or via facsimile to (202) 395-5806. Please provide a copy of your comments to John Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1849 C. Street, NW, Mail Stop 4559, Washington, DC 20240; or by email to jtrelease@osmre.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 1029-0112 in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact John Trelease by email at jtrelease@osmre.gov, or by telephone at (202) 208-2783. You may also view the ICR at http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provides the requested data in the desired format.

A Federal Register notice with a 60-day public comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published on February 8, 2018 (83 FR 5644). No comments were received.

We are again soliciting comments on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is the collection necessary to the proper functions of OSMRE; (2) is the estimate of burden accurate; (3) how
might OSMRE enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) how might OSMRE minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Title:** 30 CFR part 795 - Permanent Regulatory Program - Small Operator Assistance Program.

**OMB Control Number:** 1029-0061.

**Abstract:** This information collection requirement is needed to provide assistance to qualified small mine operators under 30 U.S.C. 1257. The information requested will provide the regulatory authority with data to determine the eligibility of the applicant and the capability and expertise of laboratories to perform required tasks.

**Form Number:** FS-6.

**Type of Review:** Extension of a currently approved collection.

**Respondents/Affected Public:** Small operators, laboratories, and State regulatory authorities.

**Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:** 4 (1 by a small operator, 2 by a State
regulatory authority, 1 by a laboratory).

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 4.

Estimated Completion Time per Response: 18 hours for a small operator, 4 hours for State review, 70 hours for State solicitation and award to a laboratory, 1 hour for laboratory to re-qualify.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 93 hours.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

Frequency of Collection: Once.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: $0.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq).

John A. Trelease,
Acting Chief,
Division of Regulatory Support.