



Billing Code: 4510-43-P

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Mine Safety and Health Administration**

**Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Gamma**

Radiation Surveys

**[OMB Control No. 1219-0039]**

**AGENCY:** Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to assure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments on the information collection for Gamma Radiation Surveys.

**DATES:** All comments must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** Comments concerning the information collection requirements of this notice may be sent by any of the methods listed below.

- *Federal E-Rulemaking Portal:*  
*<http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments for docket number MSHA-2019-0012.*
- *Regular Mail: Send comments to USDOL-MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12<sup>th</sup> Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452.*
- *Hand Delivery: USDOL-Mine Safety and Health Administration, 201 12<sup>th</sup> Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452. Sign in at the receptionist's desk on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor via the East elevator.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sheila McConnell,  
Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances,  
MSHA, at [MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov](mailto:MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov) (e-mail);  
202-693-9440 (voice); or 202-693-9441 (facsimile).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Background**

Gamma radiation occurs where radioactive materials are present. It has been associated with lung cancer and other debilitating occupational diseases. Natural sources include rocks, soils, and ground water. Gamma radiation hazards may be found near radiation sources at surface operations using X-ray machines, weightometers, nuclear and diffraction units. Nuclear gauges mounted outside tanks, pipes, bins, hoppers or other types of vessels; gamma rays are used to sense the level and density of liquids, slurries or solids. Gamma rays penetrate the body and can kill or damage cells in their path that can affect many of the body's organs. The adverse health effects from exposure to gamma radiation can vary depending upon the type of cell affected and the extent of damage.

Under Section 103(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is required to ". . . issue regulations requiring operators to maintain accurate records of employee exposures to potentially toxic materials or harmful physical agents which are required to be monitored or measured under any applicable mandatory health or safety standard promulgated under this Act." In

addition, 30 CFR 57.5047(a) requires that gamma radiation surveys be conducted annually in all underground mines where radioactive ores are mined. 30 CFR 57.5047(c) requires that gamma radiation dosimeters be provided for all persons exposed to average gamma radiation measurements in excess of 2.0 milliroentgens per hour in the working place. This paragraph also requires the operator keep records of cumulative individual gamma radiation exposures.

## **II. Desired Focus of Comments**

MSHA is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection related to Gamma Radiation Surveys. MSHA is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of MSHA's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Suggest methods to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use

of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

The information collection request will be available on <http://www.regulations.gov>. MSHA cautions the commenter against providing any information in the submission that should not be publicly disclosed. Full comments, including personal information provided, will be made available on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov).

The public may also examine publicly available documents at USDOL-Mine Safety and Health Administration, 201 12<sup>th</sup> South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452. Sign in at the receptionist's desk on the 4th floor via the East elevator.

Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION section of this notice.

### **III. Current Actions**

This request for collection of information contains provisions for Gamma Radiation Surveys. MSHA has updated the data with respect to the number of respondents, responses, burden hours, and burden costs supporting this information collection request.

*Type of Review:* Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection

*Agency:* Mine Safety and Health Administration

*OMB Number:* 1219-0039

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit

*Number of Respondents:* 3

*Frequency:* On occasion

*Number of Responses:* 3

*Annual Burden Hours:* 6 hours

*Annual Respondent or Recordkeeper Cost:* \$0

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

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Sheila McConnell  
*Certifying Officer*

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