DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration
[OMB Control No. 1219–0146]

Proposed Extension of Existing Information Collection; Refuge Alternatives for Underground Coal Mines

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

ACTION: Notice of 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 and state agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, that reporting (time and financial resources) is minimal, that collection instruments are clearly understood, and that the impact of collection requirements can be properly assessed.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of an existing information collection, OMB Control Number 1219–0146, Refuge Alternatives for Underground Coal Mines.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 2, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be identified with “OMB Control Number 1219–0146” and may be sent to MSHA by any of the following methods:


• Hand Delivery or Courier: MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2350, Arlington, Virginia. Sign in at the receptionist’s desk on the 21st floor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Moxness, Chief, Economic Analysis Division, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at moxness.greg@dol.gov (email); 202–693–9440 (voice); or 202–693–9441 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Mine Safety and Health Administration is responsible for the approval of refuge alternatives. The information collection requirements are intended to help protect miners by assuring that mine operators properly supply and maintain refuge alternatives, and in the event of an emergency, that miners will know when and where to seek refuge, that the immediate area of the refuge is secure from roof failure, and that maps are current and can be used by mine rescue teams to locate the sheltered miners.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

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 the Agency’s estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

• 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 submissions of responses).

A copy of the information collection request can be obtained by contacting the employee listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this notice or viewed on the Internet by accessing the MSHA home page (http://www.msha.gov/) and selecting “Rules and Regs,” and then selecting “Fed Reg Docs.”

III. Current Actions

This notice contains the request for an extension of the existing collection of information in 30 CFR 75.1506—Refuge alternatives. MSHA does not intend to publish the results from this information collection and is not seeking approval to either display or not display the expiration date for the OMB approval of this information collection. There are no certification exceptions identified with this information collection and the collection of this
information does not employ statistical methods.

Type of Review: Extension.
Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.
Title: Refuge Alternatives for Underground Coal Mines.
OMB Number: 1219–0146.
Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Cite/Reference/Form/etc: 30 CFR Part 75.
Total Respondents: 510.
Frequency: Various.
Total Responses: 958,819.
Estimated Total Burden Hours: 93,917 hours.
Estimated Total Burden Cost: $7,979,712.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or 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.

Patricia W. Silvey, Certifying Officer.
[FR Doc. 2012–1988 Filed 1–30–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–43–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Petitions for Modification of Application of Existing Mandatory Safety Standards

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 and 30 CFR Part 44 govern the application, processing, and disposition of petitions for modification. This notice is a summary of petitions for modification submitted to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) by the parties listed below to modify the application of existing mandatory safety standards codified in Title 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

DATES: All comments on the petitions must be received by the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances on or before March 1, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit your comments, identified by “docket number” on the subject line, by any of the following methods:
1. Electronic Mail: zzMSHA-comments@dol.gov. Include the docket number in the petition in the subject line of the message.
2. Facsimile: (202) 693–9441.
4. Hand-Delivery or Courier: MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2350, Arlington, Virginia 22209–3939. Individuals who submit comments by hand-delivery are required to check in at the receptionist’s desk on the 21st floor. Individuals may inspect copies of the petitions and comments during normal business hours at the address listed above.

MSHA will consider only comments postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or proof of delivery from another delivery service such as UPS or Federal Express on or before the deadline for comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barbara Barron, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances at (202) 693–9447 (Voice), barron.barbara@dol.gov (Email), or (202) 693–9441 (Facsimile). [These are not toll-free numbers].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act) allows the mine operator or representative of miners to file a petition to modify the application of any mandatory safety standard to a coal or other mine if the Secretary of Labor determines that:

1. An alternative method of achieving the result of such standard exists which will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded the miners of such mine by such standard; or
2. That the application of such standard to such mine will result in a diminution of safety to the miners in such mine.

In addition, the regulations at 30 CFR 44.10 and 44.11 establish the requirements and procedures for filing petitions for modification.

II. Petitions for Modification

Docket Number: M–2011–012–M.
Petitioner: Celite Corporation, 2500 Miguelito Road, Lompoc, California 93436.
Mine: Lompoc Plant, MSHA I.D. No. 04–02848, 2500 Miguelito Road, Lompoc, California 93436, located in Santa Barbara County, California.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 56.20001 (Intoxicating beverages and narcotics).

Modification Request: The petitioner requests a modification of the existing standard to permit alcohol slow-fermented from starch, bearing an alcohol content of less than 10 percent alcohol by volume (ABV), commonly called “beer,” to be used at the Lompoc Plant for chemical testing that is part of product quality control and research. The petitioner proposes to store containers of beer at the Lompoc Plant in secure locations with restricted access, and use logs, records, and markings to ensure the beer will be used solely for purposes of quality control testing, statistical method control testing, and research testing. The petitioner states that:

1. It does not seek a modification of any other part of the standard.
2. The consumption of any intoxicating beverages and narcotics, including beer, will be prohibited and persons under the influence of alcohol or narcotics will not be permitted on site.
3. The Lompoc Mine is a surface diatomaceous earth (DE) mine and processing facility. Mined DE is processed to create the finished DE products (the marketable products).
4. One of the commercial applications of the marketable products is a filtration agent utilized during the brewing process for beer. The marketable products are integrated onto a fine mesh screen, with other ingredients, thereby creating a “filter-cake.” At the end of the brewing process, following fermentation that results in the creation of the alcohol-containing liquid that is called “beer,” the beer is passed through the filter-cake to remove undesirable contaminants that results in higher clarity of the beer, which is commercially desirable.
5. Mining operations at Celite Corporation require that containers of beer less than 10 percent ABV be located at the Lompoc Plant to conduct quality control testing of the marketable products, and to perform research testing to ensure that the marketable products are suitable for use in beer brewing. Celite Corporation’s commercial operations also require that beer be located at the Lompoc Plant’s Research Laboratory (Research Lab) so that the company’s research staff may continue to create new marketable products and modify existing marketable products.
6. Although DE can be an excellent filtration aid in the production of beer, it also contains naturally occurring iron, which is undesirable in beer production. If the beer absorbs too much iron, the beer will develop a bitter taste, which is not commercially desirable.

Soluble iron in beer also has a deleterious effect on beer stability, which is also not commercially desirable. Accordingly, one of the most