

Properties of Belt Materials in Underground Coal Mining. The public is invited to attend.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 28–March 30, 2007. The meetings on March 28–29, 2007 will start at 9 a.m. each day and conclude by 5 p.m. The meeting on March 30, 2007 will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude no later than 1 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting location is the Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport, 8256 University Blvd., Coraopolis, PA 15108–2591 (telephone: 412–262–3600).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia W. Silvey, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2330, Arlington, Virginia 22209; silvey.patricia@dol.gov (Internet e-mail), 202–693–9440 (voice), or 202–693–9441 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Panel was created under section 11 of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109–236). The purpose of the Panel is to provide independent scientific and engineering review and recommendations concerning the utilization of belt air and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining. By December 2007, the Panel must submit a report to the Secretaries of Labor and Health and Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. The first meeting of the Panel was held in Washington, DC on January 9–10, 2007.

The agenda for the second meeting will include:

- (1) *Belt conveyor material issues: flammability and toxicity.*
- (2) *Discussion: panel of belt manufacturers.*
- (3) *General discussion: ventilation, dust control, and escape issues.*
- (4) *Discussion: 1992 Belt Air Advisory Committee report.*

(5) *Public input:* The panel will allocate time at the end of the day on March 28 and March 29 for presentations by members of the public. MSHA expects the amount of time allocated for public participation to be approximately one hour, but it may vary based on the interest expressed. MSHA will also accept written submissions.

MSHA requests that persons planning to participate in the public input session of this meeting notify the Agency at least one week prior to the meeting date. There will be an opportunity for other persons, who have not made prior

arrangements with MSHA and wish to speak, to register at the beginning of the meeting on March 28. Speakers should limit their presentations to five minutes, but may supplement oral remarks with written submissions. MSHA will incorporate written submissions into the official record and make them available to the public. The Panel Chairman will moderate the public participation session, and panelists may ask the speakers questions.

The public may inspect the official record of the meetings at the MSHA address listed above. In addition, the information will be posted on the Agency's single source Web page titled "The Technical Study Panel on the Utilization of Belt Air and the Composition and Fire Retardant Properties of Belt Materials in Underground Coal Mining Single Source Page." The Single Source page is located at <http://www.msha.gov/BeltAir/BeltAir.asp>.

Dated: March 8, 2007.

Richard E. Stickler,

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

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MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection

AGENCY: Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501), this document announces that an Information Collection Request (ICR) has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. This is a request for a new collection. This ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its estimated burden and cost.

DATES: MSPB has submitted an ICR to OMB for review and approval according to the procedures prescribed in 5 CFR 1320.12. On November 27, 2006 (**Federal Register**, Volume 71, Number 227, pages 68639–68640), MSPB sought comments on this ICR pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.8(d). MSPB received no comments. Additional comments should be submitted on or before April 6 to OMB (Brenda Aguilar at baguilar@omb.eop.gov or fax at (202) 395–6974).

ADDRESSES: You may also submit comments to MSPB via any of the following methods:

E-mail: Please include "Employee Surveys" in the subject line of the message and send your message to anne.marrelli@mspb.gov.

Mail: Dr. Anne Marrelli, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, Suite 500, 1615 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20419.

Fax: (202) 653–7211.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anne Marrelli by phone on 202–653–6772, ext. 1341, by FAX on 202–653–7211, or by e-mail at anne.marrelli@mspb.gov. You may contact Dr. Marrelli via V/TDD at 1–800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposed Project: "Merit Principles Survey."

As part of its mission, MSPB is responsible for conducting studies of the Federal civil service to ensure that all Federal government agencies follow merit systems practices and avoid prohibited personnel practices. To support this research agenda, MSPB is conducting a survey of Federal employees. To obtain insight into employees' current perspectives, MSPB requests approval to conduct surveys over the next three years.

The surveys will ask employees to share their perceptions of the implementation of the merit system in the workplace including topics such as the Merit Systems Principles, Prohibited Personnel Practices, job satisfaction, performance management, training and development, and leadership.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.50 hours per respondent.

Respondents/Affected Entities: Participants are selected via stratified random sampling to facilitate a representative sample of Federal employees.

Estimated Number of Respondents per Survey: 50,000.

Frequency of Response: Once.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 25,000.

Dated: March 7, 2007.

Bentley M. Roberts, Jr.,

Clerk of the Board.

[FR Doc. E7–4465 Filed 3–12–07; 8:45 am]

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