the Strategic Plan and of program portfolios to document the Department’s progress in meeting its strategic objectives.

7. Reservation of Authority and Responsibility.
A. The submission of reports and recommendations to the President and the Congress concerning the administration of the statutory provisions and Executive Orders affecting DOL is reserved to the Secretary.
B. This Secretary’s Order does not affect the authorities or responsibilities of the Office of Inspector General under the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, or under Secretary’s Order 04–2006 (February 21, 2006).
C. Except as provided above in Section 2, all other Secretary’s Orders remain in full force and effect.

8. Effective Date. This Order is effective immediately.


Eugene Scalia, Secretary of Labor.

FR Doc. 2020–04028 Filed 3–5–20; 8:45 am
BILLING CODE 4510–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Secretary’s Order 01–2020—Delegation of Authority and Assignment of Responsibility to the Administrative Review Board

1. Purpose. To delegate authority and assign responsibility to the Administrative Review Board, define its composition, and describe its functions.

2. Authorities. This Order is issued under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 301 (Departmental Regulations); 29 U.S.C. 551 et seq. (Establishment of Department; Secretary; Seal); Reorganization Plan No. 6 1950 (5 U.S.C. App. 1 Reorg. Plan 6 1950); and the authorities cited in Section 5 of this Order.

3. Background. The Secretary of Labor (“Secretary”) has the authority and responsibility to decide certain appeals from administrative decisions. The Secretary created the Administrative Review Board (“Board” or “ARB”) in Secretary’s Order 02–96, which delegated authority and assigned responsibilities to the Board. Secretary’s Order 01–2002 delegated this authority and assigned responsibility to the ARB, defined and expanded its composition, clarified ARB procedural authorities, and codified the location of the ARB in the Department’s organizational structure. Secretary’s Order 01–2010, then, created and designated a Vice-Chair to maintain and operate the Board during a Chair’s absence or vacancy. Additionally, Secretary’s Order 01–2010 delegated the responsibility for the operational management of the Board and its affairs to the newly created Vice-Chair. Secretary’s Order 02–2012 provided updates to the delegation of authority and assignment of responsibilities laid out in the previous orders. Secretary’s Order 01–2019 extended the term of membership of Board members from two years to four years. This Order allows for discretionary review by the Secretary of Board decisions.

4. Directives Affected. Secretary’s Order 01–2019—Delegation of Authority and Assignment of Responsibility to the Administrative Review Board is hereby canceled. Any Secretary’s Order or other DOL document (including policies and guidance) that references Secretary’s Order 01–2019 is deemed to refer to this Order instead.

5. Delegation of Authority and Assignment of Responsibilities. The Board is hereby delegated authority and assigned responsibility to act for the Secretary of Labor in review or on appeal of the matters listed below. This authority includes, but is not limited to, the issuance of final agency decisions, as provided for in Section 6 of this Order, except in those cases reviewed by the Secretary in accordance with that Section. The Board shall report to the Secretary through the Deputy Secretary of Labor and shall immediately transmit its decisions to the Deputy Secretary once they are issued.

a. Final decisions of the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division or an authorized representative of the Administrator, and final decisions of Administrative Law Judges (“ALJs”), under the following:

1. The Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.; any laws now existing or which may be subsequently enacted, providing for prevailing wages determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with or pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act; the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, 40 U.S.C. 3701 et seq. (except matters pertaining to safety); the Copeland Act, 40 U.S.C. 3145; Reorganization Plan No. 14 of 1950; and 29 CFR parts 1, 3, 5, 6, subpart C and D.

2. The McNamara-O’Hara Service Contract Act, as amended, 41 U.S.C. 6701 et seq.; the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, 40 U.S.C. 3701 et seq. (except matters pertaining to safety) where the contract is also subject to the McNamara-O’Hara Service Contract Act; and 29 CFR parts 4, 5, 6, subparts B, D, E.

3. Executive Order No. 13658, as implemented, 29 CFR 10.51 et seq.

4. Executive Order No. 13706, as implemented, 29 CFR 13.51 et seq.

b. Decisions and recommended decisions by ALJs as provided for or pursuant to the following laws and implementing regulations:

review, whichever comes first, if the Secretary has declined review or if no action has been taken in response to the Board’s referral.

4. In the case of a decision that the Secretary has directed the Board to refer to the Secretary under Subsection (b)(2), or in the case of a decision referred to and accepted by the Secretary under Subsection (b)(1), such decision shall not become the final action of the Department and shall have no legal force or effect, unless and until the Secretary adopts the Board’s decision as his or her own.

b. Referral of Cases to the Secretary

1. At any point during the first 14 calendar days after the date on which a decision of the Board was issued, a party to the case may file a petition with the Board for further review by the Secretary. Such petition shall not exceed 15 pages in length and must begin with a statement of the legal issue or issues of which the party is seeking review, and the case involves a matter of exceptional importance. A brief in opposition to the petition may be filed within 10 calendar days after the filing of the petition, and shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Within 21 calendar days of the date on which the petition for further review was filed, if a majority of the Board determines that the petition presents a question of law that is of exceptional importance and warrants review by the Secretary, the Board shall advise the Secretary of such determination in writing and explain why the Board believes review by the Secretary is appropriate. The Secretary may, in his or her sole discretion, decline, accept, or take no action on the Board’s referral as the Secretary deems appropriate.

2. At any point during the first 28 calendar days after the date on which a decision was issued, the Secretary may, in his or her sole discretion, direct the Board to refer such decision to the Secretary for review.

c. Review by the Secretary

1. When the Secretary undertakes the review of a decision of the Board, the Board shall promptly notify the parties to the case of the Secretary’s decision, and supply the Secretary with the administrative record and the petition and briefs filed by the parties.

2. In any case the Secretary decides, the Secretary’s decision shall be made solely based on the administrative record, the petition and briefs filed with the Board, and any amicus briefs permitted by the Secretary. The decision shall be stated in writing and transmitted to the Board. The Board shall publish the decision and transmit it to the parties to the case.

3. The Secretary’s decision shall constitute final action by the Department and shall serve as binding precedent on all Department employees and in all Department proceedings involving the same issue or issues.

d. Reservation of Authority—Nothing in this Section shall be construed as limiting the Secretary’s power to supervise or direct the actions of the Board.

7. Composition and Panel Configuration

a. The Board shall consist of a maximum of five Members, one of whom the Secretary shall designate as Chair, and a second of whom the Secretary shall designate as Vice-Chair. The Members of the Board shall be appointed by the Secretary of Labor, and shall be selected upon the basis of their qualifications and competence in matters within the authority of the Board.

b. Except as provided in Section 7(c), the Board shall sit, hear cases, render decisions, and perform all other related functions in panels of two or three Members, as may be assigned by the Chair, unless the Chair specifically directs that an appeal or review will be decided by the full Board.

c. Except as otherwise provided by law or duly promulgated regulation (see, e.g., 29 CFR parts 7 and 8), if the petitioner(s) and the respondent(s) (or the appellant(s) and the appellee(s)) consent to disposition by a single Member, the Chair may determine that the decision shall be by a single Member. Upon an affirmative determination, the Chair of the Board shall, in his or her discretion, designate himself, herself, or any other Member of the Board to decide such an appeal under Section 9.

d. The Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair. In the event of the vacancy of the Chair’s position, the Vice-Chair shall assume all of the Chair’s authority and shall act as Chair.

e. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for the operational management of the Board and its affairs.

8. Terms of the Members

a. Members of the Board shall be appointed for a term of four years or less. Term of service may be extended, if deemed necessary by the Secretary, to promote the efficiency of service, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

b. Appointment of a Member of the Board to a term not to exceed a specified time period shall not affect the authority of the Secretary to remove any Member at any time prior to the completion of the term, consistent with applicable law.

c. Vacancies in the membership of the Board shall not impair the authority of the remaining Member(s) to exercise all the powers and duties of the Board.

9. Voting. A petition for review by the Board may be granted upon the affirmative vote of one Member, or at the direction of the Secretary, except where otherwise provided by law or regulation. A decision in any matter, including the issuance of any procedural rules, shall be by a majority vote, except as provided in Section 7(c).

10. Location of Board Proceedings. The Board shall hold its proceedings in Washington, DC, unless for good cause the Board orders that proceedings in a particular matter be held in another location.

11. Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Board shall prescribe such rules of practice and procedure, as it deems necessary or appropriate, for the conduct of its proceedings. The rules which are prescribed as of the date of this Order in 29 CFR part 7 and Part 8 with respect to Sections 5(a) and 5(b), respectively, of this Order until changed, govern the respective proceedings of the Board when it is deciding appeals described in Section 5 of this Order.

12. Departmental Counsel. The Solicitor of Labor shall have the responsibility for representing the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and other officials of the Department and the Board in any administrative or judicial proceedings involving agency decisions issued pursuant to this Order, including representing officials of the Department before the Board. In addition, the Solicitor of Labor, or his or her designee, shall have the responsibility for providing legal advice to the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and other officials of the Department with respect to decisions covered by this Order, as well as the implementation and administration of this Order, except that no individual involved in the investigation or prosecution of a case shall advise the Secretary on the exercise of the powers described in Section 6 of this Order with respect to such case or a case involving a common nucleus of operative facts. The Solicitor of Labor, or his or her designee, may also provide legal advice and assistance on the same terms to the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Board, as appropriate.

13. Effective Date. This delegation of authority and assignment of responsibility is effective immediately.
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Mine Safety and Health Administration
[OMB Control No. 1219–0003]

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Radiation Sampling and Exposure Records

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 ensure 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 Radiation Sampling and Exposure Records.

DATES: All comments must be received on or before May 5, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comment as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered.

Electronic Submissions: Submit electronic comments in the following way:
• Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for docket number MSHA–2020–0006. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to https://www.regulations.gov will be posted to the docket, with no changes. Because your comment will be made public, you are responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as your or anyone else’s Social Security number or confidential business information.
• If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission.

Written/Paper Submissions: Submit written/paper submissions in the following way:
• Mail/Hand Delivery: Mail or visit DOL–MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202–5452.
• MSHA will post your comment as well as any attachments, except for information submitted and marked as confidential, in the docket at https://www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheila McConnell, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov (email); (202) 693–9440 (voice); or (202) 693–9441 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. 813(h), authorizes MSHA to collect information necessary to carry out its duty in protecting the safety and health of miners. Further, section 101(a) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 811, authorizes the Secretary of Labor to develop, promulgate, and revise as may be appropriate, improved mandatory health or safety standards for the protection of life and prevention of injuries in coal and metal and nonmetal mines.

Under the authority of Section 103 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, 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.

Airborne radon and radon daughters exist in every uranium mine and in several other underground mining commodities. Radon is radioactive gas. It diffuses into the underground mine atmosphere through the rock and the ground water. Radon decays in a series of steps into other radioactive elements, which are solids, called radon daughters. Radon and radon daughters are invisible and odorless. Decay of radon and its daughters results in emissions of alpha energy.

Medical doctors and scientists have associated high radon daughter exposures with lung cancer. The health hazard arises from breathing air contaminated with radon daughters which are in turn deposited in the lungs. The lung tissues are sensitive to alpha radioactivity.

The amounts of airborne radon daughters to which most miners can be exposed with no adverse effects have been established and are expressed as working levels (WL). The current MSHA standard is a maximum personal exposure of 4 working level months per year.

Excess lung cancer in uranium miners, just as coal workers’ pneumoconiosis, silicosis, and other debilitating occupational diseases, has been recognized for many years. Thus, an adequate base of accurate exposure level data is essential to control miners’ exposures and permit an evaluation of the effectiveness of existing regulations.

The standard at 30 CFR 57.5037 established the procedures to be used by the mine operator in sampling mine air for the presence and concentrations of radon daughters. Operators are required to conduct weekly sampling where concentrations of radon daughters exceed 0.3 WL. Sampling is required bi-weekly where uranium mines have readings of 0.1 WL to 0.3 WL and every 3 months in non-uranium underground mines where the readings are 0.1 WL to 0.3 WL. Mine operators are required to keep records of all mandatory samplings. Records must include the sample date, location, and results, and must be retained at the mine site or nearest mine office for at least 2 years.

The standard at 30 CFR 57.5040 requires mine operators to calculate and record individual exposures to radon daughters on MSHA Form 4000–9 “Record of Individual Exposure to Radon Daughters.” The calculations are based on the results of the weekly sampling required by 30 CFR 57.5037. Records must be maintained by the operator and submitted to MSHA annually.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

MSHA is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection related to Radiation Sampling and Exposure Records. 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;