

2008 Current Fiscal Year Report: Technical Study Panel on the Utilization of Belt Air and the Composition and Fire Retardant Properties of Belt Materials in Underground Coal Mining

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Labor		2008	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Technical Study Panel on the Utilization of Belt Air and the Composition and Fire Retardant Properties of Belt Materials in Underground Coal Mining		30907	
4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	12/20/2006	12/20/2007	12/20/2007
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority		8c. Actual Term Date
Yes	MINER Act of 2006, Section 11 PL 109-236 (S2803)		09/30/2008
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Terminate	Yes	Enacted	
11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
MINER Act of 2006, Section 11 PL 109-236 (S 2803)	06/15/2006	Ad hoc	No
15. Description of Committee Other Committee			
16a. Total Number of Reports 1			
16b. Report Date	Report Title		

Final Report of the Technical Study
Panel on the Utilization of Belt Air &
12/20/2007 the Composition & Fire Retardant
Properties of Belt Materials in
Undergrd Coal Mining

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 1 **17d. Total** 1
Open

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
Panel members worked independently in FY 2008 to draft sections and finalize their report to Congress, which was delivered on 12/20/2007	10/01/2007	12/20/2007

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$15,600.00	\$15,600.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$36,400.00	\$36,400.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

18d. Total	\$58,000.00	\$58,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.30	0.30

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The committee will meet in open forum inviting the public as published in the Federal Register and discuss topics relevant to subject matter of Utilization of belt air and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining. Staff will provide committee with support and materials related to subject matter upon committee request. Input will also be accepted from the public for consideration.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Consistent with the requirements of the MINER Act, the membership of the Panel is as follows: 1 member selected for Appointment jointly by the Minority Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives; 1 member selected for appointment jointly by the majority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives; 2 members selected for Appointment by the Secretary of Labor and 2 members by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Estimated number of meetings in FY07 = 5, at approximately bi-monthly intervals and geographically spread out across the U.S. The meeting number and frequency will best permit the Technical Study Panel to complete its purpose as described above.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this

committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Technical Study Panel was created under Section 11 of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act) (Public Law 109-236). The purpose of the Panel is to prepare and submit a report concerning the utilization of belt air and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining. as stated in the Federal Register/Vol.71, No.246/Friday, Dec 22, 2006

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

The Technical Study Panel was Congressionally mandated in the MINER Act of 2006 to complete their work and submit a report by 12/20/2007, one year from the date the Panel members were appointed. The legal determination was made that the constitution and conduct of the Panel in other regards fell under FACA, and it is therefore considered an advisory committee. Note: Report date was 12/20/2007.

Designated Federal Officer

Linda Zeiler Deputy Director of Technical Support

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Brune, Jurgen	12/20/2006	12/20/2007	NIOSH	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Calizaya, Felipe	12/20/2006	12/20/2007	professor of mining engineering	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mucho, Thomas	12/20/2006	12/20/2007	mining engineering consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Mutmansky, Jan	12/20/2006	12/20/2007	professor of mining engineering	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Tien, Jerry	12/20/2006	12/20/2007	professor of mining engineering	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Weeks, James	12/20/2006	12/20/2007	industrial hygiene/ engineering consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 6

Narrative Description

The Technical Study Panel was created under Section 11 of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act) (Public Law 109-236). The purpose of the Panel was to prepare and submit a report concerning the utilization of belt air and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining. as stated in the Federal Register/Vol.71, No.246/Friday, Dec 22, 2006 This committee provided MSHA an independent assessment of the safety hazards involved with these underground ventilation and fire instigation/protection issues, directly supporting MSHA's mission of protecting the safety and health of the nation's miners.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Regulatory and policy changes due to Panel recommendations will be completed by the end of CY 2008.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Costs and potential cost savings from the committee's recommendations will be reflected in the economic analysis of upcoming rulemaking.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

20

Number of Recommendations Comments

Recommendations covered both the use of belt air and belt flammability issues.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

90%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

By the end of CY 2008, full implementation by regulation for about 70 percent, and full implementation by policy for approximately 20 percent.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

10%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

By the end of CY 2008, about 10% of recommendations will be partially implemented by either policy or pending research.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Agency will issue final rules covering about 70% of the Panel recommendations by the end of CY 2008, and policy changes will also be publicly available.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>

Publications



Other



Access Comments

NA