

employees of more than one employer are "multiple employer welfare arrangements" (MEWAs) under section 3(40) of ERISA, and therefore are subject to certain state laws, unless they meet one of the exceptions set forth in section 3(40)(A). At issue in this regulation is the exception for plans or arrangements that are established or maintained under one or more agreements which the Secretary finds to be collective bargaining agreements. It is the view of the Department that it is necessary to distinguish organizations that provide benefits through collectively bargained employee representation from organizations that are primarily in the business of marketing commercial insurance products.

DATES: The Committee will meet from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. on each day on Tuesday, November 16th and Wednesday, November 17th, 1999.

ADDRESSES: This Committee meeting will be held at the offices of the U.S. Department of Labor, Room C-5515, Conference Room #4, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. All interested parties are invited to attend this public meeting. Seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Individuals with disabilities wishing to attend who need special accommodations should contact, at least 4 business days in advance of the meeting, Ellen Goodwin, Office of the Solicitor, Plan Benefits Security Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-4611, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210 (telephone (202) 219-4600; fax (202) 219-7346). The date, location and time for subsequent Committee meetings will be announced in advance in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ellen Goodwin, Office of the Solicitor, Plan Benefits Security Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-4611, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210 (telephone (202) 219-4600; fax (202) 219-7346). This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Minutes of all public meetings and other documents made available to the Committee will be available for public inspection and copying in the Public Documents Room, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-5638, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any written comments on these minutes should be directed to Ellen Goodwin, Office of the Solicitor, Plan Benefits Security Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-4611,

200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210 (telephone (202) 219-4600; fax (202) 219-7346). This is not a toll-free number.

Agenda

The Committee will continue to discuss the possible elements of a process and potential criteria for a finding by the Secretary of Labor that an agreement is a collective bargaining agreement for purposes of section 3(40) of ERISA, (29 U.S.C. 1002(40)). The agenda for the November meeting includes discussion of a possible consensus recommendation for a proposed rule and of the contents of a report to the Secretary of Labor under the Negotiated Rulemaking Act.

Members of the public may file a written statement pertaining to the subject of this meeting by submitting 15 copies on or before Tuesday, November 9, 1999, to Ellen Goodwin, Office of the Solicitor, Plan Benefits Security Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-4611, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210. Individuals or representatives wishing to address the Committee should forward their request to Ms. Goodwin or telephone (202) 219-4600. During each day of the negotiation session, time permitting, there shall be time for oral public comment. Members of the public are encouraged to keep oral statements brief, but extended written statements may be submitted for the record.

Organizations or individuals may also submit written statements for the record without presenting an oral statement. 15 copies of such statements should be sent to Ms. Goodwin at the address above. Papers will be accepted and included in the record of the meeting if received on or before November 9, 1999.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 20th day of October, 1999.

Richard McGahey,

Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Care Financing Administration

42 CFR Parts 409, 410, 411, 413, 424 and 484

[HCFA-1103-N]

Medicare Program; Open Town Hall Meeting on November 8, 1999 To Present an Overview of the Home Health Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule Followed by a General Home Health Listening Session

AGENCY: Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting to provide information on the home health prospective payment system (HH PPS) proposed rule. The proposed rule will be published in October 1999 in the **Federal Register**. In addition, there will be a general home health listening session.

DATES: The HH PPS town hall meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 1999, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., E.S.T. The HH PPS presentation will be followed by the general home health listening session, which is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 1999, from 3:15 p.m. until 5:15 p.m., E.S.T.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the HCFA Central Office Main Auditorium, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244 with satellite broadcast viewing areas located in Boston, Chicago, and Dallas. The general home health listening session will be held in the HCFA Central Office Main Auditorium only, and there will be no satellite broadcast of this session.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Ventura, (410) 786-1985 (for information on the overview of the HH PPS proposed rule).

Gina Perantoni, (410) 786-3219 (for information on the general home health listening session).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The home health prospective payment system (HH PPS) proposed rule will be published in the **Federal Register** in October 1999. We are planning to hold a town hall meeting on Monday, November 8, 1999, which is during the 60-day comment period to brief the public on the proposed rule. We will not be accepting oral comments on the rule at this meeting. Written comments during the 60-day comment period are

welcome. We anticipate interested parties to include: the home health agency (HHA) industry association representatives, HHA administrators and owners, home care professionals, university-based and private research organizations, Congressional members and staff, home care software vendors, beneficiary advocates, and any other interested parties.

In this meeting, we will provide an overview of the HH PPS proposed rule and will focus on a number of its key components and present past and current research efforts related to the HH PPS.

This meeting will be broadcast live from the HCFA Central Office Main Auditorium and will include three satellite broadcast viewing sites in Boston, Chicago, and Dallas. All four sites have a capacity of approximately 500 individuals. The audiences viewing the broadcast via satellite will have the ability to participate in the question-and-answer period at the end of this presentation. For those who cannot attend in Baltimore, the address of the downlink sites, registration information, and satellite coordinates for this presentation will be posted on the HCFA website www.hcfa.gov. Once individuals are on this website, they will need to highlight the red bullet, in the lower right hand corner, titled "Events, Meetings, and Workgroups."

The meeting will conclude with a question-and-answer session including the HCFA Central Office location as well as the three-satellite downlink sites. The toll-free phone number to call to participate will be broadcast during the meeting.

At the conclusion of the satellite broadcast, a 2-hour listening session is planned for participants in Baltimore only in the HCFA Central Office Main Auditorium during which time we will listen to concerns related to home health issues in general. This is a listening session only and not part of the HH PPS overview presentation.

In order to participate in the general home health listening session, individuals must sign up at 10 a.m. on the day of the town hall meeting. Presenters will be limited to the first 20 people who sign up. A sign up sheet will be available outside of the HCFA Main Auditorium. Individuals must limit their presentation to 3 minutes in length. We also ask that the oral presenters provide their statements in writing. Individuals who are unable to present oral statements may submit their statements in writing. We believe this will enable us to better consider all the concerns raised during this general home health listening session.

While the meeting is open to the public, attendance is limited to space available. Individuals must register in advance as described below.

Registration

AFYA Inc. will handle registration for all four meeting sites. Individuals must register following the directions posted on the HCFA website, www.hcfa.gov. Once individuals are on this website, they will need to highlight the red bullet, in the lower right hand corner, titled "Events, Meetings, and Workgroups."

Each participant will receive a confirmation letter as receipt of registration. Each participant will be provided with a meeting agenda at the time of the meeting. If individuals have any questions regarding registration, they should contact the AFYA Event Management Help Desk at (800) 377-9921.

Authority: Section 1895 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395fff).

Dated: October 21, 1999.

Michael M. Hash,

Deputy Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-27995 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4120-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

43 CFR Parts 3730, 3820, 3830, 3840, and 3850

[WO-620-1430-00-24 1A]

RIN 1004-AD31

Locating, Recording, and Maintaining Mining Claims or Sites

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: In response to requests from the public, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending the comment period on the proposed rule to amend regulations on locating, recording, and maintaining mining claims or sites. You may comment on this rule for an additional 90 days.

DATES: You should submit your comments on the proposed rule by January 24, 2000. In developing a final rule, BLM may not consider comments postmarked or received in person or by electronic mail after this date.

ADDRESSES: If you want to comment, you may:

(1) Hand-deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401, 1620 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.;

(2) Mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401 LS, 1849 C St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; or

(3) Send comments by way of the Internet to: WOCComment@blm.gov. If you submit your comments electronically, please submit them as an ASCII file to minimize computer problems and include "Attn: AD31" and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at (202) 452-0350.

You may review the public comments received on the proposed rule at BLM's Regulatory Affairs Group office, 1620 L St., N.W., Room 401, Washington, D.C., during regular business hours (7:45 am to 4:15 pm) Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Haskins in the Solid Minerals Group at (202) 452-0355 or Ted Hudson in Regulatory Affairs at (202) 452-5042. For assistance in reaching the above contacts, individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-(800) 877-8339 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The original proposed rule appeared in the **Federal Register** on August 27, 1999 (64 FR 47023). The initial comment period expires on October 26, 1999.

Dated: October 20, 1999.

Sylvia V. Baca,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior—Designate.

[FR Doc. 99-27870 Filed 10-25-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

43 CFR Part 3800

[WO-300-1990-00]

RIN 1004-AD22

Mining Claims Under the General Mining Laws; Surface Management

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Supplemental proposed rule; reopening of comment period on draft environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the reopening of the comment period on our