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General Wage Determination Publication

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Signed at Washington, D.C. this 20th day of November 1997.

Carl J. Poleskey,

Chief, Branch of Construction Wage Determinations.

[FR Doc. 97-31044 Filed 11-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Summary of Decisions Granting in Whole or in Part Petitions for Modification

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice of affirmative decisions issued by the Administrators for Coal Mine Safety and Health and Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health on petitions for modification of the application of mandatory safety standards.

SUMMARY: Under section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the Secretary of Labor may modify the application of a mandatory safety standard to a mine if the Secretary determines either that an alternate method exists at a specific mine that will guarantee no less protection for the miners affected than that provided by

the standard, or that the application of the standard at a specific mine will result in a diminution of safety to the affected miners.

Summaries of petitions received by the Secretary appear periodically in the **Federal Register**. Final decisions on these petitions are based upon the petitioner's statements, comments and information submitted by interested persons, and a field investigation of the conditions at the mine. MSHA has granted or partially granted the requests for modification submitted by the petitioners listed below. In some instances, the decisions are conditioned upon compliance with stipulations stated in the decision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Petitions and copies of the final decisions are available for examination by the public in the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, Room 627, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Contact Barbara Barron at 703-235-1910.

Dated: November 20, 1997.

Patricia W. Silvey,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances.

Affirmative Decisions on Petitions for Modification

Docket No.: M-97-011-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 11927.

Petitioner: Consol Pennsylvania Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to permit the maximum lengths of the loading machine, roof bolter, and section ventilation fan trailing cables supplying equipment from 480-volt alternating current systems to be increased to 800 feet considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Bailey Mine with conditions for the extended length, 480-volt, three-phase alternating current trailing cables, used to develop the three and four entry longwall development panels and the eleven-entry mains at the Bailey Mine.

Docket No.: M-97-014-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 11927.

Petitioner: Genwal Resources, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1002.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use high-voltage (2400 volts) operated equipment in by the last open crosscut at the working longwall sections considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Crandall Canyon Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-97-039-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 23799.

Petitioner: Spruce Fork Coal Company, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503(b)(2).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use a spring loaded locking device, instead of padlocks to secure battery plugs to machine mounted receptacles, that would prevent the threaded lock on a plug from turning and becoming loose unintentionally considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Spruce Fork Mine No. 1 with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-loaded locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-97-041.

FR Notice: 62 FR 29370.

Petitioner: Pine Ridge Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to replace a padlock on battery plug connectors on mobile battery-powered machines with a threaded ring and a spring loaded device to prevent the plug connector from accidentally disengaging while under load considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Robin Hood No. 9 Mine with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-loaded locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-97-043-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 29371.

Petitioner: Peabody Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to attach a spring-loaded plug interlock to the plug receptacle which is permanently attached to the battery case, and in addition the spring-loaded plug interlock has been designed so that when the battery plugs are secured and the spring-loaded interlock released, the threaded ring securing the battery plugs cannot become loose considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Marissa Mine with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-loaded locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-97-055-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 29372.

Petitioner: Pen Coal Corporation.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to replace a padlock on battery plug connectors on mobile battery-powered machines with a threaded ring and a spring loaded device to prevent the plug connector from accidentally disengaging while under load; and to instruct all persons on the requirements for operating or maintaining battery-powered machines considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Deep Mine No. 4 with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-loaded locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-96-002-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 13882.

Petitioner: Ohio County Coal Company, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.901(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to operate its diesel powered generator (DPG) without an earth referenced ground considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Freedom Mine with conditions for the diesel powered generator located in the Freedom Mine.

Docket No.: M-96-007-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 13883.

Petitioner: Consolidation Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.364(b)(4).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to establish a checkpoint and make a weekly examination where an extended probe would be used to examine the No. 3 Seal for methane and a smoke tube would be used to verify the direction of air flow; to have the person making the examination and tests record their initials, date and time in a record book which would be kept on the surface and made available for inspection by interested parties; and to maintain the checkpoint and all approaches to the checkpoint in safe condition at all times considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Shoemaker Mine with conditions for weekly examinations of the No. 3 seal which has been rendered inaccessible and hidden from full visibility by fallen roof material and entry deterioration near Browns Run Shaft at a safe location, 20 feet outby the seal.

Docket No.: M-96-009-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 13883.

Petitioner: Peabody Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 75.1100-2(b).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to install firehouse outlets with valves in the longwall gate entries every fourth cross-cut at intervals of approximately 440 feet instead of at intervals of 300 feet considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Camp No. 11 Mine with conditions for the increased interval between fire hose outlets on the water line installed alongside belt conveyors or in entries adjacent to belt conveyors.

Docket No.: M-96-010-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 13883.

Petitioner: Monterey Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1100-2(i)(1).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use the following emergency materials instead of emergency materials required by the mandatory safety standard: 112 Kennedy Metal Shopping Panels with associated head

sills and twist clamps; 24 Kennedy Stopping Rib Angles; 3 rolls of tape; 3 twist tools; 2 rolls of brattice cloth; 3 stopping jacks; 3 picks; 3 shovels; 9 buckets of Celtite 10-12 (or equivalent material for stopping); and 5 tons of rock dust considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 1 Mine with conditions for emergency materials readily available at locations not exceeding 2 miles from each working section.

Docket No.: M-96-011-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 13883.

Petitioner: Peabody Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 77.1304(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use waste petroleum-based lubrication oil recycled from equipment used at its mine for blending with diesel fuel oil to create ammonium nitrate/fuel oil (ANFO) for use as a blasting agent considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Hawthorn Mine with conditions for the collection, processing, and use of petroleum-based used oils, for blending with No. 2 diesel fuel (fuel oil), to sensitize ammonium nitrate prill, and the temporary storage and use of the resulting blasting agent (ANFO).

Docket No.: M-96-014-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 17733.

Petitioner: Tennessee Energy Corporation.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1405.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use a 9-foot steel tongue with a hole on each end aligned with existing holes in the frame of the motor and flatcar and secured with a pin, to couple the motor to the flatcar instead of using automatic couplers considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for Mine No. 43 with conditions.

Docket No.: M-96-024-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 20543.

Petitioner: West End Coal Company, Deep Mine.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1202-1(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to revise and supplement mine maps on an annual basis instead of the required 6 month interval and to update maps daily by hand notations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Last Chance Slope Mine with conditions for annual revisions and supplements of the mine map.

Docket No.: M-96-025-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 20543.

Petitioner: West End Coal Company, Deep Mine.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1200(d) & (i).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use cross-sections instead of contour lines through the intake slope,

at locations of rock tunnel connections between veins, and at 1,000-foot intervals of advance from the intake slope and to limit the required mapping of the mine workings above and below to those present within 100 feet of the veins being mined except when veins are interconnected to other veins beyond the 100-foot limit through rock tunnel considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Last Chance Slope Mine with conditions for the use of cross sections, in lieu of contour lines, limiting the mapping of mines above or below this mine to those within 100 feet of the vein being mined.

Docket No.: M-96-027-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 20543.

Petitioner: West End Coal Company, Deep Mine.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.360.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to visually examine each seal for physical damage from the slope gunboat during the preshift examination after an air quantity reading is taken in by the intake portal and to test for the quantity and quality of air at the intake air split locations off the slope in the gangway portion of the working section, and to physically examine the entire length of the slope once a month considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Last Chance Slope Mine with conditions for examinations of seals (conducted from the gunboat) in the intake air haulage slope of this mine.

Docket No.: M-96-028-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 20543.

Petitioner: West End Coal Company, Deep Mine.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.335.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to construct seals using wooden materials of moderate size and weight due to the difficulty in accessing previously driven headings and breasts containing inaccessible abandoned workings; to accept a design criterion in the 10 psi range; and to permit the water trap to be installed in the gangway seal and sampling tube in the monkey seal for seals installed in pairs considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Last Chance Slope Mine with conditions for seals installed in this mine.

Docket No.: M-96-029-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 20544.

Petitioner: West End Coal Company, Deep Mine.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1100.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use only portable fire extinguishers to replace existing requirements where rock dust, water cars, and other water storage are not

practical considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Last Chance Slope Mine with conditions for firefighting equipment in the working section.

Docket No.: M-96-031-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 20544.

Petitioner: Eighty-Four Mining Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1100-2(e).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use two portable fire extinguishers or one portable fire extinguisher with twice the required capacity at each temporary electrical installation instead of using one fire extinguisher and rock dust at temporary electrical installations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for Mine 84 with conditions for the temporary electrical installations provided the Petitioner maintains two portable fire extinguishers having at least the minimum capacity specified for a portable fire extinguisher in 30 CFR 75.1100-1(e) at each of the temporary electrical installations.

Docket No.: M-96-036-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 33140.

Petitioner: Kade Coal Company, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 77.214(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to cover several entries at each abandoned mine opening with coarse refuse material during construction of a refuse fill considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for Mine No. 2 with conditions.

Docket No.: M-96-044-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 33141.

Petitioner: Consolidation Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.364(b)(1).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to establish two check points, one in by and one out by the affected area; to maintain these check points in a safe condition at all times; to have a certified person test for methane and the quantity of air on a weekly basis at both check points; and to have the person making such examinations record the results with their initials and date in a record book kept on the surface and made accessible to interested parties considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Loveridge No. 22 Mine with conditions for the "unsafe to travel" 60-foot segment of the intake aircourse which has ventilated the battery charging station (old inside shop) near Sugar Run Shaft.

Docket No.: M-96-045-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 33141.

Petitioner: Elk Run Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use permanently installed

spring-loaded locking devices to secure battery plugs on mobile equipment instead of padlocks to maintain equipment in permissible condition in accordance with 30 CFR 18.41 considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Castle Mine; Bishop No. 2 Mine; Black King No. 1/ North Portal Mine; White Knight Mine; Laurel Eagle Mine; Laurel Alma Mine; and Black King No. 1 Mine with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-loaded locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-96-047-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38785.

Petitioner: Pilgrim Mining Company, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.901.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to allow the use of a 150 KW diesel generator set, Serial Number 94-E5913 considered acceptable alternative method. At the request of the petitioner, previous MSHA docket numbers M-96-048-C through M-96-051-C were withdrawn and M-96-047-C was modified to include the mines covered by these petitions. Granted for the Pegasus Mine, 1-C Mine, White Cabin No. 1 Mine, White Cabin No. 2 Mine, Pilgrim Mine No. 3, and Voyager Mine No. 2 with conditions for the 480-volt, three-phase, 150 KW diesel powered generator set.

Docket No.: M-96-052-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38786.

Petitioner: Martin County Coal Corporation.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.701.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to allow the use of a 100 KW diesel generator set, Serial Number 94-E5260 considered acceptable alternative method. At the request of the petitioner, previous MSHA docket numbers M-96-053-C through M-96-056-C were withdrawn and M-96-052-C was modified to include the mines covered by these petitions. Granted for the Pegasus Mine, 1-C Mine, White Cabin No. 1 Mine, White Cabin No. 2 Mine, Pilgrim Mine No. 3, and Voyager conditions for the 480-volt, three-phase, 150-KW diesel powered generator set.

Docket No.: M-96-058-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38786.

Petitioner: Windsor Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1700.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to clean out and plug oil and gas wells using specific techniques and procedures as outlined in the petition and to mine through the plugged oil or gas well considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Windsor Mine with conditions for mining through plugged oil or gas wells

penetrating the Pittsburgh No. 8 Coal Seam.

Docket No.: M-96-063-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38787.

Petitioner: Enlow Fork Mining Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to increase the maximum length of the loading machine, shuttle car, roof bolter, and section ventilation fan trailing cables to 900 feet while developing four-entry longwall panels; to provide training before alternative method is implemented to all miners designated to examine the integrity of seals and verify the short-circuit settings and proper procedures for examining trailing cables for damage considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Enlow Fork Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-96-065-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38787.

Petitioner: West Cameron Mining.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1200(d) & (i).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use cross-sections instead of contour connections between veins, and at 1,000-foot intervals of advance from the intake slope and to limit the required mapping of the mine workings above and below to those present within 100 feet of the veins being mined except when veins are interconnected to other veins beyond the 100-foot limit through rock tunnel considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Lenig Tunnel Mine with conditions for the use of cross sections, in lieu of contour lines, limiting the mapping of mines above or below this mine to those within 100 feet of the vein being mined.

Docket No.: M-96-066-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38787.

Petitioner: West Cameron Mining.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1202-1(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to revise and supplement mine maps on an annual basis instead of the required 6 month interval and to update maps daily by hand notations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Lenig Tunnel Mine with conditions for annual revisions and supplements of the mine map.

Docket No.: M-96-067-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38787.

Petitioner: West Cameron Mining.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1405.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use bar and pin or link and pin couplers on its underground haulage equipment considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Lenig Tunnel Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-96-069-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38788.

Petitioner: Cyprus Emerald Resources Corporation.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.507.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use a non-permissible pump in the longwall bleeder pump located near the No. 3 Bleeder shaft, No. 6 Return shaft, and all future and/or bleeder shafts as they are developed considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Emerald No. 1 Mine with conditions for a submersible pump installed in the No. 3 bleeder shaft.

Docket No.: M-96-070-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38788.

Petitioner: Consolidation Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.804(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use high-voltage cable with an internal ground check conductor smaller than No. 10 (A.W.G.) as a part of its longwall mining system considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Loveridge No. 22 Mine's longwall system with conditions.

Docket No.: M-96-071-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 38788.

Petitioner: Genwal Resources, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.350.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use belt haulage entries as intake air courses to ventilate active working places and to install a low-level carbon monoxide detection system as an early warning fire detection system in all belt entries used as intake air courses considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Crandall Canyon Mine with conditions for use of belt air in two-entry mining systems.

Docket No.: M-96-072-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 47192.

Petitioner: Old Ben Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.382(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to continue using its existing escape facilities in both the material and belt slopes considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Spartan Mine with conditions for the slope conveyor belt, operated as a mechanical escape facility in the mine's return air alternative escapeway.

Docket No.: M-96-073-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 47192.

Petitioner: Left Fork Mining, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1103-4(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use one carbon monoxide monitoring device for monitoring a belt head and tailpiece when located adjacent to each other considered acceptable alternative method. Granted

for the Straight Creek No. 1 Mine with conditions for the use of a carbon monoxide monitoring system that identifies the location of sensors in lieu of identifying belt flights.

Docket No.: M-96-074-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 47192.

Petitioner: Boone Resources, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1700.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to clean out and plug oil and gas wells using specific techniques and procedures as outlined in the petition and to mine through the plugged oil or gas well considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Boone No. 1 Mine with conditions for plugging of gas wells and the mining-through of plugged gas wells.

Docket No.: M-96-088-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 47193.

Petitioner: Stephen Shingara Jr. Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1400.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use a slope conveyance (gunboat) in transporting persons without installing safety catches or other no less effective devices but instead use an increased rope strength/safety factor and secondary safety rope connection in place of such devices considered acceptable alternate method. Granted for the No. 1 Slope Mine with conditions for the use of the gunboat without safety catches.

Docket No.: M-96-089-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 47194.

Petitioner: Mountain Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1100-2(e)(2).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use two portable fire extinguishers or one portable fire extinguisher with twice the required capacity at each temporary electrical installation instead of using one fire extinguisher and rock dust at temporary electrical installations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the West Elk Mine with conditions for the temporary electrical installations, provided the Petitioner maintains two portable fire extinguishers having at least the minimum capacity specified for a portable fire extinguisher in 30 CFR 75.1100-1(e) at each of the temporary electrical installations.

Docket No.: M-96-102-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 57458.

Petitioner: CONSOL of Kentucky, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1101-8.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use a single overhead pipe system with 1/2-inch orifice automatic sprinklers located on 10-foot centers, to cover 50 feet of fire-resistant belt or 150 feet of nonfire-resistant belt with

actuation temperatures between 200 degrees and 250 degrees fahrenheit and with water pressure equal to or greater than 10 psi, so that the discharge of water would extend over the belt drive, belt take-up, electrical control, and gear reducing unit considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Mill Creek E-3 Mine with conditions for a single overhead pipe sprinkler system.

Docket No.: M-96-106-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 57459.

Petitioner: S & M Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1002-1(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use non-permissible electric equipment within 150 feet of the pillar line and to suspend equipment operation anytime methane concentration at the equipment reaches 0.5 percent, either during operation or during a pre-shift examination considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Buck Mountain Slope Mine with conditions for the use of non-permissible electric drags and associated non-permissible electric components located within 150 feet from pillar workings.

Docket No.: M-96-108-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 57459.

Petitioner: Maple Creek Mining, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1002.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use longwall panels with a maximum width not to exceed 1,000 feet and a maximum length not to exceed 14,000 feet considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Maple Creek Mine with conditions for the high-voltage equipment located in the Maple Creek Mine.

Docket No.: M-96-140-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 64374.

Petitioner: Drummond Company, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1100-2(e).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use two portable fire extinguishers at each temporary electrical installation instead of using one fire extinguisher and 240 pounds of rock dust at each electrical installation considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Shoal Creek Mine with conditions for the temporary electrical installations.

Docket No.: M-96-143-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 421.

Petitioner: Minton Hickory Coal

Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.380(f)(4)(i).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to install two five pound or one ten pound portable fire extinguisher in the operator deck of each Mescher Tractor operated at the mine; to have the fire extinguisher readily accessible to

the operator; and to have the equipment operator inspect each fire extinguisher daily prior to entering the escapeway considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Mine No. 9 with conditions for Mescher three wheel tractors to be operated in the primary intake escapeway.

Docket No.: M-96-144-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 421.

Petitioner: Minton Hickory Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.342.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use hand-held continuous-duty methane and oxygen detectors instead of machine mounted methane monitoring systems on permissible three-wheel tractors with drag bottom buckets considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for Mine No. 9 with conditions for the Mescher permissible three-wheel battery-powered tractors used to load coal.

Docket No.: M-96-145-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 421.

Petitioner: F-M Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.342.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use hand-held continuous-duty methane and oxygen detectors instead of machine mounted methane monitoring systems on permissible three-wheel tractors with drag bottom buckets considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for Mine No. 2 with conditions for the Mescher permissible three-wheel battery-powered tractors used to load coal.

Docket No.: M-96-147-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 421.

Petitioner: Old Ben Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.900.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use contractors capable of dropping out at 40-60 percent the voltage loss on belt starting equipment in the Mine's New Main East and New Main South Development areas instead of using undervoltage release breakers for undervoltage protection considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Ziegler No. 11 Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-96-148-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 421.

Petitioner: Jim Walter Resources, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1002.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to provide the high-voltage circuit from the longwall power center to the longwall controller with short circuit protection set at not more than 2,500 amperes or the value of current indicated in the Longwall Approval Plan and to permit a time delay of not more than 0.25 second for coordination with downstream short-circuit

protection devices or the time delay specified in the Longwall Approval Plan considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 7 Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-96-149-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 421.

Petitioner: Eighty-Four Mining Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.507.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use non-permissible submersible pumps to dewater a pump in which it is installed; to operate the pumps on a 480-volt three-phase alternating-current electrical power circuit with power supplied from a resistor grounded wye transformer; and to protect the pumps with a line power ground fault, pilot combination unit considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Mine No. 84 with conditions for a submersible pump installed in return shafts or boreholes in Mine 84.

Docket No.: M-96-152-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 422.

Petitioner: Road Fork Development Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use permanently installed spring-loaded locking device to secure battery plugs on mobile equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of the battery plugs from battery receptacles and to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Extra Energy Company Mine, the Burnwell Energy Mine, the Pegs Branch Mine, and the Calloway Mine with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-loaded locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-96-165-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 423.

Petitioner: Bar-K, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use a threaded ring and a spring loaded device on battery plug connectors on mobile battery-powered machines used in by the last open cross-cut to prevent the plug connector from accidentally disengaging while under load instead of using a padlock considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Camp Creek No. 1 Mine and the Sugar Tree No. 1 Mine with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-locked locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-96-196-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 4334.

Petitioner: Freedom Energy Mining Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use permanently installed spring-loaded locking device to secure battery plugs on mobile equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of the battery plugs from battery receptacles and to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 1 Mine with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-locked locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-96-197-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 4335.

Petitioner: Rockhouse Energy Mining Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use permanently installed spring-loaded locking device to secure battery plugs on mobile equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of the battery plugs from battery receptacles and to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Rockhouse Mine No. 1 with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-locked locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-96-198-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 4335.

Petitioner: Solid Energy Mining Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use permanently installed spring-loaded locking device to secure battery plugs on mobile equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of the battery plugs from battery receptacles and to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for Mine No. 1 with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-locked locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-96-199-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 4335.

Petitioner: Clean Energy Mining Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use permanently installed spring-loaded locking device to secure battery plugs on mobile equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of the battery plugs from battery receptacles and to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted

for Mine No. 1 with conditions for the use of permanently installed spring-locked locking devices in lieu of padlocks on battery plugs.

Docket No.: M-96-202-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 4335.

Petitioner: Blue Mountain Energy, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1002.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use high-voltage 2,400-volt cables to power longwall mining equipment in the active pillar workings, to implement additional safety features, and to train all electrical personnel before the alternative method is implemented considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for Deserado Mine with conditions.

Docket No.: M-96-208-C.

FR Notice: 62 FR 11925.

Petitioner: Brookside Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1002-1(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use nonpermissible electric equipment within 150 feet of the pillar line and to suspend equipment operation anytime methane concentration at the equipment reaches 0.5 percent, either during operation or during a pre-shift examination considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Diamond Vein Slope Mine with conditions for the use of nonpermissible battery-powered locomotives located within 150 feet from pillar workings.

Docket No.: M-95-008-C.

FR Notice: 60 FR 11680.

Petitioner: Rothermel Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.360(b)(5).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to examine each seal for physical damage from the slope gunboat during the preshift examination after an air quantity reading is taken in by the intake portal; to test for the quantity and quality of air at the intake air split locations off the slope in the gangway portion of the working section; and to physically examine the entire length of the slope once a month considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 11 Vein Slope Mine with conditions for examinations of seals in the intake air haulage slope of this mine.

Docket No.: M-95-009-C.

FR Notice: 60 FR 11680.

Petitioner: Rothermel Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1100-2(a)(2).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use only portable fire extinguishers to replace existing requirements where rock dust, water cars, and other water storage are not practical considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 11 Vein Slope Mine with conditions for firefighting equipment in the working section.

Docket No.: M-95-010-C.

FR Notice: 60 FR 11680.

Petitioner: Rothermel Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1200(d) & (i).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use cross-sections instead of contour lines through the intake slope, at locations of rock tunnel connections between veins, and at 1,000-foot intervals of advance from the intake slope and to limit the required mapping of the mine workings above and below to those present within 100 feet of the veins being mined except when veins are interconnected to other veins beyond the 100-foot limit through rock tunnels considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 11 Vein Slope Mine with conditions for use of cross sections, in lieu of contour lines, limiting the mapping of mines above or below this mine to those within 100 feet of the vein being mined.

Docket No.: M-95-011-C.

FR Notice: 60 FR 11680.

Petitioner: Rothermel Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1202-1(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to revise and supplement mine maps on an annual basis instead of the required 6 month interval and to update maps daily by hand notations considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 11 Vein Slope Mine with conditions for annual revisions and supplements of the mine map.

Docket No.: M-95-116-C.

FR Notice: 60 FR 52217.

Petitioner: Amax Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.364(b)(2).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to establish evaluation points at crosscut #76 at the 3 South/4 East connection to monitor the air entering the Old 3 South/4 East and 5 East from the 3 South/4 East connection point and the Main South, and at crosscut #186 and #196 in the Main South to monitor the air exiting the area; to have a certified person test for methane and the quantity of air at each station on a weekly basis and to record their initials, date, time, and results of the examinations in a book kept on the surface and available to inspection by interested persons considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Wabash Mine with conditions for continuous monitoring using intrinsically safe sensors installed through appropriate electrical barriers of an Atmospheric Monitoring System (AMS) and weekly evaluation of portions of the air entering and leaving the dual sets of return entries of 5 East and 3 South/4 East return aircourse.

Docket No.: M-95-156-C.

FR Notice: 60 FR 57025 and 60 FR 64079.

Petitioner: Amax Coal Company and Clipmate Corporation.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 77.1303(y)(1).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use a protected Rozdet open circuit detonator system at its Chinook Mine instead of shunted electrical detonators; to package and store the detonator at the mine in accordance with the U.S. Department of Transportation Report, Reference Number EX-9309092; and to provide instructions in each Rozdet package on the proper use of the Rozdet considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Chinook Mine with conditions for the use of protected open circuit detonators.

Docket No.: M-95-166-C.

FR Notice: 60 FR 64080.

Petitioner: Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.350.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use belt entry in its longwall development entries as a return entry during longwall development and to use the belt entry as an intake entry during longwall retreat mining and in some mains during and after development; and to install carbon monoxide detectors as an early warning fire detection system in the longwall panel intake escapeway entry and the panel belt entry used as a return air course considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Willow Creek Mine with conditions for use of belt air in two-entry mining systems.

Docket No.: M-95-168-C.

FR Notice: 60 FR 64081.

Petitioner: Cyprus Plateau Mining Corporation.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.352.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use the belt entry in its longwall development entries as a return entry during longwall development; and to install carbon monoxide detectors as an early warning fire detection system in the longwall panel intake escapeway entry and the panel belt entry used as a return air course considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Willow Creek Mine with conditions for use of a conveyor belt in a return air course during development of a two-entry mining system.

Docket No.: M-95-169-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 8304.

Petitioner: Mackie J. Coal Company, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.1710-1.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use self-propelled electric

face equipment without cabs or canopies in mining heights of 48 inches or less considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Mine No. 4 with conditions for the two Fletcher and Lee Norse roof bolting machines, three Joy center drive shuttle cars, one Joy continuous mining machine, and two S & S scoops, in mining heights less than 48 inches.

Docket No.: M-95-173-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 8305.

Petitioner: Genwal Resources, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.352.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use belt air in a two-entry mining system and to install a low-level carbon monoxide detection system as an early warning fire detection system in the intake escapeway entry and the belt entry considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Crandall Canyon Mine with conditions for use of the conveyor belt in a return aircourse during development of a two-entry mining system.

Docket No.: M-95-175-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 8305.

Petitioner: Philippi Development, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.503.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to increase the maximum length of its trailing cables to 900 feet for supplying power to shuttle cars, roof bolters and mobile roof supports considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Sentinel Mine with conditions for shuttle cars, roof bolters and mobile roof supports used in the Sentinel mine.

Docket No.: M-95-177-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 8305.

Petitioner: McElroy Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.804(a).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use a high-voltage cable with an internal ground check conductor smaller than No. 10 (A.W.G.) as part of its 4,160-volt longwall mining system considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the McElroy Mine with conditions for McElroy Coal Company's, McElroy Mine's longwall system.

Docket No.: M-95-181-C.

FR Notice: 61 FR 8306.

Petitioner: Philippi Development, Inc.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.350.

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to install carbon monoxide detectors as an early warning fire detection system in all belt entries used as intake air courses considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Sentinel Mine with conditions to allow air coursed through conveyor belt entries to be used to ventilate working places.

Docket No.: M-94-043-C.

FR Notice: 59 FR 24728.

Petitioner: Little Rock Coal Company.
Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.364(b)(1), (4), and (5).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to examine the intake haulage slope and primary escapeway from the gunboat/slope car with an alternative air quality evaluation at the section's intake level, and to travel and thoroughly examine these areas for hazardous conditions less frequently considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Lykens Valley #1 Vein Slope Mine with conditions for 30 CFR 75.364(b)(4), to conduct examinations of the seals located along the return and bleeder air courses from the ladder on a weekly basis, not monthly as proposed by petitioner.

Docket No.: M-94-048-C.

FR Notice: 59 FR 24728.

Petitioner: K & L Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.364(b)(1), (4), and (5).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to examine the intake haulage slope and primary escapeway from the gunboat/slope car with an alternative air quality evaluation at the section's intake level, and to travel and thoroughly examine these areas for hazardous conditions less frequently considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 1 Slope Mine with conditions for 30 CFR 75.364(b)(4), to conduct examinations of the seals located along the return and bleeder air courses from the ladder on a weekly basis, not monthly as proposed by petitioner.

Docket No.: M-94-074-C.

FR Notice: 59 FR 35147.

Petitioner: Chestnut Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.364(b)(1), (4), and (5).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to examine the intake haulage slope and primary escapeway from the gunboat/slope car with an alternative air quality evaluation at the section's intake level, and to travel and thoroughly examine these areas for hazardous conditions less frequently considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 10 Slope Mine with conditions for 30 CFR 75.364(b)(4), to conduct examinations of the seals located along the return and bleeder air courses from the ladder on a weekly basis, not monthly as proposed by petitioner.

Docket No.: M-94-091-C.

FR Notice: 59 FR 35149.

Petitioner: Shadle Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.364(b)(1), (4), and (5).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to examine the intake haulage slope and primary escapeway from the gunboat/slope car with an alternative air quality evaluation at the section's intake level, and to travel and thoroughly examine these areas for hazardous conditions less frequently considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Shadle Slope Mine with conditions for 30 CFR 75.364(b)(4), to conduct examinations of the seals located along the return and bleeder air courses from the ladder on a weekly basis, not monthly as proposed by petitioner.

Docket No.: M-94-103-C.

FR Notice: 59 FR 40924.

Petitioner: H.L. & W. Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 75.364(b)(1), (4), and (5).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to examine the intake haulage slope and primary escapeway from the gunboat/slope car with an alternative air quality evaluation at the section's intake level, and to travel and thoroughly examine these areas for hazardous conditions less frequently considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the No. 2 Slope Mine with conditions for 30 CFR 75.364(b)(4), to conduct examinations of the seals located along the return and bleeder air courses from the ladder on a weekly basis, not monthly as proposed by petitioner.

Docket No.: M-93-060-C.

FR Notice: 58 FR 29640.

Petitioner: Quarto Mining Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.380(d)(4).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to reroute portions of the alternative and primary escapeways; to use the primary escapeway in case of an emergency; and if the escapeway is impossible to deenergize the longwall machinery and belt haulage while transporting injured persons considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Powhatan No. 4 Mine with conditions for the conveyor belt entry of each retreating longwall section.

Docket No.: M-93-110-C.

FR Notice: 58 FR 39238.

Petitioner: Wenrich Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.364(b)(1), (4), and (5).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to examine the intake haulage slope and primary escapeway from the gunboat/slope car with an alternative air quality evaluation at the section's intake level, and to travel and thoroughly examine these areas for hazardous conditions less frequently considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Buck Mountain Slope Mine with

conditions for 30 CFR 75.364(b)(4), to conduct examinations of the seals located along the return and bleeder air courses from the ladder on a weekly basis, not monthly as proposed by petitioner.

Docket No.: M-93-130-C.

FR Notice: 58 FR 39240.

Petitioner: M & S Coal Company.

Reg Affected: 30 CFR 75.332(b)(1) and (b)(2).

Summary of Findings: Petitioner's proposal to use air passing through inaccessible abandoned workings and additional areas by mixing with the air in the intake haulage slope to ventilate the only active working section, to ensure air quality by sampling intake air during pre-shift and on-shift examinations, and to suspend mine production when air quality fails to meet specified criteria considered acceptable alternative method. Granted for the Buck Mountain Slope Mine with conditions for the quality of air used to ventilate the Buck Mountain Slope Mine.

[FR Doc. 97-31154 Filed 11-26-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Records Schedules; Availability and Request for Comments

AGENCY: National Archives and Records Administration, Office of Records Services.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed records schedules; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) publishes notice at least once monthly of certain Federal agency requests for records disposition authority (records schedules). Records schedules identify records of sufficient value to warrant preservation in the National Archives of the United States. Schedules also authorize agencies after a specified period to dispose of records lacking administrative, legal, research, or other value. Notice is published for records schedules that propose the destruction of records not previously authorized for disposal, or reduce the retention period for records already authorized for disposal. NARA invites public comments on such schedules, as required by 44 U.S.C. 3303a(a).

DATES: Requests for copies must be received in writing on or before January 12, 1998. Once the appraisal of the records is completed, NARA will send

a copy of the schedule. The requester will be given 30 days to submit comments.

ADDRESSES: Address requests for single copies of schedules identified in this notice to the Civilian Appraisal Staff (NWRC), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001. Requesters must cite the control number assigned to each schedule when requesting a copy. The control number appears in the parentheses immediately after the name of the requesting agency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael L. Miller, Director, Records Management Programs, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, telephone (301) 713-7110.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Each year U.S. Government agencies create billions of records on paper, film, magnetic tape, and other media. In order to control this accumulation, agency records managers prepare records schedules specifying when the agency no longer needs the records and what happens to the records after this period. Some schedules are comprehensive and cover all the records of an agency or one of its major subdivisions. These comprehensive schedules provide for the eventual transfer to the National Archives of historically valuable records and authorize the disposal of all other records. Most schedules, however, cover records of only one office or program or a few series of records, and many are updates of previously approved schedules. Such schedules also may include records that are designated for permanent retention.

Destruction of records requires the approval of the Archivist of the United States. This approval is granted after a thorough study of the records that takes into account their administrative use by the agency of origin, the rights of the Government and of private persons directly affected by the Government's activities, and historical or other value.

This public notice identifies the Federal agencies and their subdivisions requesting disposition authority, includes the control number assigned to each schedule, and briefly describes the records proposed for disposal. The records schedule contains additional information about the records and their disposition. Further information about the disposition process will be furnished to each requester.

Schedules Pending

1. Department of the Army (N1-AU-97-11). Aircraft maintenance records.