

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-377]

### Program To Maintain Investment Restrictions Database

**AGENCY:** United States International Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Institution of investigation.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 22, 1997.

**SUMMARY:** Following receipt of a request on January 15, 1997, from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the Commission instituted investigation No. 332-377, Program To Maintain Investment Restrictions Database, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Information specific to the investigation may be obtained from Mr. Richard Brown (202-205-3438) or Mr. Patrick Coleman (202-205-3459). For information on the legal aspects of this investigation, contact Mr. William Gearhart of the Commission's Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal (202-205-1810).

**BACKGROUND:** As requested by the USTR in a letter dated January 8, 1997, the Commission, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, instituted an investigation for the purpose of developing a database that identifies and provides pertinent information regarding foreign investment restrictions. The USTR's letter stated that the database would assist USTR in assessing the value of commitments undertaken by other countries and reporting on the final outcome of negotiations currently underway to develop a multilateral agreement on investment (MAI) within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The USTR requested that the Commission provide an initial listing of investment restrictions by January 31, 1997, and provide further iterations of the document as interagency input and the results of ongoing negotiations are incorporated. USTR indicated that all or part of the database may be classified as confidential.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: January 23, 1997.

Donna R. Koehnke,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-2180 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Mine Safety and Health Administration

#### Petitions for Modification

The following parties have filed petitions to modify the application of mandatory safety standards under section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

##### 1. D & D Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-166-C]

D & D Coal Company, 139 E. Independence Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania 17872 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.335 (construction of seals) to its 7 Foot Drift Mine (I.D. No.36-08092) located in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner requests a modification of the standard to permit alternative methods of construction of 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 criteria 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. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

##### 2. D & D Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-167-C]

D & D Coal Company, 139 E. Independence Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania 17872 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1100 (quantity and location of firefighting equipment) to its 7 Foot Drift Mine (I.D. No. 36-08092) located in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes to use only portable fire extinguishers to replace existing requirements where rock dust, water cars, and other water storage are not practical. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

##### 3. Apogee Coal Company dba Arch of Illinois

[Docket No. M-96-168-C]

Apogee Coal Company dba Arch of Illinois, P.O. Box 308, Percy, Illinois 62272 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.901(a) (protection of low- and medium-voltage three-phase circuits used underground) to its Conant Mine (I.D. No. 11-02886)

located in Perry County, Illinois. The petitioner requests a modification of the standard to allow a diesel powered generator to be operated for supplying power to mobile mining equipment when such equipment is being moved from one area of the mine to another without grounding the neutral to a low resistance ground field. The petitioner states that mining personnel would be trained in the proper testing procedures to be used at the mine whenever this practice occurs. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

##### 4. Burnrite Slope Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-169-C]

Burnrite Slope Coal Company, 325 Mulberry Street, Atlas, Pennsylvania 17851 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1100 (quantity and location of firefighting equipment) to its Burnrite Slope (I.D. No. 36-08547) located in Columbia County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes to use only portable fire extinguishers to replace existing requirements where rock dust, water cars, and other water storage are not practical. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

##### 5. Burnrite Slope Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-170-C]

Burnrite Slope Coal Company, 325 Mulberry Street, Atlas, Pennsylvania 17851 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1200 (d) & (i) (mine map) to its Burnrite Slope Mine (I.D. No. 36-08547) located in Columbia County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes 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. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

##### 6. Burnrite Slope Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-171-C]

Burnrite Slope Coal Company, 325 Mulberry Street, Atlas, Pennsylvania 17851 has filed a petition to modify the

application of 30 CFR 75.1202-1(a) (temporary notations, revisions, and supplements) to its Burnrite Slope Mine (I.D. No. 36-08547) located in Columbia County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes to revise and supplement mine maps annually instead of every 6 months, as required, and to update maps daily by hand notations. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 7. Burnrite Slope Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-172-C]

Burnrite Slope Coal Company, 325 Mulberry Street, Atlas, Pennsylvania 17851 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1400 (hoisting equipment; general) to its Burnrite Slope (I.D. No. 36-08547) located in Columbia County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes 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. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 8. Martin County Coal Corporation

[Docket No. M-96-173-C]

Martin County Coal Corporation, P.O. Box 5002, Inez, Kentucky 41224 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.513-1 (electric conductor; size) to its Pegasus Mine (I.D. No. 15-17330) located in Martin County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to install current limiting devices in conveyor belt drive electrical installations to ensure deenergization of the circuit before a rise in temperature from normal operation will damage the insulating materials of electrical conductors. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 9. Mallie Coal Company, Inc.

[Docket No. M-96-174-C]

Mallie Coal Company, Inc., Route 1, Box 173, Woodbine, Kentucky 40771 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.380(f)(4)(i) (escapeways; bituminous and lignite mines) to its Mine No. 5 (I.D. No. 15-17314) located in Knox County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to install two five-pound or one ten-pound portable chemical fire extinguisher in

the operators deck of each Mescher tractor operated at the mine; to have the fire extinguisher readily accessible to the operator; and to have each fire extinguisher inspected daily by the equipment operator prior to entering the escapeway. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 10. Apex Minerals, Inc.

[Docket No. M-96-175-C]

Apex Minerals, Inc., P.O. Box 117, Kimper, Kentucky 41539 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.503 (permissible electric face equipment; maintenance) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-02096) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use permanently installed, spring-loaded locking devices on mobile battery-powered equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of battery plugs from battery receptacles to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations. The petitioner states that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 11. Rawl Sales and Processing Company

[Docket No. M-96-176-C]

Rawl Sales and Processing Company, P.O. Box 722, Matewan, West Virginia 25678 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.701 (grounding metallic frames, casings, and other enclosures of electric equipment) to its Tall Timber Mine (I.D. No. 15-13720) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use a diesel generator to power mobile equipment in and out of its mine. The petitioner asserts that the use of this generator as a mobile unit used in conjunction with the tramping of mobile equipment does not enable attaching the unit to the mine's ground fields. The petitioner has outlined in this petition specific changes and adjustments that would be made to the generator set to ensure that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 12. Road Fork Development Company

[Docket No. M-96-177-C]

Road Fork Development Company, P.O. Box 565, Matewan, West Virginia

25678 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.701 (grounding metallic frames, casings, and other enclosures of electric equipment) to its Calloway Mine (I.D. No. 15-17252); its Pegs Branch Mine (I.D. No. 15-17541); its Burnwell Energy Mine (I.D. No. 15-16599); and its Extra Energy Mine (I.D. No. 15-15386) all located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use a diesel generator to power mobile equipment in and out of the mines. The petitioner asserts that the use of this generator as a mobile unit used in conjunction with the tramping of mobile equipment does not enable attaching the unit to the mine's ground fields. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 13. Dry Fork Energy, Inc.

[Docket No. M-96-178-C]

Dry Fork Energy, Inc., P.O. Box 157, McCarr, Kentucky 41544 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.503 (permissible electric face equipment) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-17385) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use permanently installed, spring-loaded locking devices on mobile battery-powered machines to prevent unintentional loosening of battery plugs from battery receptacles to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations. The petitioner states that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 14. Dry Fork Energy, Inc.

[Docket No. M-96-179-C]

Dry Fork Energy, Inc., P.O. Box 157, McCarr, Kentucky 41544 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.701 (grounding metallic frames, casings, and other enclosures of electric equipment) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-17385) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use a diesel generator to power mobile equipment in and out of the mines. The petitioner asserts that the use of this generator as a mobile unit used in conjunction with the tramping of mobile equipment does not enable attaching the unit to the mine's ground fields. The petitioner has outlined in this petition specific changes and adjustments that would be made to the

generator set to ensure that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

15. Dry Fork Energy, Inc.

[Docket No. M-96-180-C]

Dry Fork Energy, Inc., P.O. Box 157, McCarr, Kentucky 41544 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.901(a) (protection of low- and medium-voltage three-phase circuits used underground) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-17385) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use a diesel generator to power mobile equipment in and out of its mine. The petitioner asserts that the use of this generator as a mobile unit used in conjunction with the tramming of mobile equipment does not enable attaching the unit to the mine's ground fields. The petitioner has outlined in this petition specific changes and adjustments that would be made to the generator set to ensure that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

16. Apex Minerals, Inc.

[Docket No. M-96-181-C]

Apex Minerals, Inc., P.O. Box 329, Sidney, Kentucky 41564 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.701 (grounding metallic frames, casings, and other enclosures of electric equipment) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-02096) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use a diesel generator to power mobile equipment in and out of its mine. The petitioner asserts that the use of this generator as a mobile unit used in conjunction with the tramming of mobile equipment does not enable attaching the unit to the mine's ground fields. The petitioner has outlined in this petition specific changes and adjustments that would be made to the generator set to ensure that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

17. Apex Minerals, Inc.

[Docket No. M-96-182-C]

Apex Minerals, Inc., P.O. Box 329, Sidney, Kentucky 41564 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.901(a) (protection of low- and medium-voltage three-phase circuits used underground) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-02096) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use a diesel generator to power mobile equipment in and out of its mine. The petitioner asserts that the

use of this generator as a mobile unit used in conjunction with the tramming of mobile equipment does not enable attaching the unit to the mine's ground fields. The petitioner has outlined in this petition specific changes and adjustments that would be made to the generator set to ensure that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

18. Kerr-McGee Coal Corporation

[Docket No. M-96-183-C]

Kerr-McGee Coal Corporation, Caller Box 3013, Gillette, Wyoming 82717 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 77.1304(a) (blasting agents; special provisions) to its Jacobs Ranch Mine (I.D. No. 48-00997) located in Campbell County, Wyoming. The petitioner proposes to use petroleum-based lubrication oil, which would be drained from its Jacobs Ranch Mine equipment, blended with fuel oil to create an Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil (ANFO) blasting agent. The petitioner also proposes to submit proposed revisions to its part 48 training plan, which include initial and refresher training regarding compliance to its petition, to the District Manager within 60 days after granting of this petition. The petitioner has outlined in this petition specific procedures that would be followed in creating the ANFO and using the blasting agent. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

19. M & H Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-184-C]

M & H Coal Company, P.O. Box 559, Hegins, Pennsylvania 17938 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1200 (d) & (i) (mine map) to its Mercury Slope (I.D. No. 36-01920) located in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes 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. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

20. M & H Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-185-C]

M & H Coal Company, P.O. Box 559, Hegins, Pennsylvania 17938 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1202-1(a) (temporary notations, revisions, and supplements) to its Mercury Slope (I.D. No. 36-01920) located in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes to revise and supplement mine maps annually instead of every 6 months, as required, and to update maps daily by hand notations. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

21. M & H Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-186-C]

M & H Coal Company, P.O. Box 559, Hegins, Pennsylvania 17938 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.335 (construction of seals) to its Mercury Slope (I.D. No. 36-01920) located in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner requests a modification of the standard to permit alternative methods of construction of 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 criteria 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. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

22. Sheldon Derck

[Docket No. M-96-187-C]

Sheldon Derck, 133 E. Academy Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania 17872 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1202-1(a) (temporary notations, revisions, and supplements) to its Slope No. 1 Mine (I.D. No. 07018) located in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes to revise and supplement mine maps annually instead of every 6 months, as required, and to update maps daily by hand notations. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

## 23. Sheldon Derck

[Docket No. M-96-188-C]

Sheldon Derck, 133 E. Academy Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania 17872 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1200 (mine map) to its Slope No. 1 Mine (I.D. No. 07018) located in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes 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. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

## 24. Sheldon Derck

[Docket No. M-96-189-C]

Sheldon Derck, 133 E. Academy Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania 17872 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1100 (quantity and location of firefighting equipment) to its Slope No. 1 Mine (I.D. No. 07018) located in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes to use only portable fire extinguishers to replace existing requirements where rock dust, water cars, and other water storage are not practical. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

## 25. Jordan Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-190-C]

Jordan Coal Company, 133 E. Academy Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania 17872 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1202-1(a) (temporary notations, revisions, and supplements) to its Jordan No. 1 Slope Mine (I.D. No. 07681) located in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes to revise and supplement mine maps annually instead of every 6 months, as required, and to update maps daily by hand notations. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

## 26. Jordan Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-191-C]

Jordan Coal Company, 133 E. Academy Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania 17872 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1200 (mine map) to its Jordan No. 1 Slope Mine (I.D. No. 36-07681) located in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes 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. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

## 27. Jordan Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-192-C]

Jordan Coal Company has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1100 (quantity and location of firefighting equipment) to its Jordan No. 1 Slope Mine (I.D. No. 36-07681) located in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. The petitioner proposes to use only portable fire extinguishers to replace existing requirements where rock dust, water cars, and other water storage are not practical. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

## 28. Consolidation Coal Company

[Docket No. M-96-193-C]

Consolidation Coal Company, Consol Plaza, 1800 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15241-1421 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.364(b)(2) (weekly examination) to its Shoemaker Mine (I.D. No. 46-01436) located in Marshall County, West Virginia. Due to deteriorating roof and rib conditions in certain areas of the return aircourse, traveling the area in entirety would be unsafe. The petitioner proposes to establish two check points to monitor the affected area; to maintain these check points in a safe condition; to have a certified person test for methane and the quantity of air on a weekly basis at each check point; and to have the person making examinations and tests record their initials, date, and time in a record book kept on the surface and

made available for inspection by interested persons. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

## 29. Apogee Coal Company dba Arch of Illinois

[Docket No. M-96-194-C]

Apogee Coal Company dba Arch of Illinois, P.O. Box 308, Percy, Illinois 62272-0308 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.333(b)(3) (ventilation controls) to its Conant Mine (I.D. No. 11-02886) located in Perry County, Illinois. The petitioner requests a modification of the standard to allow permanent stoppings to be built and maintained to a point not to exceed 900 feet from the point of deepest penetration in the conveyor belt entry or to a distance from the point of deepest penetration in the conveyor belt entry not to exceed 1½ time the length of the Archveyor continuous face haulage system. The petitioner states that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

## 30. Sargent Hollow Mining Corporation

[Docket No. M-96-195-C]

Sargent Hollow Mining Corporation, P.O. Box 2560, Wise, Virginia 24293 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.364(b)(2) (weekly examination) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 44-06795) located in Wise County, Virginia. Due to deteriorating roof conditions in certain areas of the return aircourse, traveling the area in entirety would be unsafe. The petitioner proposes to evaluate the quality and quantity of air in the affected area at S.S. No. 323 inby, and S.S. No. 270 outby the dangerous roof area. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would not result in a diminution of safety to the miners.

## 31. Freedom Energy Mining Company

[Docket No. M-96-196-C]

Freedom Energy Mining Company, P.O. Box 239, Sidney, Kentucky 41564 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.503 (permissible electric face equipment; maintenance) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-07082) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use permanently installed, spring-loaded locking devices on mobile battery-powered equipment to prevent

unintentional loosening of battery plugs from battery receptacles to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations. The petitioner states that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

32. Rockhouse Energy Mining Company  
[Docket No. M-96-197-C]

Rockhouse Energy Mining Company, P.O. Box 239, Sidney, Kentucky 41564 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.503 (permissible electric face equipment; maintenance) to its Rockhouse Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-17651) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use permanently installed, spring-loaded locking devices on mobile battery-powered equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of battery plugs from battery receptacles to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations. The petitioner states that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

33. Solid Energy Mining Company  
[Docket No. M-96-198-C]

Solid Energy Mining Company, P.O. Box 368, Sidney, Kentucky 41564 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.503 (permissible electric face equipment; maintenance) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-07475) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use permanently installed, spring-loaded locking devices on mobile battery-powered equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of battery plugs from battery receptacles to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations. The petitioner states that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

34. Clean Energy Mining Company  
[Docket No. M-96-199-C]

Clean Energy Mining Company, P.O. Box 267, Sidney, Kentucky 41564 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.503 (permissible electric face equipment; maintenance) to its Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-10753) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use permanently installed, spring-loaded locking devices on mobile battery-powered equipment to prevent unintentional loosening of battery plugs from battery receptacles to eliminate the hazards associated with difficult removal of padlocks during emergency situations. The petitioner states that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

35. Sidney Coal Company, Inc.  
[Docket No. M-96-200-C]

Sidney Coal Company, Inc., P.O. Box 299, Sidney, Kentucky 41564 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.701 (grounding metallic frames, casings, and other enclosures of electric equipment) to its subsidiaries: the Black Diamond Coal Company, Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-17356); the Clean Energy Mining Company, Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-10753); the Freedom Energy Mining Company, Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-07082); the Rockhouse Energy Mining Company, Rockhouse Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-17651); and the Solid Energy Mining Company, Mine No. 1 (I.D. No. 15-07475) all located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use a diesel generator to power mobile equipment in and out of these mines. The petitioner asserts that the use of this generator as a mobile unit used in conjunction with the tramping of mobile equipment does not enable attaching the unit to the mines' ground fields. The petitioner has outlined in this petition specific changes and adjustments that would be made to the generator set to ensure that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

36. Golden Oak Mining Company, L.P.  
[Docket No. M-96-201-C]

Golden Oak Mining Company, L.P., HC 85, Box 177, Whitesburg, Kentucky 41858 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.362(d)(2) (on-shift examination) to its Tango Mine (I.D. No. 15-13294), its Golden Oak 3-

A Mine (I.D. No. 15-02046), its Golden Oak No. 3 Mine (I.D. No. 15-17372) all located in Letcher County, Kentucky; and its Black Oak Mine No. 10 (I.D. No. 15-17592) located in Knott County, Kentucky. The petitioner proposes to use a 20-foot probe to conduct methane tests in all unbolted places; in all working places where roof bolting is being performed; in working places where a continuous miner is actively cutting coal, and to attach a device to the continuous miner holding a methane detector to conduct the test within 36 inches of the deepest point of penetration in the cut, if the cut is deeper than 20 feet; and to calibrate the methane monitor on the continuous miner to warn the operator at 1.0% methane and to deenergize the machine at 1.5% methane. The petitioner has outlined in this petition specific procedures to be followed when using its alternative method. The petitioner states that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miners. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

37. Blue Mountain Energy, Inc.  
[Docket No. M-96-202-C]

Blue Mountain Energy, Inc., Box 1067, Rangely, Colorado 81648 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1002 (location of trolley wires, trolley feeder wires, high-voltage cables and transformers) to its Deserado Mine (I.D. No. 05-03505) located in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. The petitioner proposes to use 2,400-volt cables to power longwall equipment in the active pillar workings; to implement additional safety procedures and devices; and to provide training to all mining personnel before the proposed alternative method is implemented. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

38. Elk Run Coal Company, Inc.  
[Docket No. M-96-203-C]

Elk Run Coal Company, Inc., P.O. Box 497, Sylvester, West Virginia 25193 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1002 (location of trolley wires, trolley feeder wires, and high-voltage cables and transformers) to its Black Knight II Mine (I.D. No. 46-08402) located in Boone County, West Virginia. The petitioner proposes to use 2,300-volt cables to power longwall equipment in the active pillar workings; to implement additional safety

procedures devices; and to provide training to all mining personnel before the proposed alternative method is implemented. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### Request for Comments

Persons interested in these petitions may furnish written comments. These comments must be filed with the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 627, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203. All comments must be postmarked or received in that office on or before February 28, 1997. Copies of these petitions are available for inspection at that address.

Dated: January 22, 1997.

Patricia W. Silvey,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 97-2122 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Special Emphasis Panel in Geosciences; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

*Name:* Special Emphasis Panel in Geosciences (1756).

*Date and Time:* February 21, 1997; 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

*Place:* Room #770, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Michael Mayhew, Program Director, Education and Human Resources Program, Division of Earth Sciences, Room 785, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1557.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Applications as part of the selection process for awards.

*Reason for Closing:* The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: January 24, 1997.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-2228 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

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### Special Emphasis Panel in Human Resource Development; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

*Name and Committee Code:* Special Emphasis Panel in Human Resource Development (#1199)

*Date and Time:* February 20, 1997: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; February 21, 1997: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 330, Arlington, VA 22230.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Bobby Wilson, Program Director, Human Resource Development Division, Room 815, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230 Telephone: (703) 306-1634.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate formal proposals submitted to the Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) Program as part of the selection process for awards.

*Reason for Closing:* The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: January 24, 1997.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-2227 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

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### Advisory Panel for Long Term Projects in Environmental Biology; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

*Name:* Advisory Panel for Long Term Projects in Environmental Biology.

*Date and Time:* February 24-26, 1997.

*Place:* National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 310, Arlington, VA 22230.

*Type of Meeting:* Closed.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Meredith Lane, Division of Environmental Biology, Room 635, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1481.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate Biotic Surveys and Inventory proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

*Reason for Closing:* The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: January 24, 1997.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-2226 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

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### Special Emphasis Panel in Physics; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces that a Special Emphasis Panel in Physics (1208) will be holding telephone conferences for the purpose of reviewing proposals submitted to the Theoretical Physics Program. In order to review the large volume of proposals, telephone panel conferences will be held February 18-21(6), and February 24-28(6), 1997. All meetings will be closed to the public and will be held at the National Science Foundation, Room 1015, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA between 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

*Contact Person:* Dr. Boris Kayser, Program Director for Theoretical Physics, Division of Physics, Room 1015, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: (703) 306-1889.

*Purpose of Meeting:* To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

*Reason for Closing:* The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c), 4 and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: January 24, 1997.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-2225 Filed 1-28-97; 8:45 am]

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