

diameter steel cable and suspended on steel posts on each side of the travelway to mark the route; and "Keep Out" signs to be posted on the boundary of the 6-foot wide escapeway every 250 feet along the travelway. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 9. North American Salt Company

[Docket No. M-97-10-M]

North American Salt Company, P.O. Box 10, Lydia, Louisiana 70569 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 57.15031 (location of self-rescue devices) to its Cote Blanche Underground Salt Mine (I.D. No. 16-00358) located in St. Mary County, Louisiana. The petitioner requests a variance to allow supplies of self-rescue devices to be stored underground in strategic locations and readily accessible to the miners. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 10. ZCA Mines, Inc.

[Docket No. M-97-11-M]

ZCA Mines, Inc., P.O. Box 226, Hailesboro, New York 13645 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 57.11050 (escapeways and refuges) to its Balmat Mine No. 4 (I.D. No. 30-01185) located in St. Lawrence County, New York. The petitioner requests a variance to allow the underground employees to report to the refuge chamber when one of the hoist becomes inoperable for more than one hour instead of evacuating the mine. The petitioner states that the No. 4 Mine personnel can evacuate from the hoisting facility at the No. 4 Mine and the No. 2 Mine. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

#### 11. North American Salt Company

[Docket No. M-97-12-M]

North American Salt Company, P.O. Box 10, Lydia, Louisiana 70569 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 57.22603 (blasting from the surface II-A mines) to its Cote Blanche Underground Salt Mine (I.D. No. 16-00358) located in St. Mary County, Louisiana. The petitioner requests a modification of the mandatory standard to allow specially prepared and limited shots of a shaft segment to be taken while men are underground. 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 December 5, 1997. Copies of these petitions are available for inspection at that address.

Dated: October 24, 1997.

**Patricia W. Silvey,**

*Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.*

[FR Doc. 97-29189 Filed 11-3-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

### INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

#### International Boundary and Water Commission Notice

**AGENCY:** Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the 14th public meeting of the BECC Board of Directors on Friday, December 5, 1997, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, at the Cibeles Convention Center, located at Blvd. Tomás Fernández No. 8450, in Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** M.R. Ybarra, Secretary, United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, telephone: (915) 534-6698; or Mr. Gonzalo Bravo, Public Participation Coordinator, Border Environment Cooperation Commission, P.O. Box 221648, El Paso, Texas 79913, telephone: (011-52-16) 29-23-95; fax: (011-52-16) 29-23-97; e-mail: becc@cocef.interjuarez.com.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, on behalf of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC), cordially invites the public to attend the 14th Public Meeting of the BECC Board of Directors, on Friday, December 5th, from 9:00 am-2:00 pm, at the Cibeles Convention Center, located at Blvd. Tomás Fernández NO. 8450, in Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua.

#### Proposed Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda (Action)

2. Approval of Minutes (Action)
3. Executive Committee Report (Information)
4. Manager's Report (Information)
5. 1997 Status Report
6. Technical Assistance Program Update
7. Consideration of Projects for Certification
  - Mexicali I and II
    - Public Comments
    - Certification Consideration (Action)
  - Jonathon Rogers
    - Public Comments
    - Certification Consideration (Action)
8. Complaints Procedures (Action)
9. General Public Comments

Anyone interested in submitting written comments to the Board of Directors on any agenda item should send them to the BECC 15 days prior to the public meeting. Anyone interested in making a brief statement to the Board may do so during the public meeting.

Dated: October 30, 1997.

**M.R. Ybarra,**

*Secretary, U.S. IBWC.*

[FR Doc. 97-29235 Filed 11-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-03-M

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

#### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING MEETING:** National Science Foundation, National Science Board.

**DATE AND TIME:** November 13, 1997, 1:30 p.m., Closed Session. November 13, 1997, 2:20 p.m., Open Session. November 14, 1997, 8:30 a.m., Open Session.

**PLACE:** National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 1225, Arlington, VA 22230.

**STATUS:** Part of this meeting will be open to the public. Part of this meeting will be closed to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:**

**Thursday, November 13, 1997**

*Closed Session (1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m.)*

- Minutes, August 1997 Meeting.
- Personnel.
- NSB Public Service Award.
- Awards and Agreements.

**Thursday, November 13, 1997**

*Open Session (2:20 p.m.-5:45 p.m.)*

- Minutes, August 1997.
- Minutes, October 1997.
- Closed Session Agenda Items for February 1998.
- Chairman's Report.
- Director's Report.
- Reports from Committees.