

Concentus Technology Group, Dublin, OH. The following organizations have withdrawn their membership from "NIIP-SMART": UES Incorporated; and FASTech Integration, Inc.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activities of NIIP-SMART. Membership remains open and "NIIP-SMART" intends to file additional written notifications disclosing all changes in membership.

On May 1, 1996, "NIIP-SMART" filed its original notification pursuant to § 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to § 6(b) of the Act on June 13, 1996 (61 FR 30098). The last notification was filed with the Department on March 21, 1997, and a notice was published in the **Federal Register** on April 29, 1997 (62 FR 23268).

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

[FR Doc. 98-2846 Filed 2-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Antitrust Division

Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—SCM Fiber Limited Liability Company

Notice is hereby given that, on October 28, 1997, pursuant to Section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* ("the Act"), Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company ("3M") on behalf of the SCM Fiber Limited Liability Company, has filed written notification simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing (1) the identities of the parties to a joint research, development and production venture, and (2) the nature and objectives of the venture. The notifications were filed for the purpose of limiting recovery of plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances. Pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act, the identities of the parties to the venture are Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, St. Paul, MN ("3M"); and Atlantic Research Corporation, Gainesville, VA ("ARC"). The name of the venture is "SCM Fiber Limited Liability Company."

The objective of the venture is to develop, manufacture and sell silicon carbide monofilament (SCM) fiber (1) for the internal needs of 3M and ARC for SCM fiber (not for resale) as a

component of other products made by them or their affiliates, and (2) to third parties. The venture will continue development on a pilot basis under the Integrated High-Performance Turbine Engine Technology Initiative Consortium ("IHPTET Consortium") sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). SCM fiber is a key component of metal matrix composites (MMCs). MMCs have many potential uses for defense and commercial projects. Examples include fabrication of MMCs into components for military and commercial aircraft engines and components of naval gun projectiles.

Constance K. Robinson,

Director of Operations, Antitrust Division.

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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. H.D.F., Inc.

[Docket No. M-97-143-C]
H.D.F., Inc., P.O. Box 1389, Clintwood, Virginia 24228 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1710-1 (canopies or cabs; self-propelled diesel-powered and electric face equipment; installation requirements) to its Mine Number 1 (I.D. No. 15-17613) located in Pike County, Kentucky. The petitioner requests a variance from the use of canopies or cabs on its electric face equipment. The petitioner asserts that application of the standard would result in a diminution of safety to the equipment operator. In addition, the petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as would the mandatory standard.

2. M & M Anthracite Coal Company

[Docket No. M-97-144-C]
M & M Anthracite Coal Company, 245 2nd Street, Tremont, Pennsylvania 17981 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1100-2 (quantity and location of firefighting equipment) to its Little Tracey Slope (I.D. No. 36-08693) 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. M & M Anthracite Coal Company

[Docket No. M-97-145-C]

M & M Anthracite Coal Company, 245 2nd Street, Tremont, Pennsylvania 17981 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1200(d) & (i) (mine map) to its Little Tracey Slope (I.D. No. 36-08693) 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.

4. M & M Anthracite Coal Company

[Docket No. M-97-146-C]

M & M Anthracite Coal Company, 245 2nd Street, Tremont, Pennsylvania 17981 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1202-1(a) (temporary notations, revisions, and supplements) to its Little Tracey Slope (I.D. No. 36-08693) 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.

5. Jim Walter Resources, Inc.

[Docket No. M-97-147-C]

Jim Walter Resources, Inc., P.O. Box 133, Brookwood, Alabama 35444 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.364(b)(2) (weekly examination) to its No. 3 Mine (I.D. No. 01-00758) located in Jefferson County, Alabama. Due to hazardous conditions in the air course entries, traveling certain areas of the air course would be unsafe. The petitioner proposes to establish evaluation points inby and outby the deteriorating return