SUMMARY: Consistent with the memorandum of January 20, 2001, from the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, entitled “Regulatory Review Plan,” published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2001 (66 FR 7702), this action temporarily delays for 60 days the date on which the Office of Labor-Management Standards will begin to enforce the interpretation set forth in a notice published in the Federal Register on January 11, 2001 (66 FR 2782). The temporary 60-day delay is necessary to give Department officials the opportunity for further review and consideration of this matter.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kay H. Oshel, Chief, Division of Interpretations and Standards, Office of Labor-Management Standards, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., room N–5605, Washington, DC, (202) 693–1233 (this is not a toll free number).

Signed at Washington, DC this 6th day of February, 2001.

Joe N. Kennedy,
Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards.

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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 existing safety standards under section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

1. Aracoma Coal Company

Aracoma Coal Company, P.O. Box 470, Stollings, West Virginia 25646 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.1700 (oil and gas wells) to its Alma Mine No. 1 (L.D. No. 46–08801) located in Logan County, West Virginia. The petitioner proposes to plug and mine through gas wells using specific procedures outlined in this petition for modification. The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as the existing standard.

2. Canyon Fuel Company, LLC

Canyon Fuel Company, P.O. Box 1029, Wellington, Utah 84542 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.350 (air courses and belt haulage entries) to its Dugout Canyon Mine (I.D. No. 46–01890) located in Carbon County, Utah. The petitioner requests a modification of the existing standard to permit the belt haulage entry to be used at the return entry during two-entry longwall panel development and as an intake entry to provide additional face ventilation during longwall panel retreat mining. The petitioner proposes to install a low-level carbon monoxide monitoring system in all sections where the belt entry is used as either an intake or return air course and in the primary intake entries. The petitioner asserts that application of the existing standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miner and that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as the existing standard.

3. Canyon Fuel Company, LLC

Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, P.O. Box 1029, Wellington, Utah 84542 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 75.352 (return air courses) to its Dugout Canyon Mine (I.D. No. 46–01890) located in Carbon County, Utah. The petitioner requests a modification of the existing standard to permit the belt haulage entry to be used at the return entry during two-entry longwall panel development and as an intake entry to provide additional face ventilation during longwall panel retreat mining. The petitioner proposes to install a low-level carbon monoxide monitoring system in all sections where the belt entry is used as either an intake or return air course and in the primary intake entries. The petitioner asserts that application of the existing standard would result in a diminution of safety to the miner and that the proposed alternative method would provide at least the same measure of protection as the existing standard.

4. ASARCO Incorporated

ASARCO Incorporated, P.O. Box 460, Strawberry Plains, Tennessee 37771 has filed a petition to modify the application of 30 CFR 57.11055 (inclined escapeways) which requires