DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

30 CFR Part 75

[Docket No. MSHA–2014–0019]

RIN 1219–AB78

Proximity Detection Systems for Mobile Machines in Underground Mines

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: In response to a request, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is extending the comment period on the Agency’s proposed rule on Proximity Detection Systems for Mobile Machines in Underground Mines. This extension gives stakeholders additional time to evaluate the comments and testimony received thus far and provide meaningful input.

DATES: The comment period for the proposed rule published on September 2, 2015 (80 FR 53070), is extended. Comments must be received or postmarked by midnight Eastern Standard Time on December 15, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments and informational materials, identified by RIN 1219–AB78 or Docket No. MSHA–2014–0019, by one of the following methods:

- E-Mail: zzMSHA-comments@dol.gov. Include RIN 1219–AB78 or Docket No. MSHA–2014–0019 in the subject line of the message.
- Fax: 202–693–9441.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: MSHA, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, Virginia, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Sign in at the receptionist’s desk on the 4th Floor East.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 2, 2015 (80 FR 53070), MSHA published a proposed rule that would require underground coal mine operators to equip coal hauling machines and scoops with proximity detection systems. Miners working near these machines face pinning, crushing, and striking hazards that result in accidents involving life threatening injuries and death. MSHA believes that the use of proximity detection systems would reduce the potential for these pinning, crushing, or striking accidents.

On September 28, 2015 (80 FR 58229), MSHA published a document announcing the dates and locations for four public hearings on the proposed rule. The hearings were held in October 2015. MSHA posted the comments received and the hearing transcripts on the Agency’s Web site, and on http://www.regulations.gov. The comment period was scheduled to close on December 1, 2015.

On November 18, 2015, MSHA received a request to extend the comment period an additional two weeks to provide more time for interested parties to comment. In response to this request, MSHA is extending the comment period from December 1, 2015, to December 15, 2015.

Joseph A. Main,
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

36 CFR Part 216

Request for Information (RFI) Regarding Involving the Public in the Formulation of Forest Service Directives

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Request for Information.

SUMMARY: The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, Business Operations, Office of Regulatory and Management Services (ORMS) is preparing to revise a portion of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) governing public participation requirements and procedures related to the issuance or revision of internal Agency directives. The Forest Service is committed to ensuring that a broad and representative cross-section of the interested public is provided advance notice and a full and fair opportunity to comment upon the formulation of standards, criteria, and guidelines applicable to Forest Service programs. In keeping with this commitment, the Agency is interested in enhancing its public engagement and expanding its approach for public notice and comment beyond just formal rulemaking. The Agency has identified a need to update the relevant regulations to reflect the varied media consumption patterns of key Forest Service stakeholders and the public at large. These potential regulatory revisions are also necessary to ensure that written policies align with the Agency’s current practices, which have changed to ensure compliance with recent court orders.

The Agency is hosting a webinar for all interested members of the general public to inform the public of these changes to the Forest Service’s public participation procedures. This session will include additional information on the need for these changes and the outcomes the Agency is seeking to achieve. It will also include an outline of a potential path forward and provide attendees an opportunity to ask questions, provide input, and suggest ideas.