following significant fire detection and fire-fighting devices are in the mine:

(1) The beltline has 13 smoke detection and carbon monoxide (CO) sensors approximately every 5 to 6 breaks. The CO sensors are currently set to “low alarm” at 5 parts per million (ppm) and “high alarm” at 10 ppm, far below levels that present any danger to miners. The CO monitoring system will be programmed to shut off the belt at “high alarm” and:

(2) The two-man ride used to examine the belt has self-rescuers and separate fire extinguishers.

—The only alternative to using the Tunnel Mine belt will be to truck Black Oak Mine coal to Rocklick. This will significantly increase the number of trucks on Route 85 in Boone County between Black Oak and Rocklick Preparation Plant. The increase in trucks going in and out of the Rocklick Preparation Plant will also add congestion to the load out traffic flow.

—The operator has not experienced any safety issues with the conveyor belt in the Tunnel Mine nor has it received any 30 CFR 75.400 citations for accumulations of combustible materials during current ownership.

The operator has not experienced any fire related issues on the conveyor belt at the Tunnel Mine nor has it experienced any significant issues with rollers on the belt in the Tunnel Mine beyond routine maintenance.

—Based on a chemical laboratory analysis, the belt has been confirmed to be Part 18 compliant. The belt has not been tested for Part 14 compliance due to the operator’s difficulty in finding an appropriate testing facility.

The petitioner proposes the following alternative method of achieving the purposes of the standard:

(a) Prior to a qualified person entering the mine, the CO system data from the prior 2 hours will be monitored for any sign of combustion. At the end of coal transport each day (fire run), the CO system data from the prior 4 hours will be monitored for any signs of combustion (i.e., CO or smoke detection by CO monitors on the belt).

(b) A daily functional (bump) test of at least one sensor will be conducted for CO in addition to the weekly functional test required under 30 CFR 75.1103–8. A different sensor will be bump tested each day.

(c) The operator will train miners on the location of Part 18 belt and interim safety measures, CO being taken herein and revise instruction under 30 CFR 75.1502 as appropriate.

(d) An immediate functional test of the fire suppression system along with additional tests will be conducted weekly. A daily visual inspection of the entire fire suppression system will be conducted by a qualified person.

(e) The operator will install a “waterwall system” every 900 feet that will be tapped into the CO monitoring system. The waterwall will activate at 50 ppm of CO. The waterwall will provide a minimum of 50 psi and 45 GPM of water curtain from roof to floor and rib to rib.

(f) Except during the on-shift exam, the belt will be cleared of coal and will run empty during examinations. Examinations generally take less than one hour. Currently, the belt runs approximately 8–9 hours a day.

(g) Other than replacing water pumps, no motors, electrical equipment, or belt drives will be added underground and no changes will be made to the belt configuration or layout while this petition is in effect.

(h) Examiners will enter the mine from the Harris Portal at the downwind side so the examiner is traveling towards thefan. From entries 75 to 11, the examiner will be traveling into fresh air. From crosscut No. 11 to the Rocklick Portal, fresh air will come from behind the examiner for those 11 breaks.

(i) Examiners will be trained to immediately notify the dispatcher in the event of CO detection. Radio contact is established throughout the Tunnel Mine beltline. Should a fire be encountered and not extinguished according to the Mine Act, the examiner will withdraw from the Tunnel Mine and notify MSHA as required under applicable law.

(j) If the CO detection system is down, the belt will not operate until necessary repairs have been made.

(k) All necessary replacement belt will be Part 14 compliant. As the belt is repaired and sections replaced, Part 14 belt will be used.

(l) The belt will not be in operation while maintenance is conducted on the beltline.

(m) The operator will continue annual x-ray examinations.

The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method will provide no less than the same measure of protection afforded the miners under the existing standard.

Sheila McConnell,
Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETINGS: Mississippi River Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 9:00 a.m., August 19, 2019.

PLACE: On board MISSISSIPPI V at Caruthersville City Front, Caruthersville, Missouri.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: (1) Summary report by President of the Commission on national and regional issues affecting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; (2) District Commander’s overview of current project issues within the St. Louis and Memphis Districts; and (3) Presentations by local organizations and members of the public giving views or comments on any issue affecting the programs or projects of the Commission and the Corps of Engineers.

TIME AND DATE: 9:00 a.m., August 20, 2019.

PLACE: On board MISSISSIPPI V at Helena Harbor Boat Ramp, Helena, Arkansas.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: (1) Summary report by President of the Commission on national and regional issues affecting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; (2) District Commander’s overview of current project issues within the Memphis District; and (3) Presentations by local organizations and members of the public giving views or comments on any issue affecting the programs or projects of the Commission and the Corps of Engineers.

TIME AND DATE: 9:00 a.m., August 21, 2019.

PLACE: On board MISSISSIPPI V at Vicksburg City Front, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: (1) Summary report by President of the Commission on national and regional issues affecting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; (2) District Commander’s overview of current project issues within the Vicksburg District; and (3) Presentations by local organizations and members of the public giving views or comments on any
issue affecting the programs or projects of the Commission and the Corps of Engineers.

TIME AND DATE: 9:00 a.m., August 23, 2019.

PLACE: On board MISSISSIPPI V at City Dock, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: (1) Summary report by President of the Commission on national and regional issues affecting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; (2) District Commander’s overview of current project issues within the New Orleans District; and (3) Presentations by local organizations and members of the public giving views or comments on any issue affecting the programs or projects of the Commission and the Corps of Engineers.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Mr. Charles A. Camillo, telephone 601–634–7023.
Charles A. Camillo,
Director, Mississippi River Commission.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of July, 2019.

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