

(i) 3M Battery Charger Kit TR-641N, which includes one 3M Charger Cradle TR-640 and one 3M Power Supply TR-941N, or,

(ii) 3M 4-Station Battery Charger Kit TR-644N, which includes four 3M Charger Cradles TR-640 and one 3M 4-Station Battery Charger Base/Power Supply TR-944N.

(3) The CleanSpace EX internal battery, which is contained within the power unit assembly, shall be charged in areas located outby the last open crosscut in intake air and only the manufacturer's recommended battery chargers shall be used, such as the CleanSpace EX Battery Charger, Product Code PAF-0066.

(4) Neither the 3M TR-830 Battery Pack nor the CleanSpace EX power unit which contains the internal battery, shall be exposed to water, allowed to get wet or immersed in liquid. This does not preclude incidental exposure of the 3M TR-830 Battery Pack or the CleanSpace EX power unit assembly.

(5) Neither the 3M Versaflo TR-800 PAPR nor the CleanSpace EX PAPR, including the internal battery, shall be used, charged or stored in locations where the manufacturer's recommended temperature limits are exceeded. Neither the 3M Versaflo TR-800 PAPR nor the CleanSpace EX PAPR shall be placed in direct sunlight nor stored near a source of heat.

(j) Annual retraining shall be given to all miners who will be involved with or affected by the use of the 3M Versaflo TR-800 or CleanSpace EX PAPRs in accordance with 30 CFR 48.8. Training of new miners on the requirements of the PDO granted by MSHA in accordance with 30 CFR 48.5, and training of experienced miners on the requirements of the PDO granted by MSHA in accordance with 30 CFR 48.6 shall be given. The operator shall keep a record of such training and provide such record to MSHA upon request.

(k) The miners at Hamilton County Coal, LLC, Mine No. 1 Mine, are not represented by a labor organization and there are no representatives of miners at the mine. A copy of this petition has been posted on the bulletin board at Hamilton County Coal, LLC, Mine No. 1 Mine, on August 29, 2024.

The petitioner asserts that the alternative method in the petition will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded to the miners by the standard.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2024-22916 Filed 10-3-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4520-43-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Petition for Modification of Application of Existing Mandatory Safety Standards

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is a summary of a petition for modification submitted to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) by Peabody Gateway North Mining LLC.

DATES: All comments on the petition must be received by MSHA's Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances on or before November 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket No. MSHA-2024-0050 by any of the following methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for MSHA-2024-0050.

2. *Fax:* 202-693-9441.

3. *Email:* petitioncomments@dol.gov.

4. *Regular Mail or Hand Delivery:* MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, Virginia 22202-5452.

Attention: S. Aromie Noe, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances. Persons delivering documents are required to check in at the receptionist's desk, 4th Floor West. Individuals may inspect copies of the petition and comments during normal business hours at the address listed above. Before visiting MSHA in person, call 202-693-9455 to make an appointment, in keeping with the Department of Labor's COVID-19 policy. Special health precautions may be required.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: S. Aromie Noe, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances at 202-693-9440 (voice), Petitionsformodification@dol.gov (email), or 202-693-9441 (fax). [These are not toll-free numbers.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 and title 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 44 govern the application, processing, and disposition of petitions for modification.

I. Background

Section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act) allows the mine operator or representative of miners to file a petition to modify the application of any

mandatory safety standard to a coal or other mine if the Secretary of Labor determines that:

1. An alternative method of achieving the result of such standard exists which will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded the miners of such mine by such standard; or

2. The application of such standard to such mine will result in a diminution of safety to the miners in such mine.

In addition, sections 44.10 and 44.11 of 30 CFR establish the requirements for filing petitions for modification.

II. Petition for Modification

Docket Number: M-2024-027-C.

Petitioner: Peabody Gateway North LLC, 12968 State 13, Coulterville, Illinois 62237.

Mine: Gateway North Mine, MSHA ID No. 11-03235, located in Randolph County, Illinois.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.1002(a), Permissible electric equipment.

Modification Request: The petitioner requests a modification of 30 CFR 75.1002(a) to permit an alternative method of compliance to permit the use of battery-powered non-permissible radios used within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces.

The petitioner states that:

(a) Peabody previously filed a petition for modification of 30 CFR 75.1002(a) on July 12, 2023 (Docket Number M-2023-019-C), but the Proposed Decision and Order (PDO) was denied by MSHA on June 4, 2024.

(b) Peabody currently uses Motorola and Kenwood permissible radios in its underground mine to communicate between miners. Such communication facilitates movement of equipment, assignment of necessary work as well as communication with the surface control room.

(c) The mines also use wired communication systems and the communication and tracking systems required in the mine's Emergency Response Plan. Such communication facilitates efficiency and safety. It occurs along the face areas and in other areas covered by this standard. It facilitates communication in case of emergencies such as injuries both on the section and to the surface.

(d) Motorola and Kenwood have discontinued the manufacture and sale of MSHA-approved permissible radios. Such radios were the only permissible radios available for the underground coal mine industry. The notices indicated that for a period of time the radios were sold out of stock but that ceased as indicated in the notes.

Peabody is not aware of any other radio which is economically feasible.

(e) Peabody seeks modification of 30 CFR 75.1002(a) as it applies to use of low voltage battery-powered non-permissible radios. It intends to use the following equipment:

(1) Motorola R-7 Portable Two-Way Radio. Other safe portable radios may subsequently be used if approved in advance by the MSHA District Manager.

(f) Peabody mines utilize the continuous miner method of mining. Some sections utilize two continuous miners and use of the radios permits coordination of the coal haulers and between the two continuous miners as well as communication near pillar and sealed area workings.

(g) Effective communication is critical to the safety of the miners at the mine. It reduces the potential for collisions and pedestrian accidents and facilitates communication in an emergency.

(h) The alternative method proposed in the petition will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded by the standard.

The petitioner proposes the following alternative method:

(a) Non-permissible intrinsically safe radios to be used include the Motorola R7 Portable Two-Way Radio.

(b) All such radios shall be rated IP 66 or higher.

(c) All non-permissible radios used within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces will be examined by a qualified person as defined in 30 CFR 75.153 prior to use to ensure the equipment is being maintained in a safe operating condition. These examinations results shall be recorded in the weekly examination book and will be made available to MSHA and the miners at the mine.

(d) A qualified person as defined in 30 CFR 75.151 shall continuously monitor for methane immediately before and during the use of non-permissible radios used within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces.

(e) Non-permissible radios shall not be used if methane is detected in concentrations at or above one percent. When one percent or more methane is detected while the non-permissible radios are being used, the radios shall be de-energized immediately by turning them off and withdrawn from the area.

(f) All hand-held methane detectors shall be MSHA approved and maintained in permissible and proper operating condition as defined in 30 CFR 75.320. Each miner using a radio shall be trained in the use of handheld methane details.

(g) All radios shall be used in accordance with the safe use procedures recommended by the manufacturer.

(h) Personnel who use non-permissible radios shall be properly trained to recognize the hazards and limitations associated with use of the equipment.

(i) The radio battery is designed to last more than the length of a shift. The radio shall not be charged underground and shall be charged on the surface in accordance with the procedure for other battery-operated devices such as methane detectors.

(j) The operator shall post the PDO granted by MSHA in unobstructed locations on the bulletin boards and/or in other conspicuous places where notices to miners are ordinarily posted, at all the mines for which the PDO granted by MSHA applies, for a period of not less than 60 consecutive days and a copy shall be made available to all miners' representatives.

(k) The proposed radios will be available for inspection and testing during MSHA's investigation. As other radios are acquired, if the petition is granted, such radios shall be made available for MSHA inspection. The radios shall be made available for MSHA testing during the investigation.

(l) The Motorola radio is rated IP 66 and IP 68. It is powered by a lithium cell. Two such radios have been purchased by Peabody and are available at Gateway North for examination and testing by MSHA. Peabody has not, itself, tested such radios because it is presumed that MSHA will intend to conduct tests at the mine and would be unlikely to accept Peabody's results.

(m) The miners at Gateway North Mine are not currently represented by a labor organization and this petition is posted at the mine.

In support of the proposed alternative method, the petitioner has also submitted manufacturer product specification sheets for MSHA-approved permissible radios indicating they are no longer available and manufacturer product specification sheets for the proposed Motorola R-7 Portable Two-Way Radio.

The petitioner asserts that the alternative method in the petition will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded to the miners by the standard.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2024-22919 Filed 10-3-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Petition for Modification of Application of Existing Mandatory Safety Standards

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is a summary of a petition for modification submitted to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) by Gibson County Coal, LLC.

DATES: All comments on the petition must be received by MSHA's Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances on or before November 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket No. MSHA-2024-0037 by any of the following methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for MSHA-2024-0037.

2. *Fax:* 202-693-9441.

3. *Email:* petitioncomments@dol.gov.

4. *Regular Mail or Hand Delivery:* MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, Virginia 22202-5452.

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I. Background

Section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act) allows the mine operator or representative of miners to file a petition to modify the application of any