

Departmental Information Compliance Management Program, Room N1301, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210; or by email: DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michel Smyth by telephone at 202–693–4129, TTY 202–693–8064, (these are not toll-free numbers) or sending an email to DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This ICR seeks approval under the PRA for the Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Accrediting Entity Information collection. This ICR will enable ETA to collect essential data under Training and Employment Notice (TEN) No. 3–18 titled, “Creating Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs to Expand Opportunity in America,” established under the statutory authority of the National Apprenticeship Act (29 U.S.C. 50), concerning the operational characteristics of certain industry-recognized apprenticeship programs. According to the TEN, these new industry-recognized apprenticeship programs will be reviewed and recognized by qualified accrediting entities; the accrediting entities, in turn, may request a determination from the Department concerning their qualifications. The TEN, pending a rulemaking to amend 29 CFR part 29, provides interim information and guidance to accreditors on the process for obtaining a determination from the Department on whether that entity’s standards meet the criteria outlined in TEN No. 3–18. To obtain a favorable determination from the Department, the accrediting entity should, among other things, demonstrate that it has received broad sector-wide input and consensus in the setting of industry-wide quality standards. The accrediting entity should also demonstrate that their program accreditation process ensures that the industry programs will operate in a manner consistent with DOL-identified hallmarks of high-quality apprenticeship programs. To collect the information necessary for the Department to determine whether the entity accrediting these industry-recognized apprenticeship programs has satisfied the foregoing criteria, the Department proposes the development of a form titled, “Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Accrediting Entity Information” intended for completion by the accrediting entity, that will enable the Department to determine whether that entity’s standards meet the criteria outlined in the TEN. The National Apprenticeship

Act of 1937 authorizes this information collection. *See* 29 U.S.C. 50.

This proposed information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by the OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a valid Control Number. *See* 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the **Federal Register*** on September 20, 2018 (83 FR 47643).

Interested parties are encouraged to send comments to the OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section within thirty (30) days of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. In order to help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB Control Number 201812–1205–001. The OMB is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Agency: DOL–ETA.

Title of Collection: Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Accrediting Entity Information.

OMB ICR Reference Number: 201812–1205–001.

Affected Public: Private Sector—businesses or other for-profits and not-for-profit institutions.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 300.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 308.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 10,030 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: \$0.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D).

Dated: December 20, 2018.

Michel Smyth,

Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–28044 Filed 12–26–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–FR–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Petitions for Modification of Application of Existing Mandatory Safety Standard

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is a summary of petitions for modification submitted to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) by the parties listed below.

DATES: All comments on the petitions must be received by MSHA’s Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances on or before January 28, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit your comments, identified by “docket number” on the subject line, by any of the following methods:

1. *Email:* zzMSHA-comments@dol.gov. Include the docket number of the petition in the subject line of the message.

2. *Facsimile:* 202–693–9441.

3. *Regular Mail or Hand Delivery:* MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, Virginia 22202–5452, Attention: Sheila McConnell, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances. Persons delivering documents are required to check in at the receptionist’s desk in Suite 4E401. Individuals may inspect a copy of the petitions and comments during normal business hours at the address listed above.

MSHA will consider only comments postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or proof of delivery from another delivery service such as UPS or Federal Express on or before the deadline for comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barbara Barron, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances at 202–693–9447 (voice), barron.barbara@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 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 (Secretary) 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. That the application of such standard to such mine will result in a diminution of safety to the miners in such mine.

In addition, the regulations at 30 CFR 44.10 and 44.11 establish the requirements and procedures for filing petitions for modification.

II. Petitions for Modification

Docket Number: M–2018–020–C.

Petitioner: Signal Peak Energy, LLC, Three Gateway Center, Suite 1500, 401 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222–1000.

Mine: Bull Mountains Mine No. 1, MSHA I.D. No. 24–01950, located in Musselshell County, Montana.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.500(d) (Permissible electric equipment).

Modification Request: The petitioner requests a modification of the existing standard to permit the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in or inby the last open crosscut.

The petitioner states that:

(1) The use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment, includes, but is not limited to, portable, low voltage battery-operated mine transits and total station surveying equipment.

(2) In the alternative to compliance with 30 CFR 75.500(d), the petitioner proposes the following:

—The operator will use the following nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment and similar nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment if it has an ingress protection (IP) rating of 66 or greater, in or inby the last open crosscut subject to the conditions of the Proposed Decision and Order (PDO):

- (a) Sokkia CX–101
- (b) Sokkia Im–101
- (c) Topcon ES–101
- (d) Topcon GM–101
- (e) Leica FlexLine TS03 Manual Total Station
- (f) Leica FlexLine TS07 Manual Total Station

(g) Leica FlexLine TS10 Manual Total Station

—The operator will maintain a logbook for nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment with the equipment, in the location where mine record books are kept, or in the location where the surveying record books are kept. The logbook will contain the date of manufacture and/or purchase of each piece of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment. The logbook will be made available to MSHA on request.

—All nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment to be used in or inby the last open crosscut will be examined by the person operating the equipment prior to taking the equipment underground to ensure it is maintained in safe operating condition. These examinations will include:

(a) Checking the instrument for any physical damage and the integrity of the case;

(b) Removing the battery and inspecting for corrosion;

(c) Inspecting the contact points to ensure a secure connection to the battery;

(d) Reinserting the battery and powering-up and shutting-down to ensure proper connections; and

(e) Checking the battery compartment cover or battery attachment to ensure that it is securely fastened.

—The equipment will be examined at least weekly by a qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.153. The examination results will be recorded weekly in the equipment logbook. Examination entries in the logbook will be maintained for 1 year from the date of entry.

—The operator will ensure that all nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Dates of service will be recorded in the equipment's logbook and will include a description of the work performed.

—The nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment used in or inby the last open crosscut will not be put into service until MSHA has inspected the equipment and determined that it is in compliance with all the terms and condition of the PDO.

—Nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used if methane is detected in concentrations at or above 1.0 percent. When 1.0 percent or more methane is detected while such equipment is being used, the equipment will be de-energized

immediately and withdrawn outby the last open crosscut. All requirements of 30 CFR 75.323 will be complied with prior to entering in or inby the last open crosscut.

—Prior to setting up and energizing nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in or inby the last open crosscut, the surveyor(s) will conduct a visual examination of the immediate area for evidence that the area appears to be sufficiently rock-dusted and for the presence of accumulated float coal dust. If the rock-dusting appears insufficient or the presence of accumulated float coal dust is observed, the equipment will not be energized until sufficient rock-dust has been applied and/or the accumulations of float coal dust have been cleaned up. If nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is to be used in an area not rock-dusted within 40 feet of a working face where a continuous mining machine is used, the area will be rock-dusted prior to energizing the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment.

—All hand-held methane detectors will be MSHA-approved and maintained in permissible and proper operating condition, as defined in 30 CFR 75.320. All methane detectors will provide visual and audible warnings when methane is detected at or above 1.0 percent.

—Prior to energizing nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in or inby the last open crosscut, methane tests will be made in accordance with 30 CFR 75.323. Nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used in or inby the last open crosscut when production is occurring.

—Prior to surveying, the area will be examined, according to 30 CFR 75.360. If the area has not been examined, a supplemental examination according to 30 CFR 75.361 will be performed before any non-certified person enters the area.

—A qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, will continuously monitor for methane immediately before and during the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in or inby the last open crosscut. If there are two people in the surveying crew, both persons will continuously monitor for methane. The other person will either be a qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, or be in the process of being trained to be a qualified person but has yet to make such tests for a period of 6 months, as required in 30 CFR 75.150. Upon completion of the 6-

- month training period, the second person on the surveying crew must become qualified, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, in order to continue on the surveying crew. If the surveying crew consists of one person, that person will monitor for methane with two separate devices.
- Batteries contained in the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will be changed out or charged in intake air outby the last open crosscut. Replacement batteries will be carried only in the compartment provided for a spare battery in the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment carrying case. Before each shift of surveying, all batteries for the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will be charged sufficiently so that they are not expected to be replaced on that shift.
 - When using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in or inby the last open crosscut, the surveyor will confirm by measurement or by inquiry of the person in charge of the section, that the air quantity on the section, on that shift, in the last open crosscut is at least the minimum quantity that is required by the mine's ventilation plan.
 - Personnel engaged in the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will be properly trained to recognize the hazards and limitations associated with the use of such equipment in areas where methane could be present.
 - All members of the surveying crew will receive specific training before using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in or inby the last open crosscut. A record of the training will be kept with the other training records.
 - Within 60 days after the proposed decision and order (PDO) becomes final, the operator will submit proposed revisions for its approved 30 CFR part 48 training plans to the District Manager. These revisions will specify initial and refresher training regarding the terms and conditions of the PDO. When training is conducted on the terms and conditions in the PDO, an MSHA Certificate of Training (Form 5000–23) will be completed and will indicate that it was surveyor training.
 - The operator will replace or retire from service any electronic surveying instrument that was acquired prior to December 31, 2004 within 1 year of the PDO becoming final. Within 3 years of the date that the PDO becomes final, the operator will replace or retire from service any theodolite that was acquired more than 5 years prior to the date that the PDO became final or any total station or other electronic surveying equipment identified in the PDO acquired more than 10 years prior to the date that the PDO became final. After 5 years, the operator will maintain a cycle of purchasing new electronic surveying equipment whereby theodolites will be no older than 5 years from date of manufacture and total stations and other electronic surveying equipment will be no older than 10 years from date of manufacture.
 - The operator will ensure that all surveying contractors hired by the operator are using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in accordance with the requirements in the PDO.
 - The petitioner states that it may use nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment when production is occurring, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) On a mechanized mining unit (MMU) where production is occurring, nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used downwind of the discharge point of any face ventilation controls, such as tubing (including controls such as “baloney skins”) or curtains.
 - (b) Production may continue while nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is used, if the surveying equipment is used in a separate split of air from where production is occurring.
 - (c) Nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used in a split of air ventilating an MMU if any ventilation controls will be disrupted during such surveying. Disruption of ventilation controls means any change to the mine's ventilation system that causes the ventilation system not to function in accordance with the mine's approved ventilation plan.
 - (d) If, while surveying, a surveyor must disrupt ventilation, the surveyor will cease surveying and communicate to the section foreman that ventilation must be disrupted. Production will stop while ventilation is disrupted. Ventilation controls will be reestablished immediately after the disruption is no longer necessary. Production can only resume after all ventilation controls are reestablished and are in compliance with approved ventilation or other plans, and other applicable laws, standards, or regulations.
 - (e) Any disruption in ventilation will be recorded in the logbook required by the PDO. The logbook will include a description of the nature of the disruption, the location of the disruption, the date and time of the disruption and the date and time the surveyor communicated the disruption to the section foreman, the date and time production ceased, the date and time ventilation was reestablished, and the date and time production resumed.
 - (f) All surveyors, section foremen, section crew members, and other personnel who will be involved with or affected by surveying operations will receive training in accordance with 30 CFR 48.7 on the requirements of the PDO within 60 days of the date the PDO becomes final. The training will be completed before any nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment can be used while production is occurring. The operator will keep a record of the training and provide the record to MSHA on request.
 - (g) The operator will provide annual retraining to all personnel who will be involved with or affected by surveying operations in accordance with 30 CFR 48.8. The operator will train new miners on the requirements of the PDO in accordance with 30 CFR 48.5, and will train experienced miners, as defined in 30 CFR 48.6, on the requirements of the PDO in accordance with 30 CFR 48.6. The operator will keep a record of the training and provide the record to MSHA upon request.
- The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded by the existing standard.
- Docket Number:* M–2018–021–C.
- Petitioner:* Signal Peak Energy, LLC, Three Gateway Center, Suite 1500, 401 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222–1000.
- Mine:* Bull Mountains Mine No. 1, MSHA I.D. No. 24–01950, located in Musselshell County, Montana.
- Regulation Affected:* 30 CFR 75.507–1(a) (Electric equipment other than power-connection points; outby the last open crosscut; return air; permissibility requirements).
- Modification Request:* The petitioner requests a modification of the existing standard to permit the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in return airways.
- The petitioner states that:
- (1) The use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment, includes, but is not limited to, portable, low voltage battery-operated mine transits and total station surveying equipment.

(2) In the alternative to compliance with 30 CFR 75.507–1(a), the petitioner proposes the following:

- The operator may use the following nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment and similar nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment if it has an ingress protection (IP) rating of 66 or greater in return airways subject to the conditions of the Proposed Decision and Order (PDO):
 - (a) Sokkia CX–101
 - (b) Sokkia Im–101
 - (c) Topcon ES–101
 - (d) Topcon GM–101
 - (e) Leica FlexLine TS03 Manual Total Station
 - (f) Leica FlexLine TS07 Manual Total Station
 - (g) Leica FlexLine TS10 Manual Total Station
- The operator will maintain a logbook for nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment with the equipment, in the location where mine record books are kept, or in the location where the surveying record books are kept. The logbook will contain the date of manufacture and/or purchase of each piece of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment. The logbook will be made available to MSHA on request.
- All nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment used in return airways will be examined by the person operating the equipment prior to taking the equipment underground to ensure it is maintained in safe operating condition. These examinations will include:
 - (a) Checking the instrument for any physical damage and the integrity of the case;
 - (b) Removing the battery and inspecting for corrosion;
 - (c) Inspecting the contact points to ensure a secure connection to the battery;
 - (d) Reinserting the battery and powering-up and shutting-down to ensure proper connections; and
 - (e) Checking the battery compartment cover or battery attachment to ensure that it is securely fastened.
- The equipment will be examined at least weekly by a qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.153. The examination results will be recorded weekly in the equipment logbook. Examination entries in the logbook will be maintained for 1 year from the date of entry.
- The operator will ensure that all nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Dates of service will be recorded in the equipment's logbook and will include a description of the work performed.

- The nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment used in return airways will not be put into service until MSHA has inspected the equipment and determined that it is in compliance with all the terms and condition of the PDO.
- Nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used if methane is detected in concentrations at or above 1.0 percent. When 1.0 percent or more methane is detected while such equipment is being used, the equipment will be de-energized immediately and withdrawn out of the return airways. All requirements of 30 CFR 75.323 will be complied with prior to entering in the return airways.
- Prior to setting up and energizing nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in return airways, the surveyor(s) will conduct a visual examination of the immediate area for evidence that the area appears to be sufficiently rock-dusted and for the presence of accumulated float coal dust. If the rock-dusting appears insufficient or the presence of accumulated float coal dust is observed, the equipment will not be energized until sufficient rock-dust has been applied and/or the accumulations of float coal dust have been cleaned up. If nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is to be used in an area within 40 feet of a working face where a continuous mining machine is used and the area has not been rock-dusted, the area will be rock-dusted prior to energizing the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment.
- All hand-held methane detectors will be MSHA-approved and maintained in permissible and proper operating condition, as defined in 30 CFR 75.320. All methane detectors will provide visual and audible warnings when methane is detected at or above 1.0 percent.
- Prior to energizing nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in return airways, methane tests will be made in accordance with 30 CFR 75.323.
- Prior to surveying, the area will be examined, according to 30 CFR 75.360. If the area has not been examined, a supplemental examination according to 30 CFR 75.361 will be performed before any non-certified person enters the area.
- A qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, will continuously monitor for methane immediately before and during the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in return airways. If there are two people in the surveying crew, both persons will continuously monitor for methane. The other person will either be a qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, or be in the process of being trained to be a qualified person but has yet to make such tests for a period of 6 months, as required in 30 CFR 75.150. Upon completion of the 6-month training period, the second person on the surveying crew must become qualified, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, in order to continue on the surveying crew. If the surveying crew consists of one person, that person will monitor for methane with two separate devices.
- Batteries contained in the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will be changed out or charged in fresh air out of the return airways. Replacement batteries will be carried only in the compartment provided for a spare battery in the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment carrying case. Before each shift of surveying, all batteries for the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will be charged sufficiently so that they are not expected to be replaced on that shift.
- When using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in return airways, the surveyor will confirm by measurement or by inquiry of the person in charge of the section, that the air quantity on the section, on that shift, in the last open crosscut is at least the minimum quantity that is required by the mine's ventilation plan.
- Personnel engaged in the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will be properly trained to recognize the hazards and limitations associated with the use of such equipment in areas where methane could be present.
- All members of the surveying crew will receive specific training before using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in return airways. A record of the training will be kept with the other training records.
- Within 60 days after the proposed decision and order (PDO) becomes final, the operator will submit proposed revisions for its approved 30 CFR part 48 training plans to the District Manager. These revisions will specify initial and refresher training regarding the terms and conditions of the PDO. When training is conducted

on the terms and conditions in the PDO, an MSHA Certificate of Training (Form 5000-23) will be completed and will indicate that it was surveyor training.

—The operator will replace or retire from service any electronic surveying instrument that was acquired prior to December 31, 2004 within 1 year of the PDO becoming final. Within 3 years of the date that the PDO becomes final, the operator will replace or retire from service any theodolite that was acquired more than 5 years prior to the date that the PDO became final or any total station or other electronic surveying equipment identified in the PDO acquired more than 10 years prior to the date that the PDO became final. After 5 years, the operator will maintain a cycle of purchasing new electronic surveying equipment whereby theodolites will be no older than 5 years from date of manufacture and total stations and other electronic surveying equipment will be no older than 10 years from date of manufacture.

—The operator will ensure that all surveying contractors hired by the operator are using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in accordance with the requirements in the PDO.

—The petitioner states that it may use nonpermissible surveying equipment when production is occurring, subject the following conditions:

(a) On a mechanized mining unit (MMU) where production is occurring, nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used downwind of the discharge point of any face ventilation controls, such as tubing (including controls such as “baloney skins”) or curtains.

(b) Production may continue while nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is used, if the surveying equipment is used in a separate split of air from where production is occurring.

(c) Nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used in a split of air ventilating an MMU if any ventilation controls will be disrupted during such surveying. Disruption of ventilation controls means any change to the mine’s ventilation system that causes the ventilation system not to function in accordance with the mine’s approved ventilation plan.

(d) If, while surveying, a surveyor must disrupt ventilation, the surveyor will cease surveying and communicate to the section foreman that ventilation must be disrupted. Production will stop while ventilation is disrupted.

Ventilation controls will be reestablished immediately after the disruption is no longer necessary. Production can only resume after all ventilation controls are reestablished and are in compliance with approved ventilation or other plans, and other applicable laws, standards, or regulations.

(e) Any disruption in ventilation will be recorded in the logbook required by the PDO. The logbook will include a description of the nature of the disruption, the location of the disruption, the date and time of the disruption and the date and time the surveyor communicated the disruption to the section foreman, the date and time production ceased, the date and time ventilation was reestablished, and the date and time production resumed.

(f) All surveyors, section foremen, section crew members, and other personnel who will be involved with or affected by surveying operations will receive training in accordance with 30 CFR 48.7 on the requirements of the PDO within 60 days of the date the PDO becomes final. The training will be completed before any nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment can be used while production is occurring. The operator will keep a record of the training and provide the record to MSHA on request.

(g) The operator will provide annual retraining to all personnel who will be involved with or affected by surveying operations in accordance with 30 CFR 48.8. The operator will train new miners on the requirements of the PDO in accordance with 30 CFR 48.5, and will train experienced miners, as defined in 30 CFR 48.6, on the requirements of the PDO in accordance with 30 CFR 48.6. The operator will keep a record of the training and provide the record to MSHA on request.

The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded by the existing standard.

Docket Number: M-2018-022-C.

Petitioner: Signal Peak Energy, LLC, Three Gateway Center, Suite 1500, 401 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-1000.

Mine: Bull Mountains Mine No. 1, MSHA I.D. No. 24-01950, located in Musselshell County, Montana.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.1002(a) (Installation of electric equipment and conductors; permissibility).

Modification Request: The petitioner requests a modification of the existing standard to permit the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying

equipment within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces.

The petitioner states that:

(1) The use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment, includes, but is not limited to, portable, low voltage battery-operated mine transits and total station surveying equipment.

(2) In the alternative to compliance with 30 CFR 75.500(d), the petitioner proposes the following:

—The operator will use the following nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment and similar nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment if it has an Ingress Protection (IP) rating of 66 or greater, within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces subject the conditions of the Proposed Decision and Order (PDO):

(a) Sokkia CX-101

(b) Sokkia Im-101

(c) Topcon ES-101

(d) Topcon GM-101

(e) Leica FlexLine TS03 Manual Total Station

(f) Leica FlexLine TS07 Manual Total Station

(g) Leica FlexLine TS10 Manual Total Station

—The operator will maintain a logbook for nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment with the equipment, in the location where mine record books are kept, or in the location where the surveying record books are kept. The logbook will contain the date of manufacture and/or purchase of each piece of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment. The logbook will be made available to MSHA on request.

—All nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment to be used within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces will be examined by the person operating the equipment prior to taking the equipment underground to ensure it is maintained in safe operating condition. These examinations will include:

(a) Checking the instrument for any physical damage and the integrity of the case;

(b) Removing the battery and inspecting for corrosion;

(c) Inspecting the contact points to ensure a secure connection to the battery;

(d) Reinserting the battery and powering-up and shutting-down to ensure proper connections; and

(e) Checking the battery compartment cover or battery attachment to ensure that it is securely fastened.

- The equipment will be examined at least weekly by a qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.153. The examination results will be recorded weekly in the equipment logbook. Examination entries in the logbook will be maintained for 1 year from the date of entry.
- The operator will ensure that all nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Dates of service will be recorded in the equipment's logbook and will include a description of the work performed.
- The nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment used within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces will not be put into service until MSHA has initially inspected the equipment and determined that it is in compliance with all the terms and condition of the PDO.
- Nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used if methane is detected in concentrations at or above 1.0 percent. When 1.0 percent or more methane is detected while the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is being used, the equipment will be de-energized immediately and withdrawn further than 150 feet from pillar workings and longwall faces. All requirements of 30 CFR 75.323 will be complied with prior to entering within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces.
- Prior to setting up and energizing nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces, the surveyor(s) will conduct a visual examination of the immediate area for evidence that the area appears to be sufficiently rock-dusted and for the presence of accumulated float coal dust. If the rock-dusting appears insufficient or the presence of accumulated float coal dust is observed, the equipment will not be energized until sufficient rock-dust has been applied and/or the accumulations of float coal dust have been cleaned up. If nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is to be used in an area not rock-dusted within 40 feet of a working face where a continuous mining machine is used, the area will be rock-dusted prior to energizing the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment.
- All hand-held methane detectors will be MSHA-approved and maintained in permissible and proper operating condition, as defined in 30 CFR 75.320. All methane detectors will provide visual and audible warnings when methane is detected at or above 1.0 percent.
- Prior to energizing nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces, methane tests will be made in accordance with 30 CFR 75.323. Nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used within 150 feet of pillar workings or the longwall faces when production is occurring.
- Prior to surveying, the area will be examined, according to 30 CFR 75.360. If the area has not been examined, a supplemental examination according to 30 CFR 75.361 will be performed before any non-certified person enters the area.
- A qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, will continuously monitor for methane immediately before and during the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces. If there are two people in the surveying crew, both persons will continuously monitor for methane. The other person will either be a qualified person, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, or be in the process of being trained to be a qualified person but has yet to make such tests for period of 6 months as required in 30 CFR 75.150. Upon completion of the 6-month training period, the second person on the surveying crew must become qualified, as defined in 30 CFR 75.151, in order to continue on the surveying crew. If the surveying crew consists of one person, that person will monitor for methane with two separate devices.
- Batteries contained in the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will be changed out or charged in fresh air more than 150 feet from pillar workings or longwall faces. Replacement batteries will be carried only in the compartment provided for a spare battery in the nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment carrying case. Before each shift of surveying, all batteries for the electronic surveying equipment will be charged sufficiently so that they are not expected to be replaced on that shift.
- When using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces, the surveyor will confirm by measurement or by inquiry of the person in charge of the section, that the air quantity on the section, on that shift, within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces is at least the minimum quantity that is required by the mine's ventilation plan.
- Personnel engaged in the use of nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will be properly trained to recognize the hazards and limitations associated with the use of such equipment in areas where methane could be present.
- All members of the surveying crew will receive specific training before using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment within 150 feet of pillar workings or longwall faces. A record of the training will be kept with the other training records.
- Within 60 days after the proposed decision and order (PDO) becomes final, the operator will submit proposed revisions for its approved 30 CFR part 48 training plans to the District Manager. These revisions will specify initial and refresher training regarding the terms and conditions of the PDO. When training is conducted on the terms and conditions in the PDO, an MSHA Certificate of Training (Form 5000-23) will be completed and will indicate that it was surveyor training.
- The operator will replace or retire from service any electronic surveying instrument that was acquired prior to December 31, 2004 within 1 year of the PDO becoming final. Within 3 years of the date that the PDO becomes final, the operator will replace or retire from service any theodolite that was acquired more than 5 years prior to the date that the PDO became final or any total station or other electronic surveying equipment identified in the PDO acquired more than 10 years prior to the date that the PDO became final. After 5 years, the operator will maintain a cycle of purchasing new electronic surveying equipment whereby theodolites will be no older than 5 years from date of manufacture and total stations and other electronic surveying equipment will be no older than 10 years from date of manufacture.
- The operator will ensure that all surveying contractors hired by the operator are using nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment in accordance with the requirements in the PDO.
- The petitioner states that it may use nonpermissible surveying equipment when production is occurring, subject to the following conditions:
 - (a) On a mechanized mining unit (MMU) where production is occurring, nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used downwind

of the discharge point of any face ventilation controls, such as tubing (including controls such as “baloney skins”) or curtains.

(b) Production may continue while nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment is used, if the surveying equipment is used in a separate split of air from where production is occurring.

(c) Nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment will not be used in a split of air ventilating an MMU if any ventilation controls will be disrupted during such surveying. Disruption of ventilation controls means any change to the mine’s ventilation system that causes the ventilation system not to function in accordance with the mine’s approved ventilation plan.

(d) If, while surveying, a surveyor must disrupt ventilation, the surveyor will cease surveying and communicate to the section foreman that ventilation must be disrupted. Production will stop while ventilation is disrupted. Ventilation controls will be reestablished immediately after the disruption is no longer necessary. Production can only resume after all ventilation controls are reestablished and are in compliance with approved ventilation or other plans, and other applicable laws, standards, or regulations.

(e) Any disruption in ventilation will be recorded in the logbook required by the PDO. The logbook will include a description of the nature of the disruption, the location of the disruption, the date and time of the disruption and the date and time the surveyor communicated the disruption to the section foreman, the date and time production ceased, the date and time ventilation was reestablished, and the date and time production resumed.

(f) All surveyors, section foremen, section crew members, and other personnel who will be involved with or affected by surveying operations will receive training in accordance with 30 CFR 48.7 on the requirements of the PDO within 60 days of the date the PDO becomes final. The training will be completed before any nonpermissible electronic surveying equipment can be used while production is occurring. The operator will keep a record of the training and provide the record to MSHA on request.

(g) The operator will provide annual retraining to all personnel who will be involved with or affected by surveying operations in accordance with 30 CFR

48.8. The operator will train new miners on the requirements of the PDO in accordance with 30 CFR 48.5, and will train experienced miners, as defined in 30 CFR 48.6, on the requirements of the PDO in accordance with 30 CFR 48.6. The operator will keep a record of the training and provide the record to MSHA on request.

The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded by the existing standard.

Roslyn B. Fontaine,

Deputy Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2018–28047 Filed 12–26–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4520–43–P

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Discount Rates for Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Federal Programs

AGENCY: Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Revisions to Appendix C of OMB Circular A–94.

SUMMARY: The Office of Management and Budget revised Circular A–94 in 1992. The revised Circular specified certain discount rates to be updated annually when the interest rate and inflation assumptions used to prepare the Budget of the United States Government were changed. These discount rates are found in Appendix C of the revised Circular. The updated discount rates are shown below. The discount rates in Appendix C are to be used for cost-effectiveness analysis, including lease-purchase analysis, as specified in the revised Circular. They do not apply to regulatory analysis. The revised Circular can be accessed at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Appendix-C.pdf>.

DATES: The revised discount rates will be in effect through December 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Hernández, Office of Economic Policy, Office of Management and Budget, (202) 395–3585.

Jeffrey Schlagenhauf,

Associate Director for Economic Policy, Office of Management and Budget.

[FR Doc. 2018–27962 Filed 12–26–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110–01–P

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Information Security Oversight Office

[NARA–2019–009]

State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector Policy Advisory Committee (SLTPS–PAC)

AGENCY: National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee Meeting.

SUMMARY: We are announcing a Federal advisory committee meeting of the State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector Policy Advisory Committee.

DATES: The meeting will be on January 30, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: National Archives and Records Administration; 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW; Jefferson Room; Washington, DC 20408.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert J. Skwirot, Senior Program Analyst, by mail at Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO); National Archives Building; 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408, by telephone at 202.357.5398, or by email at robert.skwirot@nara.gov. Contact ISOO at ISOO@nara.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We announce advisory committee meetings in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app 2) and its implementing regulation (41 CFR 101–6).

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss matters relating to the Classified National Security Information Program for State, Local, Tribal, and Private Sector Entities.

The meeting is open to the public. However, due to space limitations and access procedures, you must submit the name and telephone number of individuals planning to attend to the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) no later than Wednesday, January 23, 2019. ISOO will provide additional instructions for accessing the meeting’s location.

Miranda Andreacchio,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–27964 Filed 12–26–18; 8:45 am]

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