

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 (see Exhibits 1 and 2) 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 75.507-1(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 (see Exhibits 3 and 4). Other intrinsically 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.

(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 R-7 Portable Two-Way Radio (HAZ LOC certified by UL standards ANSI/TIA 4950).

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

(c) All non-permissible radios shall 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 shall 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.

(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 detectors.

(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 shall 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.

(m) The miners at Francisco Underground Pit 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. 2024-28516 Filed 12-5-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4520-43-P**

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Sunshine Act Meetings

The National Science Board hereby gives notice of the scheduling of a teleconference of the National Science Board/National Science Foundation Commission on Merit Review (MRX) for the transaction of National Science Board business pursuant to the NSF Act and the Government in the Sunshine Act.

**TIME AND DATE:** The MRX meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2024, from 4:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Eastern.

**PLACE:** This meeting will be via videoconference through the National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314.

**STATUS:** Closed.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** The agenda is: Commission Chair's remarks about the agenda; Discussion of final guidance; Vote for approval of final guidance; and Commission Chair's closing remarks.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Point of contact for this meeting is: Chris Blair, [cblair@nsf.gov](mailto:cblair@nsf.gov), 703/292-7000. Meeting information and updates may be found at [www.nsf.gov/nsb](http://www.nsf.gov/nsb).

**Ann E. Bushmiller,**  
*Senior Counsel to the National Science Board.*

[FR Doc. 2024-28900 Filed 12-4-24; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 7555-01-P**

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## NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

### Sunshine Act Meetings

**TIME AND DATE:** 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 19, 2024.

**PLACE:** via ZOOM.

**STATUS:** Parts of this meeting will be open to the public. The rest of the meeting will be closed to the public.

**MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:** Regular Board of Directors meeting.

The General Counsel of the Corporation has certified that in her opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2) permit closure of the following portion(s) of this meeting: