

maintained in accordance with MSHA standards. Mechanical ventilation equipment of sufficient capacity must operate at all times while miners are in the mine. Ground conditions are subject to frequent changes, thus sufficient tests and examinations are necessary to ensure the integrity of the ventilation system and to detect any changes that may require adjustments in the system. Records of tests and examinations are necessary to ensure that the ventilation system is being maintained and that changes which could adversely affect the integrity of the system, or the safety of the miners are not occurring. These examination, reporting and recordkeeping requirements of §§ 75.310, 75.312, 75.342, 75.351, 75.360 through 75.364, 75.370, 75.371, and 75.382 also incorporate examinations of other critical aspects of the underground work environment such as roof conditions and electrical equipment which have historically caused numerous fatalities if not properly maintained and operated. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 9, 2024 (89 FR 81942).

*Comments are invited on:* (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

This 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 the OMB approves it 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 that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

*Agency:* DOL–MSHA.

*Title of Collection:* Ventilation Plans, Tests, and Examinations in Underground Coal Mines.

*OMB Control Number:* 1219–0088.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profits.

*Number of Respondents:* 225.  
*Frequency:* On occasion.  
*Number of Responses:* 1,910,978.  
*Annual Burden Hours:* 150,674 hours.  
*Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden:* \$69,865.

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

**Michael Howell,**

*Senior Paperwork Reduction Act Analyst.*

[FR Doc. 2025–01523 Filed 1–23–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4510–43–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 Canyon Fuel Company, LLC.

**DATES:** All comments on the petition must be received by MSHA's Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances on or before February 24, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Docket No. MSHA–2025–0012 by any of the following methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for MSHA–2025–0012.
2. *Fax:* 202–693–9441.
3. *Email:* [petitioncomments@dol.gov](mailto:petitioncomments@dol.gov).
4. *Regular Mail or Hand Delivery:*

MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Room C3522, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20210.

*Attention:* S. Aromie Noe, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances. Persons delivering documents are required to check in at the receptionist's desk. 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** S. Aromie Noe, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances at 202–693–9440 (voice), [Petitionsformodification@dol.gov](mailto: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–2025–010–C.

*Petitioner:* Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, 597 South SR 24, Salina, Utah 84654.

*Mine:* Sufco Mine, MSHA ID No. 42–00089, located in Sevier County, Utah.

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

*Modification Request:* The petitioner requests a modification of 30 CFR 75.500(d) to permit an alternate method of compliance for respiratory protection. Specifically, the petitioner proposes to use the Drager X-plore 8000 powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) to protect miners from potential exposure to respirable dust during normal mining conditions, in or inby the last open crosscut.

The petitioner states that:

(a) Sufco Mine is proposing to use the Drager X-plore 8000 PAPR in conjunction with the 3M Versa Flo units that have been approved for use. The 3M Versa Flo unit is highly used in the medical field which causes shortage and backorders of filters and other parts of the unit. Sufco feels that the Drager PAPR would help relieve the issues of storages and backorders for the 3M Versa Flo unit filters and other parts, and so that miners will still be provided a method that provides a direct reduction of miners' exposure to respirable dust, thus reducing their health risks.

(b) The Drager X-plore 8000 PAPR provides a constant flow of filtered air to the miners, which provides a direct reduction of miners' exposure to respirable dust, thus reducing their

health risks. There are no other MSHA-approved units.

(c) The Drager X-plore 8000 PAPRs are ergonomically designed for greater movement in tight workspaces. This respirator has the following features: helps protect against certain airborne contaminants; is easy to use and maintain; has interchangeable components, which will enable Sufco to customize the PAPR system to help meet the needs of our specific application; is intrinsically safe; has audible and visual alarms; has a multi-speed blower; and the battery offers long run time and charges quickly.

(d) The Drager X-plore 8000 is intrinsically safe and certified by UL under the ANSI/UL 60079–11:13 standard to be used in hazardous locations.

(e) The alternative method will provide no less than the same measure of protection afforded the miners under the existing standard.

The petitioner proposes the following alternative method:

(a) The batteries for the PAPRs shall be charged out by the last open crosscut when not in operation.

(b) The batteries shall be charged by the following products: Drager battery Charger for the X-plore 8000 standard charger.

(c) The Drager X-plore 8000 PAPR shall only use the Drager X-plore 8700 battery.

(d) Affected miners shall be trained in the proper use and care of the PAPR units in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

(e) The instrument shall be checked for physical damage and the integrity of the case.

(f) If methane is detected in concentrations of 1.0 percent or more, procedures in accordance with 30 CFR 75.323 shall be followed.

(g) There are no representatives of miners at Canyon Fuel Company, LLC, Sufco Mine. A copy of this petition has been posted on the bulletin board on December 29, 2024.

In support of the proposed alternative method, the petitioner has also submitted manufacturer spec sheets for the Drager X-plore PAPR and certificates of compliance from CSAGroup.

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

**Song-ae Aromie Noe,**

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

[FR Doc. 2025–01648 Filed 1–23–25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4520–43–P**

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

**Request for Comments on the National Science Foundation's Proposed Intellectual Property Options**

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Request for comments. Extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On December 12, 2024, the National Science Foundation (NSF) published in the **Federal Register** a document entitled "Request for Comments on NSF's Proposed Intellectual Property Options." In response to requests by prospective commenters that they would benefit from additional time to adequately consider and respond to the RFC, NSF has determined that an extension of the comment period until Friday, February 21, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. (eastern), is appropriate. NSF also is adding language to clarify the intent for intellectual property options.

**DATES:** The end of the comment period for the document entitled "Request for Comments on NSF's Proposed Intellectual Property Options" published on December 12, 2024 (89 FR 101641), is extended from January 24, 2025, until February 21, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** To respond to this Request for Comments, please use the official submission form available at: <https://airtable.com/app9KPUhqR2lAb4Zf/pag9d0QhLcOXkGlud/form>.

Respondents only need to provide feedback on one or more questions of interest or relevance to them. Each question is voluntary and optional. The response to each question has a 4,000-character limit including spaces.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, please direct questions to Allen Walker through email at [NSF-IPOptions-RFC@nsf.gov](mailto:NSF-IPOptions-RFC@nsf.gov), phone at 703–292–2291, or mail at National Science Foundation, ATTN: Allen Walker, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) seeks public comments to inform the proposed implementation of new intellectual property (IP) provision options for use in NSF public-private partnerships, particularly those advancing research and development, that include co-funding of awards by private partners. NSF is committed to fostering innovation and promoting the translation of research into practical applications. To enhance the effectiveness of public-private partnerships, NSF seeks to implement a set of options for IP provisions that

provide greater flexibility and balance the interests of both academia and industry.

Please note that the intellectual property options discussed herein apply only to NSF awards that stem from direct partnerships between NSF and industry partners prior to issuance of the grant. These types of awards currently represent a small percentage of NSF's overall funding portfolio. NSF defines a direct partnership as an explicit agreement between NSF and one or more other organizations to jointly resource (*i.e.*, via dollars and/or in-kind offerings) a funding opportunity.

These IP options do not apply to the rest of the NSF award portfolio. NSF maintains a consistent policy of not claiming or retaining any intellectual property rights resulting from its awards, including those made through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) awards. NSF shall neither enforce nor participate in any such negotiations between awardees and industry partners. These IP options also do not apply to downstream partnerships, such as those developed by NSF awardees for additional non-NSF resources (financial and/or in-kind), thereby enhancing the activities of the original award.

Recent engagements, including the 2023 NSF-Industry Partnership Summit and subsequent listening sessions, have highlighted the need for optional IP strategies that can adapt to the unique requirements of various funded projects. NSF intends to incorporate these IP options into partnership agreements involving industry and/or non-profit organizations for funding opportunities whose funded awards may result in the generation of IP.

Through this Request for Comments (RFC), NSF invites input from a wide range of stakeholders, including industry, academia, non-profit organizations, other government agencies, and other interested parties.

The 2023 NSF-Industry Partnership Summit and subsequent engagements revealed differing viewpoints in stakeholders' perspectives regarding NSF's existing IP terms. In response, the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) has developed a series of IP grant-of-rights options to address these concerns. These options are informed by the Bayh-Dole Act and aim to promote the practical application and commercialization of federally funded research while preserving potential access to the IP for the U.S. Government.