(11) The #3 Coal Branch Fan will be installed to meet Ventilation Plan requirements as set forth in petitioner's Ventilation Plan.

(12) There is no Three-Phase Utility Power of any voltage available within 9.5 miles.

(13) The borehole location is very remote, approximately 2.2 miles from the substation location, thus would be considered a security risk for damage should the substation be placed there. Mine personnel can be at the borehole location in approximately 45 minutes vs. 5 minutes travel to the current location that is located behind the Preparation Plant of the Main Substation.

(14) Mining is being conducted by another mining company which intersects with Greenbrier Minerals property line. Petitioner states that it could get right of way to build across the other company property line but in subsequent years would have to move two sections of power line, and our substation would be in a blasting area that could lead to damage from flying debris, air-shock, and ground vibrations.

(15) The petitioner requests that the Powellton #1 Mine be allowed to feed both mine power systems and petitioner's #3 Coal Branch Fan Installation on one system where such occurrences of a fault trip on the main feed would be kept to a minimum by utilizing the dual series vacuum breaker configuration. In those rare instances where the dual vacuum breaker configuration should fail, petitioner has included a fully automatic system with a transfer switch and generator that will restore power to the #3 Coal Branch Fan in less than one minute.

(16) The proposed modification would not only ensure operable ventilation, it would also ensure through weekly functional testing that the alternate power supply would function as intended and adequately maintain mine ventilation.

The petitioner asserts that the proposed alternative method will achieve the purpose of the existing standard and will always guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded by the standard.

Docket Number: M–2018–005–M.

Petitioner: Solvay Chemicals, Inc., P.O. Box 1167, 400 County Road 85, Green River, Wyoming 82935.

Mine: Solvay Chemicals, Inc. Mine, MSHA I.D. No. 48–01295, located in Sweetwater County, Wyoming.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 57.4760(a) (Shaft mines).

Modification Request: The petitioner states that the fire control doors located near the #3 shaft in this Class III Gassy Mine presents a diminution of safety to the miners because the installation of control doors or the reversal of mechanical ventilation would affect the main air currents and splits, thus adversely impacting the ventilation system's ability to render and dilute concentrations of toxic gases or methane gas. Additionally, the installation of control doors or the reversal of mechanical ventilation can only be achieved by shutting down the mine's main exhaust fans. Due to the expanse of the mine, evacuation of all personnel underground to the surface in ten minutes or less is not an alternative means of compliance with the standard.

The petitioner seeks to remove the fire control doors and requests a modification of the existing standard to permit the use of alternative controls in lieu of the installation of control doors.

The petitioner states that:

(1) It requests a modification of 30 CFR 57.4760(a), that authorizes the petitioner to establish an alternative method in lieu of the mandatory safety standard. The petitioner considers the following alternatives to the installation of control doors as acceptable means to control the spread of fire, smoke, and toxic gases underground in the event of a fire specific to the petitioner's mine:

(a) The petitioner currently has four shafts constructed of non-combustible materials. All four existing shafts will be provided with a means of hoisting mine personnel. At all times, two properly maintained escapeways to the surface from the lowest levels will be maintained.

(b) Conveyor belting used underground will be 2G compliant or meet the equivalent flame spread rating.

The petitioner asserts that application of the existing standard will result in a diminution of safety to the miners and that the proposed alternative method will provide the same measure of protection afforded by the standard.

Sheila McConnell,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2018–11037 Filed 5–22–18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4520–43–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

[OMB Control No. 1219–0103]

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Notification of Methane Detected in Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mine Atmospheres

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments on the information collection for Notification of Methane Detected in Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mine Atmospheres.

DATES: All comments must be received on or before July 23, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning the information collection requirements of this notice may be sent by any of the methods listed below.

- *Federal E-Rulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments for docket number MSHA–2018–0005.
- *Regular Mail:* Send comments to USDOL–MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202–5452.
- *Hand Delivery:* USDOL-Mine Safety and Health Administration, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202–5452. Sign in at the receptionist's desk on the 4th floor via the East elevator.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheila McConnell, Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at *MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov* (email); (202) 693–9440 (voice); or (202) 693–9441 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. 813(h), authorizes MSHA to collect information necessary to carry out its duty in protecting the safety and health of miners. Further, section 101(a) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 811, authorizes the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to develop, promulgate, and revise as may be appropriate, improved mandatory health or safety standards for

the protection of life and prevention of injuries in coal or other mines.

Methane is a flammable gas found in underground mines in the United States. Although methane is often associated with underground coal mines, it also occurs in some metal and nonmetal mines. Underground metal and nonmetal mines are categorized according to the potential to liberate methane (30 CFR 57.22003—Mine category or subcategory). Methane is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas, and it tends to rise to the roof of a mine because it is lighter than air. Although methane itself is nontoxic, its presence reduces the oxygen content by dilution when mixed with air and, consequently, can act as an asphyxiant when present in large quantities.

Methane may enter the mining environment from a variety of sources including fractures, faults, or shear zones overlying or underlying the strata that surround the ore body, or from the ore body itself. It may occur as an occluded gas within the ore body. Methane mixed with air is explosive in the range of 5 to 15 percent, provided that 12 percent or more oxygen is present. The presence of dust containing volatile matter in the mine atmosphere may further enhance the explosion potential of methane in a mine. Section 103(i) of Mine Act requires additional inspections be conducted at mines depending on the amount of methane liberated from a mine.

Title 30 CFR 57.22004(c) requires operators of underground metal and nonmetal mines to notify MSHA as soon as possible if any of the following events occur: (a) There is an outburst that results in 0.25 percent or more methane in the mine atmosphere, (b) there is a blowout that results in 0.25 percent or more methane in the mine atmosphere, (c) there is an ignition of methane, or (d) air sample results indicate 0.25 percent or more methane in the mine atmosphere of a I–B, I–C, II–B, V–B, or Category VI mine. Under sections 57.22239 and 57.22231, if methane reaches 2.0 percent in a Category IV mine or if methane reaches 0.25 percent in the mine atmosphere of a Subcategory I–B, II–B, V–B, or VI mine, MSHA shall be notified immediately. Although the standards do not specify how MSHA is to be notified, MSHA anticipates that the notifications would be made by telephone.

Title 30 CFR 57.22229 and 57.22230 require that the mine atmosphere be tested for methane and/or carbon dioxide at least once every seven days by a competent person or atmospheric monitoring system or a combination of both. Section 57.2229 applies to underground metal and nonmetal mines categorized as I–A, III, and V–A mines where the atmosphere is tested for both methane and carbon dioxide. Section 57.22230 applies to underground metal and nonmetal mines categorized as II–A mines where the atmosphere is tested for methane. Where examinations disclose hazardous conditions, affected miners must be informed. Title 30 CFR 57.22229(d) and 57.22230(c) require that the person performing the tests certify by signature and date that the tests have been conducted. Certifications of examinations shall be kept for at least one year and made available to authorized representatives of the Secretary of Labor.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

MSHA is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection related to Notification of Methane Detected in Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mine Atmospheres. MSHA is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of MSHA's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Suggest methods to 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.

The information collection request will be available on *http://www.regulations.gov.* MSHA cautions the commenter against providing any information in the submission that should not be publicly disclosed. Full comments, including personal information provided, will be made available on *www.regulations.gov* and *www.reginfo.gov.*

The public may also examine publicly available documents at USDOL-Mine Safety and Health Administration, 201 12th South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202–5452. Sign in at the receptionist's desk on the 4th floor via the East elevator.

Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** section of this notice.

III. Current Actions

This request for collection of information contains provisions for Notification of Methane Detected in Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mine Atmospheres. MSHA has updated the data with respect to the number of respondents, responses, burden hours, and burden costs supporting this information collection request.

Type of Review: Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

OMB Number: 1219–0103.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 4.

Frequency: On occasion.

Number of Responses: 213.

Annual Burden Hours: 19 hours.

Annual Respondent or Recordkeeper Cost: $0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Sheila McConnell,

Certifying Officer.

[FR Doc. 2018–11038 Filed 5–22–18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

[OMB Control No. 1219–0119]

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; [Diesel-Powered Equipment in Underground Coal Mines

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments on the