and Recovery, and Retreat Mining Systems When Diesel-Powered Equipment is Operated on a Two-Entry System.

(1) Administrative controls shall be developed establishing procedures for planning and communication of activities which are known to result in elevated carbon monoxide levels which do not present a hazard to miners working inby. All persons working in the two-entry longwall panel shall be trained as to the requirements of these administrative controls. In the case of diesel equipment operators, the training shall include diesel discriminating sensor locations to minimize false alarms. Diesel equipment operators shall be instructed not to idle machines near sensors. Administrative controls shall be used to minimize the number and type of pieces of diesel equipment in the two-entry system, to notify a responsible person on the working section when any diesel equipment is operating in the two-entry system and when welding operations are performed to avoid false alert and alarm signals. These administrative controls shall be incorporated into the mine ventilation plan.

(2) All light duty and heavy-duty diesel-powered equipment not approved and maintained as permissible under 30 CFR part 36 may operate on any two-entry system, except where permissible equipment is required, as long as the equipment includes:

(i) An automatic and manually activated fire suppression system meeting the requirements of 30 CFR 75.1911. The manual fire suppression system shall be capable of being activated from inside and outside the machine's cab. The manual actuator located outside the cab shall be on the side of the machine opposite the engine. The systems shall be maintained in operating condition.

(ii) An automatic engine shut down/fuel shut off system, maintained in operating condition, which is tied into the activation of the fire suppression system.

(iii) An automatic closing, heat-activated shut off valve, maintained in operating condition, on diesel fuel lines either between the fuel injection pump and fuel tank, if the fuel lines are constructed of steel, or connected as close as practical to the fuel tank using steel fittings if fuel lines are constructed of material other than steel.

(iv) A means, maintained in operating condition, to prevent the spray from ruptured diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, and lubricating oil lines from being ignited by contact with engine exhaust system component surfaces such as shielding, conduit, or non-absorbent insulating materials.

(v) Diesel-powered equipment classified as ''heavy-duty'' under 30 CFR 75.1908(a), must include a means, maintained in operating condition, to maintain the surface temperature of the exhaust system of diesel equipment below 302 degrees Fahrenheit. Diesel road graders are considered heavy-duty equipment.

(vi) Diesel-powered rock dust machines and diesel-powered generators, both light duty machines, which are not approved and maintained as permissible under Part 36, may be used in the two-entry system, except where permissible equipment is required, even if they do not meet the requirements provided that:

(A) No miners are located in the work area.

(B) No miners are located in the adjacent parallel entry at any location when either the rock dust machine or generator is operating or located in the two-entry section.

(3) Diesel fuel shall not be stored in the two-entry system. Diesel-powered equipment not approved and maintained under Part 36 shall not be refueled in the two-entry system.

(4) Diesel equipment shall not be used for face haulage equipment on the working section, except that diesels may be used on the working section for cleanup, setup, and recovery, or similar non-coal haulage purposes.

(5) If non-Part 36 diesel-powered equipment needs to be ''jump started'' due to a dead battery in any two-entry system, a methane check by a qualified person using an MSHA approved detector shall be made prior to attaching the ''jumper'' cables. The equipment shall not be ''jump'' started if air contains 1.0 volume per centum or more of methane.

(6) A diesel equipment maintenance program shall be adopted and complied with by the operator. The program shall include the examinations and tests specified in the manufacturers' maintenance recommendations as it pertains to diesel carbon monoxide emissions. A record of these examinations and tests shall be maintained on the surface and be made available to all interested persons.

Skyline Mine #3 has no designated miner's representative.

The petitioner asserts that the alternative method proposed in the petition will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded by 30 CFR 75.350(a).

Song-ae Aromie Noe,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2024–16913 Filed 7–31–24; 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 the party listed below.

DATES: All comments on the petition must be received by MSHA's Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances on or before September 3, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket No. MSHA–2024–0015 by any of the following methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov*. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for MSHA–2024–0015.
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 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, Director, 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 (Mine Act) 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 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–2024–007–C.

Petitioner: Tunnel Ridge, LLC, 184 Schoolhouse Lane, Valley Grove, WV 26060.

Mine: Tunnel Ridge Mine, MSHA ID No. 46–08864, located in Ohio County, West Virginia.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 75.1700, *Oil and gas wells*.

Modification Request: The petitioner requests a modification of the existing standard, 30 CFR 75.1700, to utilize alternative plugging methods to establish and maintain barriers around its Surface Directionally Drilled (SDD) wells.

The petitioner states that:

(a) The Tunnel Ridge Mine's current mine plan has only one known Coal Bed Methane (CBM) well within the current mine plan, the NV99 well (API No. 37–125–23340). This well has never been used for the production of methane.

(b) The unmapped laterals of the NV99 well were inadvertently intersected with the 1 Left Gate Continuous Miner (CM) section. The NV99 well was plugged from the surface, including laterals, with flowable cement. During plugging operations, the production hole, access hole, and laterals of the NV99 CBM well were squeeze cemented with 158% of the calculated total volume.

(c) The 1 Left Gate CM section successfully mined through 3 of the 4 legs of the NV99 well. The mine-throughs of the lateral legs were successfully accomplished by water infusing the well bores.

(d) The NV99 CBM well access hole is now scheduled to have development mining occur within 150 feet due to the 2 Left Gate CM section during July 2024.

(e) The lateral legs of the well are scheduled to be mined through with the 2 Left Longwall (LW) in June 2025.

The petitioner proposes the following alternative method:

(a) District Manager approval required.

(1) A minimum working barrier of 300-feet diameter shall be maintained around all SDD wells until approval to proceed with mining has been obtained from the District Manager.

(2) The working barrier extends around all vertical and horizontal branches drilled in the coal seam and also extends around all vertical and horizontal branches within overlying coal seams subject to caving or subsidence from the coal seam being mined when methane leakage through the subsidence zone is possible.

(3) The District Manager shall choose to approve each branch intersection, each well, or a group of wells as applicable to the conditions.

(4) The District Manager may require a certified review of the proposed methods to prepare the SDD wells for intersection by a professional engineer in order to assess the applicability of the proposed system(s) to the mine-specific conditions.

(b) Mandatory procedures for preparing, plugging, and replugging SDD wells.

(1) Mandatory computations and administrative procedures prior to plugging or replugging.

(i) Probable Error of Location—Directional drilling systems rely on sophisticated angular measurement systems and computer models to calculate the estimated location of the well bore. This estimated hole location is subject to cumulative measurement errors so that the distance between actual and estimated location of the well bore increases with the depth of the hole. Modern directional drilling systems are typically accurate within one or two degrees depending on the specific equipment and techniques. The probable error of location is defined by a cone described by the average accuracy of angular measurement around the length of the hole. In addition to the probable error of location, the true hole location is also affected by underground survey errors, surface survey errors, and random survey errors.

(ii) Minimum Working Barrier Around Well—The minimum working barrier around any CBM well or branches of a CBM well in the coal seam is 50 feet plus the probable error of location. The probable error of location is a reasonable separation between the probable location of the well and mining operations. When mining is within the minimum working barrier distance from a CBM well or branch, the mine operator must comply with the Proposed Decision and Order (PDO) granted by MSHA. CBM wells must be prepared in advance for safe intersection and specific procedures must be followed on the mining section. The District Manager may require a greater minimum working barrier around CBM wells where geologic conditions, historical location errors, or other factors warrant a greater barrier.

(iii) Ventilation Plan Requirements—The ventilation plan shall contain a description of all SDD CBM wells drilled in the area to be mined. This description shall include the well numbers, the date drilled, the diameter, the casing information, the coal seams developed, maximum depth of the wells, abandonment pressures, and any other information required by the District Manager. All or part of this information may be listed on the mine ventilation map. The ventilation plan shall include the techniques that the mine operator plans to use to prepare the SDD wells for safe intersection, the specifications, and steps necessary to implement these techniques, and the operational precautions that are required when mining within the minimum working barrier. In addition, the ventilation plan will contain any additional information or provisions related to the SDD wells required by the District Manager.

(iv) Ventilation Map—The Ventilation map shall contain the following information:

(A) The surface location of all CBM wells in the active mining area and any projected mining area;

(B) Identifying information of CBM wells (*i.e.* API hole number or equivalent);

(C) The date that gas production began from the well;

(D) The coal seam intersection of all CBM wells;

(E) The horizontal extents in the coal seam of all CBM wells and branches;

(F) The outline of the probable error of location of all CBM wells; and

(G) The date of mine intersection and the distance between estimated and actual locations for all intersections of the CBM well and branches.

(2) Mandatory procedures for plugging or replugging SDD wells.

(i) The mine operator shall include in the mine ventilation plan one or more of the following methods to prepare SDD wells for safe intersection:

(A) Cement Plug—Cement may be used to fill the entire SDD hole system. Squeeze cementing techniques are

necessary for SDD plugging due to the lack of tubing in the hole. Cement should fill void spaces and eliminate methane leakage along the hole. Once the cement has cured, the SDD system may be intersected multiple times without further hole preparation. Gas cutting occurs if the placement pressure of the cement is less than the methane pressure in the coal seam. Under these conditions, gas will bubble out of the coal seam and into the unset cement creating a pressurized void or series of interconnected pressurized voids. Water cutting occurs when formation water and standing water in the hole invades or displaces unset cement. Standing water shall be bailed out of the hole or driven into the formation with compressed gas to minimize water cutting. The cement pressure must be maintained higher than the formation pressure until the cement sets to minimize both gas and water cutting. The cementing program in the ventilation plan must address both gas and water cutting. Due to the large volume to be cemented and potential problems with cement setting prior to filling the entire SDD system, adequately sized pumping units with back-up capacity must be used. Various additives such as retarders, lightweight extenders, viscosity modifiers, thixotropic modifiers, and fly ash may be used in the cement mix. The volume of cement pumped should exceed the estimated hole volume to ensure the complete filling of all voids. The complete cementing program, including hole dewatering, cement, additives, pressures, pumping times and equipment must be specified in the ventilation plan. The material safety data sheets (MSDS) for all cements, additives and components and any personal protective equipment and techniques to protect workers from the potentially harmful effects of the cement and cement components shall be included in the ventilation plan. Records of cement mixes, cement quantities, pump pressures, and flow rates and times shall be retained for each hole plugged. The District Manager shall require suitable documentation of the cement plugging in order to approve mining within the minimum working barrier around CBM wells.

(B) Polymer Gel—Polymer gels start out as low viscosity, water-based mixtures of organic polymers that are crosslinked using time-delayed activators to form a water-insoluble, high-viscosity gel after being pumped into the SDD system. Although polymer gel systems never solidify, the activated gel should develop sufficient strength to resist gas flow. A gel that is suitable for treating SDD wells for mine intersection will reliably fill the SDD system and prevent gas-filled voids. Any gel chemistry used for plugging SDD wells shall be resistant to bacterial and chemical degradation and remain stable for the duration of mining through the SDD system. Water may dilute the gel mixture to the point where it will not set to the required strength. Water in the holes shall be removed before injecting the gel mixture. Water removal shall be accomplished by conventional bailing and then injecting compressed gas to squeeze the water that accumulates in low spots back into the formation. Gas pressurization shall be continued until the hole is dry. Another potential problem with gels is that dissolved salts in the formation waters may interfere with the cross-linking reactions. Any proposed gel mixtures shall be tested with actual formation waters. Equipment to mix and pump gels shall have adequate capacity to fill the hole before the gel sets. Back-up units shall be available in case something breaks while pumping. The volume of gel pumped shall exceed the estimated hole volume to ensure the complete filling of all voids and allow for gel to infiltrate the joints in the coal seam surrounding the hole. Gel injection and setting pressures shall be specified in the ventilation plan. To reduce the potential for an inundation of gel, the final level of gel should be close to the level of the coal seam and the remainder of the hole shall remain open to the atmosphere until mining in the vicinity of the SDD system is completed. Packers may be used to isolate portions of the SDD system. The complete polymer gel program, including advance testing of the gel with formation water, dewatering systems, gel specifications, gel quantities, gel placement, pressures, and pumping equipment shall be specified in the ventilation plan. The MSDS for all gel components and any personal protective equipment and techniques to protect workers from the potentially harmful effects of the gel and gel components shall be included in the ventilation plan. A record of the calculated hole volume, gel quantities, gel formulation, pump pressures, and flow rates and times should be retained for each hole that is treated with gel. Other gel chemistries other than organic polymers shall be included in the ventilation plan with appropriate methods, parameters, and safety precautions.

(C) Bentonite Gel—High-pressure injection of bentonite gel into the SDD system will infiltrate the cleat and butt joints of the coal seam near the well bore and effectively seal the conduits against the flow of methane. Bentonite gel is a thixotropic fluid that sets when it stops moving. Bentonite gel has a significantly lower setting viscosity than polymer gel. The lower strength bentonite gel must penetrate the fractures and jointing in the coal seam in order to be effective in reducing formation permeability around the hole. The use of bentonite gel is restricted to depleted CBM applications that have low abandonment pressures and limited recharge potential. In general, these applications will be mature CBM fields with long production histories. A slug of water shall be injected prior to the bentonite gel in order to minimize moisture-loss bridging near the well bore. The volume of gel pumped should exceed the estimated hole volume to ensure that the gel infiltrates the joints in the coal seam for several feet surrounding the hole. Due to the large gel volume and potential problems with premature thixotropic setting, adequately sized pumping units with back-up capacity are required. Additives to the gel may be required to modify viscosity, reduce filtrates, reduce surface tension, and promote sealing of the cracks and joints around the hole. To reduce the potential for an inundation of bentonite gel, the final level of gel should be approximately the elevation of the coal seam and the remainder of the hole should remain open to the atmosphere until mining in the vicinity of the SDD system is completed. The complete bentonite gel program, including formation infiltration and permeability reduction data, hole pretreatment, gel specifications, additives, gel quantities flow rates, injection pressures and infiltration times, must be specified in the ventilation plan. The ventilation plan shall list the equipment used to prepare and pump the gel. The MSDS for all gel components and any personal protective equipment and techniques to protect workers from the potentially harmful effects of the gel and additives shall be included in the ventilation plan. A record of hole preparation, gel quantities, gel formulation, pump pressures, and flow rates and times should be retained for each hole that is treated with bentonite gel.

(D) Active Pressure Management and Water Infusion—Reducing the pressure in the hole to less than atmospheric pressure by operating a vacuum blower connected to the wellhead may facilitate safe intersection of the hole by a coal mine. The negative pressure in the hole shall limit the quantity of methane

released into the higher pressure mine atmosphere. If the mine intersection is near the end of a horizontal branch of the SDD system, air will flow from the mine into the upstream side of the hole and be exhausted through the blower on the surface. On the downstream side of the intersection, if the open hole length is short, the methane emitted from this side of the hole may be diluted to safe levels with ventilation air. Conversely, safely intersecting this system near the bottom of the vertical hole may not be possible because the methane emissions from the multiple downstream branches may be too great to dilute with ventilation air. The methane emission rate is directly proportional to the length of the open hole. Successful application of vacuum systems may be limited by caving of the hole or water collected in dips in the SDD system. Older, more depleted wells that have lower methane emission rates are more amenable to this technique. The remaining methane content and the formation permeability shall be addressed in the ventilation plan. Packers may be used to reduce methane inflow into the coal mine after intersection. All packers on the downstream side of the hole must be equipped with a center pipe so that the inby methane pressure may be measured or so that water may be injected. Subsequent intersections shall not take place if pressure in a packer-sealed hole is excessive. Alternatively, methane produced by the downstream hole may be piped to an in-mine degas system to safely transport the methane out of the mine or may be piped to the return air course for dilution. In-mine methane piping should be protected as stipulated in ''Piping Methane in Underground Coal Mines,'' MSHA IR 1094, (1978). Protected methane diffusion zones may be established in return air courses if needed. Detailed sketches and safety precautions for methane collection, piping and diffusion systems must be included in the ventilation plan. Water infusion prior to intersecting the well will temporarily limit methane flow. Water infusion may also help control coal dust levels during mining. High water infusion pressures may be obtained prior to the initial intersection by the hydraulic head resulting from the hole depth or by pumping. Water infusion pressures for subsequent intersections are limited by leakage around in-mine packers and limitations of the mine water distribution system. If water is infused prior to the initial intersection, the water level in the hole must be lowered to the coal seam elevation before the intersection. The complete pressure management strategy including negative pressure application, wellhead equipment, and use of packers, in-mine piping, methane dilution, and water infusion must be specified in the ventilation plan. Procedures for controlling methane in the downstream hole must be specified in the ventilation plan. The remaining methane content and formation permeability shall be addressed in the ventilation plan. The potential for the coal seam to cave into the well shall be addressed in the ventilation plan. Dewatering methods shall be included in the ventilation plan. A record of the negative pressures applied to the system, methane liberation, use of packers and any water infusion pressures and application time shall be retained for each intersection.

(E) Remedial work—If problems are encountered in preparing the holes for safe intersection, then remedial measures must be taken. The District Manager shall approve remedial work in the ventilation plan on a case-by-case basis.

(ii) The methods approved in the ventilation plan must be completed on each SDD well before mining encroaches on the minimum working barrier around the well or branch of the well in the coal seam being mined. If methane leakage through subsidence cracks is a problem when retreat mining, the minimum working barrier must be maintained around wells and branches in overlying coal seams, or the wells and branches must be prepared for safe intersection.

(c) Mandatory procedures that shall be followed after approval has been granted by the District Manager.

(1) The mine operator, the District Manager, the miners' representative, or the State may request a conference prior to any intersection or after any intersection to discuss issues or concerns. Upon receipt of any such request, the District Manager shall schedule a conference. The party requesting the conference shall notify all other parties listed above within a reasonable time prior to the conference to provide opportunity for participation.

(2) The mine operator must notify the District Manager, the State and the miners' representative at least 48 hours prior to the intended intersection of any CBM well.

(3) The initial intersection of a well or branch typically indicates if the well preparation is sufficient to prevent the inundation of methane.

(4) When mining advances within the minimum barrier distance of the well or branches of the well, the entries that will intersect the well or branches must be posted with a readily visible marking. For longwalls, both the head and tailgate entries must be marked. Marks must be advanced to within 100 feet of the working face as mining progresses. Marks shall be removed after well or branches are intersected in each entry or after mining has exited the minimum barrier distance of the well.

(5) Entries that intersect vertical segments of a well shall be marked with drivage sights in the last open crosscut when mining is within 100 feet of the well. When a vertical segment of a well will be intersected by a longwall, drivage sights shall be installed on 10-foot centers starting 50 feet in advance of the anticipated intersection. Drivage sights shall be installed in both the headgate and tailgate entries of the longwall.

(6) The operator shall ensure that fire-fighting equipment, including fire extinguishers, rock dust, and a sufficient fire hose to reach the working face area of the mine-through (when either the conventional or the continuous mining method is used) is available and operable during all well mine throughs. The fire hose shall be located in the last open crosscut of the entry or room. The operator shall maintain the water line to the belt conveyor tailpiece along with a sufficient amount of fire hose to reach the farthest point of penetration on the section. When the longwall mining method is used, a hose to the longwall water supply is sufficient. All fire hoses shall be connected and ready for use, but do not have to be charged with water during the cut-through.

(7) The operator shall ensure that sufficient supplies of roof support and ventilation materials are available at the working section. In addition, emergency plugs, packers, and setting tools to seal both sides of the well or branch shall be available in the immediate area of the cut-through.

(8) When mining advances within the minimum working barrier distance from the well or branch of the well, the operator shall service all equipment and check for permissibility at least once daily. Daily permissibility examinations must continue until the well or branch is intersected or until mining exits the minimum working barrier around the well or branch.

(9) When mining is in progress, the operator shall perform tests for methane with a handheld methane detector at least every 10 minutes from the time that mining with the continuous mining machine or longwall face is within the minimum working barrier around the well or branch. During the cutting process, no individual shall be allowed on the return side until the mine-

through has been completed and the area has been examined and declared safe. The shearer must be idle when any miners are inby the tail drum.

(10) When mining advances within the minimum working barrier distance from the well or branch of the well, the operator shall calibrate the methane monitor(s) on the longwall, continuous mining machine, or cutting machine and loading machine at least once daily. Daily methane monitor calibration must continue until the well or branch is intersected or until mining exits the minimum working barrier around the well or branch.

(11) When using continuous or conventional mining methods, the working place shall be free from accumulations of coal dust and coal spillages, and rock dust shall be placed on the roof, rib, and floor within 20 feet of the face when mining through the well or branch. On longwall sections, rock dust shall be applied on the roof, rib, and floor up to both the headgate and tailgate pillared area.

(12) Immediately after the well or branch is intersected, the operator shall deenergize all equipment, and the certified person shall thoroughly examine and determine the working place safe before mining is resumed.

(13) After a well or branch has been intersected and the working place determined safe, mining shall continue inby the well a sufficient distance to permit adequate ventilation around the area of the well or branch.

(14) No open flame shall be permitted in the area until adequate ventilation has been established around the well bore or branch. Any casing, tubing or stuck tools shall be removed using the methods approved in the ventilation plan.

(15) No person shall be permitted in the area of the mine-through operation inby the last open crosscut during active mining except those engaged in the operation, including company personnel, personnel from MSHA, and personnel from the appropriate State agency.

(16) The operator shall warn all personnel in the mine of the planned intersection of the well or branch prior to their going underground if the planned intersection is to occur during their shift. This warning shall be repeated for all shifts until the well or branch has been intersected.

(17) The mine-through operation shall be under the direct supervision of a certified person. Instructions concerning the mine-through operation shall be issued only by the certified person in charge.

(18) All miners shall be in known locations and in constant two-way communications with the responsible person when active mining occurs within the minimum working barrier of the well or branch.

(19) The responsible person is responsible for well intersection emergencies. The well intersection procedures must be reviewed by the responsible person prior to any planned intersection.

(20) A copy of the PDO granted by MSHA shall be maintained at the mine and be available to the miners.

(21) The provisions of the PDO granted by MSHA does not impair the authority of representatives of MSHA to interrupt or halt the mine-through operation and to issue a withdrawal order when they deem it necessary for the safety of miners. MSHA may order an interruption or cessation of the mine-through operation and/or a withdrawal of personnel by issuing either a verbal or a written order to that effect to a representative of the operator. Operations in the affected area of the mine may not resume until a representative of MSHA permits resumption of mine-through operations. The mine operator and miners shall comply with verbal or written MSHA orders immediately. All verbal orders shall be committed to writing within a reasonable time as conditions permit.

(22) For subsequent intersections of branches of a well, appropriate procedures to protect the miners shall be specified in the ventilation plan.

(d) Mandatory procedures that shall be followed after SDD intersections.

(1) All intersections with SDD wells and branches that are in intake air courses shall be examined as part of the pre-shift examinations.

(2) All other intersections with SDD wells and branches shall be examined as part of the weekly examinations.

(e) Other requirements.

(1) Within 30 days after the PDO is granted by MSHA, the operator shall submit proposed revisions for its approved 30 CFR part 48 training plan to the District Manager. These proposed revisions shall include initial and refresher training regarding compliance with the terms and conditions stated in the PDO granted by MSHA. The operator shall provide all miners involved in the mine-through of a well or branch with training prior to mining within the minimum working barrier of the next well or branch intended to be mined through.

(2) Within 30 days after the PDO granted by MSHA becomes final, the operator shall submit proposed revisions for its approved mine emergency evacuation and firefighting program of instruction. The operator shall revise the program to include the hazards and evacuation procedures to be used for well intersections. All underground miners shall be trained in this revised program within 30 days of approval.

Tunnel Ridge Mine has no designated miner's representative.

In support of the proposed alternative methos, the Petitioner submitted a certified overview map of Tunnel Ridge Mine with all known CBM wells with horizontal laterals, and the plugging affidavit for the NV99 CBM well.

The Petitioner asserts that the alternative method proposed in the Petition will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded by 30 CFR 75.350(a).

Song-ae Aromie Noe,

Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2024–16915 Filed 7–31–24; 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 the party listed below.

DATES: All comments on the petition must be received by MSHA's Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances on or before September 3, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket No. MSHA–2024–0017 by any of the following methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments for MSHA–2024–0017.
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 4th Floor West. Individuals may inspect copies of the petition and comments during normal