

On June 17, 2015, UHD Alliance filed its original notification pursuant to section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on July 17, 2015 (80 FR 42537).

The last notification was filed with the Department on May 6, 2024. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on June 21, 2024 (89 FR 52094).

Suzanne Morris,

Deputy Director Civil Enforcement Operations, Antitrust Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Workforce Information Advisory Council

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of a virtual WIAC meeting November 6, 2024.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC or Advisory Council) will meet virtually November 6, 2024. Information for public attendance will be posted at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/wiac/meetings several days prior to the meeting date. The meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will take place November 6, 2024. The meeting will begin at 3 p.m. EST and conclude at approximately 5 p.m. EST. Public statements and requests for special accommodations or to address the Advisory Council must be received by 5 p.m. EST Monday, November 4, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held virtually. Registration and information for the public to attend this virtual meeting will be posted on the WIAC website, www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/wiac/meetings. If problems arise accessing the meeting, please contact Donald Haughton, Unit Chief in the Division of National Programs, Tools, and Technical Assistance, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, at 202-203-9209.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Rietzke, Chief, Division of National Programs, Tools, and Technical Assistance, Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room C-4510, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC

20210; Telephone: 202-693-3912; Email: WIAC@dol.gov. Mr. Rietzke is the WIAC Designated Federal Officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: This meeting is being held pursuant to section 308 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) (Pub. L. 113-128), which amends section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 (29 U.S.C. 491-2). The WIAC is an important component of WIOA. The WIAC is a Federal advisory committee of workforce and labor market information experts representing a broad range of national, state, and local data and information users and producers. The WIAC was established in accordance with provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. app.) and will act in accordance with the applicable provisions of FACA and its implementing regulation at 41 CFR 102-3. The purpose of the WIAC is to provide recommendations to the Secretary of Labor (Secretary), working jointly through the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training and the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, to address: (1) the evaluation and improvement of the nationwide workforce and labor market information (WLMI) system and statewide systems that comprise the nationwide system; and (2) how the Department of Labor (Department) and the states will cooperate in the management of those systems. These systems include programs to produce employment-related statistics and state and local WLMI.

The Department anticipates the WIAC will accomplish its objectives by: (1) studying WLMI issues; (2) seeking and sharing information on innovative approaches, new technologies, and data to inform employment, skills training, and workforce and economic development decision making and policy; and (3) advising the Secretary on how the WLMI system can best support workforce development, planning, and program development. Additional information is available at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/wiac/meetings.

Purpose: The WIAC is continually identifying and reviewing issues and aspects of the WLMI system and statewide systems that comprise the nationwide system and how the Department and the states will cooperate in the management of those systems. As part of this process, the Advisory Council meets to gather information and to engage in deliberative and planning activities to facilitate the development and provision

of its recommendations to the Secretary in a timely manner.

Agenda: There are three agenda topics for this meeting. One, review and approve recommendations the WIAC members discussed at the previous meeting held September 9 and 10, 2024. Two, discuss topics for future consideration of the WIAC. Third, determine a workplan for developing the next set of WIAC recommendations. A detailed agenda will be available at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa/wiac/meetings shortly before the November 6, 2024, meeting commences.

The Advisory Council will open the floor for public comment at approximately 4 p.m. EST for approximately 10 minutes. However, that time may change at the WIAC chair's discretion.

Attending the Meetings: Members of the public who require reasonable accommodations to attend the virtual meeting may submit requests for accommodations via email to the email address indicated in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section with the subject line "November 2024 WIAC Meeting Accommodations" by the date indicated in the **DATES** section. Please include a specific description of the accommodations requested and phone number or email address where you may be contacted if additional information is needed to meet your request.

Public Statements: Organizations or members of the public wishing to submit written statements may do so by transmitting them as email attachments in PDF format to the email address indicated in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section with the subject line "November 2024 WIAC Meeting Public Statements" by the date indicated in the **DATES** section. Submitters may include their name and contact information in the body of the email for statements transmitted electronically. Relevant statements received before the date indicated in the **DATES** section will be included in the record of each meeting. No deletions, modifications, or redactions will be made to statements received, as they are public records. Please do not include personally identifiable information in your public statement.

Requests to Address the Advisory Council: Members of the public or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Advisory Council should forward their requests to the contact indicated in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, or contact the same by phone, by the date indicated in the **DATES** section. Oral presentations will be limited to 10

minutes, time permitting, and shall proceed at the discretion of the Advisory Council chair. Individuals with disabilities, or others who need special accommodations, should indicate their needs along with their request.

José Javier Rodríguez,

Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA–2024–0003]

Ballard Marine Construction Lower Olentangy Tunnel Project; Grant of Permanent Variance

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this notice, OSHA grants a permanent variance to Ballard Marine Construction (Ballard) related to work in compressed air environments.

DATES: The permanent variance specified by this notice becomes effective on September 26, 2024 and shall remain in effect until the completion of the Lower Olentangy Tunnel Project or until modified or revoked by OSHA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information regarding this notice is available from the following sources:

Press inquiries: Contact Mr. Frank Meilinger, Director, OSHA Office of Communications, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone: (202) 693–1999; email: meilinger.francis@dol.gov.

General and technical information: Contact Mr. Kevin Robinson, Director, Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor; telephone: (202) 693–1911; email: robinson.kevin@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Copies of this Federal Register notice. Electronic copies of this **Federal Register** notice are available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. This **Federal Register** notice, as well as news releases and other relevant information, also are available at OSHA's web page at <http://www.osha.gov>.

I. Overview

On April 11, 2023, Ballard Marine Construction (Ballard or the applicant), submitted under section 6(d) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (the Act), 29 U.S.C. 655, and 29 CFR 1905.11 (Variances and other relief under Section 6(d)) an application for a permanent variance from several provisions of the OSHA standard that regulates work in compressed air, 1926.803 of 1926 subpart S—Underground Construction, Caissons, Cofferdams, and Compressed Air, and an interim order allowing it to proceed while OSHA considers the request for a permanent variance (OSHA–2024–0003–0002). This notice addresses Ballard's application for a permanent variance and interim order for construction of the Lower Olentangy Tunnel Project in Columbus, Ohio only and is not applicable to future Ballard tunneling projects.

This notice addresses Ballard's application for a permanent variance and interim order from the provisions of the standard that: (1) require the use of the decompression values specified in decompression tables in appendix A of subpart S (29 CFR 1926.803(f)(1)); and (2) require the use of automated operational controls and a special decompression chamber (29 CFR 1926.803(g)(1)(iii) and (xvii), respectively).

OSHA reviewed Ballard's application for the variance and interim order and determined that they were appropriately submitted in compliance with the applicable variance procedures in Section 6(d) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act; 29 U.S.C. 655) and OSHA's regulations at 29 CFR 1905.11 (Variances and other relief under section 6(d)), including the requirement that the applicant inform workers and their representatives of their rights to petition the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health for a hearing on the variance application.

OSHA reviewed the alternative procedures in Ballard's application and preliminarily determined that the applicant's proposed alternatives, on the whole, subject to the conditions in the request and imposed by the interim order, provide measures that are as safe and healthful as those required by the cited OSHA standards. On March 27, 2024, OSHA published a **Federal Register** notice announcing Ballard's application for permanent variance, stating the preliminary determination along with the basis of that determination, and granting the interim

order (89 FR 21274). OSHA requested comments on each.

OSHA did not receive any comments or other information disputing the preliminary determination that the alternatives were at least as safe as OSHA's standard, nor any objections to OSHA granting a permanent variance. Accordingly, through this notice OSHA grants a permanent variance, subject to the conditions set out in this document.

A. Background

The information that follows about Ballard, its methods, and the Lower Olentangy Tunnel Project comes from the Ballard variance application.

Ballard is a contractor for the Lower Olentangy Tunnel Project (the project), that works on complex tunnel projects using innovations in tunnel-excavation methods. The applicant's workers engage in the construction of tunnels using advanced shielded mechanical excavation techniques in conjunction with an earth pressure balanced micro-tunnel boring machine (TBM). Using shielded mechanical excavation techniques, in conjunction with precast concrete tunnel liners and backfill grout, TBMs provide methods to achieve the face pressures required to maintain a stabilized tunnel face through various geologies and isolate that pressure to the forward section (the working chamber) of the TBM.

Ballard asserts that it bores tunnels using a TBM at levels below the water table through soft soils consisting of clay, silt, and sand. TBMs are capable of maintaining pressure at the tunnel face, and stabilizing existing geological conditions, through the controlled use of a mechanically driven cutter head, bulkheads within the shield, ground-treatment foam, and a screw conveyor that moves excavated material from the working chamber. The forward-most portion of the TBM is the working chamber, and this chamber is the only pressurized segment of the TBM. Within the shield, the working chamber consists of two sections: the forward working chamber and the staging chamber. The forward working chamber is immediately behind the cutter head and tunnel face. The staging chamber is behind the forward working chamber and between the man-lock door and the entry door to the forward working chamber.

The TBM has twin man-locks located between the pressurized working chamber and the non-pressurized portion of the machine. Each man-lock has two compartments. This configuration allows workers to access the man-locks for compression and decompression, and medical personnel