SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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. That the application of such standard to such mine will result in a diminution of safety to the miners in such mine.

In addition, the regulations at 30 CFR 44.10 and 44.11 establish the requirements and procedures for filing petitions for modification.

II. Petitions for Modification

Docket Number: M–2016–007–M
Mines: Enka Quarry, MSHA I.D. No. 31–00084, located in Buncombe County, North Carolina; Rockingham Quarry, MSHA I.D. No. 31–00198, located in Richmond County, North Carolina; Lenoir Quarry, MSHA I.D. No. 31–01094, located in Caldwell County, North Carolina; Penrose Quarry, MSHA I.D. No. 31–00111, located in Transylvania County, North Carolina; East Forsyth Quarry, MSHA I.D. No. 31–01919, located in Forsyth County, North Carolina; Cabarrus Quarry, MSHA I.D. No. 31–01357, located in Cabarrus County, North Carolina; and Clear Creek Quarry, MSHA I.D. No. 31–02087, located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Regulation Affected: 30 CFR 56.13010 (Reciprocating-type air compressors)

Modification Request: The petitioner requests a modification of the existing standard to eliminate the designated compressors outlined in this petition to be considered in compliance with the existing standard. The petitioner states that:

1. The compressor industry guidance has shown that the high temperature shutoff switch is not offered as a standard safety feature on an electrically motor-driven reciprocating-type air compressor between 2 horsepower and 30 horsepower. The only time a high temperature shutoff switch is used on a reciprocating-type compressor is when very large compressors (100 horsepower and up) are housed in buildings or containers that could allow intake air to be heated by other environmental influences. However, a high temperature shutoff switch has always been standard for a rotary or screw type compressor that is working off of a combustion engine. When discussing this standard with compressor manufacturers, the first statement that is often made is “are you sure we are referring to a rotary compressor not a reciprocating compressor”.

2. The petitioner states the following facts related to electric motor-driven reciprocating air compressors:

(a) The electric motor does not affect the temperature of the air in the compressor. The compressor and motor are only connected to sheaves on both sides.

(b) Existing 30 CFR 56.13010 states that the temperature switch must be adjusted to shut down the compressor when the normal operating temperature is exceeded by more than 25 percent. This would be virtually impossible because the normal operating temperature is affected by the intake air temperature which can fluctuate by 30 percent or more depending on the geographic location of the air compressor and the time of the year. According to manufacturers, the temperatures of supplied air can typically range from 32 degrees Fahrenheit to 115 degrees Fahrenheit. Due to the fluctuation in temperature ranges, the system could almost never be set to the actual 25 percent above normal temperature. In addition, the temperature of the intake air affects the density of the air which changes the amount of air being compressed during the process. The phenomenon directly affects the output temperature of the air.

(c) High temperature shutoff switches are considered unreliable in many applications because there is no true way to test whether the switch is actually working. To test a high temperature shutoff switch, the temperature would have to be altered to determine if the switch is working properly, which raises safety concerns.

(d) High temperature switches are also very costly and in cases where it was not provided as standard equipment by the manufacturer, installing a switch could void warranty and UL listing of a compressor if not installed by a certified manufacturer’s representative. Not all States have compressor inspection programs, which could potentially allow an unqualified person to install a switch to meet the MSHA standard resulting in potential hazards to persons from a possible faulty installation.

(e) The units included in this petition currently are equipped with multiple safety features that include most of the following:

—Magnetic starter—prevents motor from electrical overload.

—Low oil level switch—prevents unit from operating in low oil conditions.

—Aftercoolers—cools discharge air that allows moisture to condense in the tank.

—Automatic condensate drain—ensures removal of water from tank.

—Unloader valve—relieves pressure on compressor head when unit shuts off. This prevents unit starting underload.

—Safety relief valves—relieves tank pressure at a set PSI to prevent over pressurization of tank. Low pressure relief valves are also utilized at aftercoolers.

—Tank pressure switch—cuts off pressure at a set normal PSI range.

—High amp fuse—cuts off motor if high amps are achieved.

The petitioner further asserts that industry data suggests that the current safety devices as equipped on the compressors offer equal protection to the standard even if they are not equipped with the automatic temperature actuated shutoff mechanism.

Sheila McConnell,
Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2016–27714 Filed 11–17–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4520–43–P

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Sunshine Act Meeting: Board of Directors and Operations & Regulations Committee Telephonic Meetings

AGENCY: Legal Services Corporation

ACTION: Change Notice

SUMMARY: On November 6, 2016, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) published a notice in the Federal Register (81 FR 80666) titled “Board of Directors will meet telephonically on November 22, 2016. The meeting will commence at 2:00 Eastern Standard Time (EST). Immediately following the Board of Directors telephonic meeting, the Operations and Regulations Committee will hold a telephonic meeting.” A correction to change item #2 on the Board of Directors Agenda to read: Consider and act on the Board of Directors’ transmittal to accompany the Inspector General’s Semiannual Report to Congress for the period of April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, all other items remain consecutively the same. This document changes the notice.
by revising the Board of Directors Agenda by changing item #2 of the agenda to read: Consider and act on the Board of Directors’ transmission to accompany the Inspector General’s Semiannual Report to Congress for the period of April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016

CHANGES IN THE MEETING: Item #2 of the Board of Directors Agenda.

DATES: This change is effective November 16, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine Ward, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, Legal Services Corporation, 3333 K Street NW., Washington, DC 20007; (202) 295–1500; kward@lsc.gov.

Dated: November 16, 2016.

Katherine Ward,
Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2016–27918 Filed 11–16–16; 11:15 am]
BILLING CODE 7500–13–P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Applications Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permit applications received under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, Public Law 95–541.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of permit applications received to conduct activities regulated under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act at Title 45 Part 671 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of permit applications received.

DATES: Interested parties are invited to submit written data, comments, or views with respect to this permit application by December 19, 2016. This application may be inspected by interested parties at the Permit Office, address below.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Permit Office, Room 755, Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nature McGinn, ACA Permit Officer, at the above address or ACApermits@nsf.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation, as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95–541), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas a requiring special protection. The regulations establish such a permit system to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants.

Patricia D. Rausch,
Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.