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**From:** E-Rulemaking - MSHA  
**Subject:** MSHA Proximity Detection Systems for Mobile Machines in Underground Mines  
**Attachments:** Arch Coal Comments MSHA RIN 1219 - AB78.pdf

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**From:** Swan, Joe [<mailto:JSwan@archcoal.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 24, 2015 3:50 PM  
**To:** zzMSHA-Standards - Comments to Fed Reg Group  
**Subject:** MSHA Proximity Detection Systems for Mobile Machines in Underground Mines

NOV 24 2015

To Whom it may concern:

Please see attached Arch Coal comments.

Thanks,  
Joe

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**Comments of:  
Arch Coal, Inc.**

**Submitted to:  
Mine Safety and Health Administration**

**In Response to:  
MSHA Proximity Detection Systems for Mobile Machines in Underground  
Mines - Public Hearings for Public Comments**

**MSHA and RIN 1219 – AB78**

**Submitted by:  
Joe Swan  
Director Operations Services  
Arch Coal, Inc.**

*AB78-comm-6*

November 13, 2015

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
New Executive Office Building  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503  
Attn: Desk Officer for MSHA

Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
201 12<sup>th</sup> Street South, Suite 4E401  
Arlington, VA 22209-3939

**Re: MSHA and RIN 1219—AB78**

Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances:

This letter serves as the response of Arch Coal, Inc., on behalf of its operating subsidiaries, ("Arch") to MSHA's request for public comments on the proposed rule on Proximity Detection Systems for Underground Mobile Machines in Underground Mines. Arch is the second largest coal producer in the United States with approximately 4,700 employees. Arch operates mines in Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

While Arch agrees conceptually with the proposed rule, we believe the effective date of the rule should allow for the development of the technology to accomplish the goals of the rule. Arch submits the following comments in that regard:

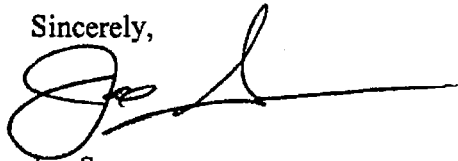
1. With safety as the number 1 priority, Arch believes the implementation of the final rule should be set at a time when the relevant technology is sufficiently developed to satisfy the requirements of the rule. The proximity detection technology is still being developed by vendors, and publishing prematurely will limit the necessary time vendors need to complete development of safe reliable systems. For example, mines with roof control plans that require steel mesh affect the proximity detection system RFI field strength. MSHA and the mining community need additional time to validate the best technologies still being developed.
2. The final rule should reflect a reasonable retrofit timeline for existing mobile machines in underground mines from 36 months to 60 months. This allows vendors time to prepare for this rule as they have stated to the mining industry their concern for accomplishing this retrofit. For example, the proximity detection suppliers have stated they do not have the infrastructure and resources (people and material) available to accomplish the installation of the proximity systems on all existing mobile machines in underground mines not equipped with a proximity detection system on or before the rule to meet the rule's requirements no later than 36 months to 60 months. This allows proximity suppliers time to manufacture and prepare for the resources required to install proximity detection systems.
3. Seeking consideration by MSHA to mirror WV state proximity law regarding the option of mine operators a choice in complying with the new rule by either choosing cameras or proximity detection systems.

4. Concern regarding proximity detection systems installed on bridge/continuous haulage systems. We feel there is not a need for a proximity system on a bridge/continuous haulage system due to the slow movement of the linked/connected system. However, if the decision is made to require this system to have proximity, we ask that MSHA consider only requiring the proximity device to be installed on the first bridge that interfaces with the CM and not the entire bridge/continuous haulage system.
5. Consideration by MSHA to dedicate a team during this phase in period to be devoted to proximity device field modification approvals on diesel permissible coal haulers and scoops as they require field modifications. MSHA states on its web site on the proposed rule, "MSHA acknowledges that it will take time to obtain MSHA approvals to equip coal hauling machines and scoops with proximity detection systems. MSHA must approve miner-wearable components and electrical machines equipped with proximity detection systems as permissible equipment under existing regulations in 30 CFR parts 18. Diesel-powered machines must be approved under existing regulations in 30 CFR part 36."
6. Consideration by MSHA to dedicate a team during this phase in period to be devoted to proximity device development and operation of installing proximity detection systems on shield haulers (mules), shield movers and CAT bolters utilized on set up and teardown of Long Wall Panel Faces. Also, the challenges with undeveloped and unreliable proximity system technology to deal with RFI interference from field growth due to metallic wire mesh and the large parasitic signals incurred from LW shields.

**Closing**

We appreciate the opportunity to share our view and comments on this important safety issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Swan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Swan

Director Operations Services