Description

For remotely operated machines, it may be necessary for the operator to override machine functions to move a machine into a safe location to perform maintenance. Currently, Program Information Bulletin No. 11-24 provides guidance on what types of features can be overridden.

There are four features specifically mentioned in P11-24;

1. Main Machine Circuit-Interrupting Device
2. Remote Traction Motor Circuit Breaker Reset
3. Emergency Stop Override
4. Methane Monitor Failure Override

A fifth feature override is detailed in 30 CFR Part §75.1732 Proximity detection systems (b) (4)

... However, a system with any machine-mounted component that is not functioning properly may allow machine movement if it provides an audible or visual warning signal, distinguishable from other signals, during movement. Such movement is permitted only for purposes of relocating the machine from an unsafe location for repair

Request for ~~Repeal Replace~~ Modify

I submit the request to modify Program Information Bulletin No. 11-24 at the end of the section titled "What is the capability of these features?" to state;

In addition, §75.1732 Proximity detection systems (b) (4) allows for machine movement in the event a component is not working properly and the machine can be moved from an unsafe location.

To move a machine from an unsafe location, a master override of all features may be used if other mine controls are in place.

Justification

It is not the intent that any override be used for normal mining operation of machines and should only be used to move a machine from an unsafe location. As systems mature and technology becomes available, it is not practical to have several individual overrides to move machines from an unsafe location. In addition, as technology becomes available and integrated systems can be developed, systems should develop programming that will perform a self-check that detects functioning systems when in the master override command and not override those functioning systems as a matter of a master override feature.