



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor  
Colleen Callahan, Director

MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF  
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD  
BENTON, ILLINOIS  
December 9, 2021

The following State Mining Board members were present:

Robert Eggerman  
Bernard Harsy  
Michael Huff  
Ronnie Huff, Executive Officer  
Steve Willis

### Call to Order, Roll Call of Board Members

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Ronnie Huff. A roll call of board members was made with all members present. Having a quorum, Ronnie Huff proceeded with the meeting.

### Consideration of the motion to continue the hearing of Nick Hammann before the State Mining Board

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 a complaint against Nick Hammann from the Director of the Department of Natural Resources was filed with the State Mining Board. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the State Mining Board served notice of the complaint to Mr. Hammann and scheduled a hearing on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The legal counsel of Mr. Hammann served a motion to continue to the board on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Since no objection to the motion to continue was filed by the Department of Natural Resources, the Board members voted unanimously to grant the motion to continue. The hearing of Nick Hammann before the State Mining Board was continued generally.

### Public Comments

State Mine Inspector Dave Colombo asked the board about clarification for Section 11.06 of the Illinois Coal Mining Act (225 ILCS 705/11.06).

Sec. 11.06. Should an explosion occur, or a fire that is not promptly extinguished, at any mine in the State, the operator of said mine or his representative shall immediately notify the Department.

Mr. Colombo asked for clarification of the words ‘promptly’ and ‘immediately’. He stated that MSHA’s regulations give 10 minutes to extinguish a fire from the time it is found, and the requirement to report to MSHA is within 30 minutes. The Board members stated they would take the issue into consideration and offer an interpretation of Sec. 11.06 at a future meeting.

Michael Huff motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bernard Harsy seconded the motion. Ronnie Huff adjourned the meeting.