



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF  
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD  
INA, ILLINOIS  
OCTOBER 20, 2011

The following State Mining Board members were present:

Jerry Cross  
William McClusky  
Tim Kirkpatrick  
Don Stewart  
George Teegarden  
Mike Woods, Executive Officer

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Mike Woods, Office Director Angleton had a prior commitment and Mr. Woods was acting as executive officer in his absence. A roll call of board members was made with all members with the exception of Board member Webb in attendance. Having a quorum of board members present, Mr. Woods proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes from the July 29, 2011 State Mining Board meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.

The first item on the agenda was state emergency response plans and Executive Officer Woods indicated to the board that all companies were in compliance with submitting the required plans and no action would be required by the board.

The next item of discussion was the proposed Illinois Electrical Certification program. State Mine Inspector Larry Jenkel first addressed the Board regarding what authority the state currently had pursuant to a person qualified to perform electrical work. The agency's surface rules and regulations state the agency could determine a person a coal mine electrician by the Department if it a coal miner electrician program.

Mike Thomas, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC), told the Board the industry was facing a situation where the current corps of qualified electricians was getting older and the coal industry could be facing a shortage of qualified people. The IECC electrical program as well as Rend Lake College's electrical training program was effective July 25, 2011 declared no longer a valid training program and neither college could train and certify individuals as MSHA certified electricians. MSHA would not conduct all testing for electrical certification and individuals were required to pass a five part test. Currently the pass rate for the MSHA exams is extremely low. Mr. Thomas stated IECC in partnership with Rend Lake College were working with the Office of Mines and Minerals to develop an Illinois Electrical Certification program. MSHA allows for state electrical certification programs and work is underway to create the program. Mr. Thomas and Chris Nielson, Rend Lake College, spent the several minutes describing how the program would function and what would be required for certification.

An initial program proposal has been submitted to MSHA's Vincennes district office. The Office of Mines and Minerals and the two community colleges would continue developing the program. Board member Teegarden made a motion that the agency and the two colleges continue their efforts of developing a state electrical program, motion was seconded by Board member McClusky and adopted.

Next item on agenda was the reinstatement of mine examiner certification for Gabe Sutton. Mr. Sutton had his mine examiner certification suspended for one year based on his actions at the White County Coal, LLC, Pattiki Mine in March, 2010. The board took action to suspend Mr. Sutton's certification at its April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Board required that Mr. Sutton appear before the board for his reinstatement. His reinstatement had been placed on the April 21, 2011 agenda but a miscommunication prevented Mr. Sutton from attending the meeting. Mr. Sutton was present for this meeting and was questioned by the Board. Phillip Kittinger, safety director, Pattiki Mine stated to the Board that Alliance Coal was recommending for Mr. Sutton's reinstatement. Board member McClusky made the motion to reinstate Mr. Sutton's mine examiner certification with second from Board member Kirkpatrick. Motion passed.

Pittman Mine Service came before the board pursuant to the proposed construction hoist the company would be using at their White Oak Resources slope project. John Snowden, safety director for Pittman Mine Service gave a brief outline describing various aspects of the hoist and its operation. The construction hoist would be used to raise and lower material and workers; however, personnel and materials will be transported independent of each other. The hoist would be operated by qualified hoist operators certified by the state. Communications would be established with signals for raising and lowering the hoist. Following questions by the Board on the hoist's operation Board member Cross made a motion to accept the installation and use of the construction hoist, second by Board member Kirkpatrick and motion passed.

The final item of discussion was a request for the board to approve a clarification of the requirements for mine rescue. The Mining Board had previously approved requirements for mine rescue following changes to Article 11 in 2006. John Smith, Benton Mine Rescue Station Supervisor, appeared before the board requesting the board approve a clarification of what is required for mine rescue in Illinois. There apparently was confusion on what had previously

been approved and what was being presented to the board would hopefully resolve this confusion. Board member Stewart made a motion to accept the provisions and requirements submitted by Mine Rescue Supervisor Smith with a second by Board member Teegarden and motion passed.

Executive Officer Woods stated there was not further items on the agenda and announced the meeting was adjourned.

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Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

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Jerry Cross, Secretary