



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JULY 17, 2013

The following State Mining Board members were present:

Jerry Cross
Fred Frederking
Tim Kirkpatrick
Don Stewart
George Teegarden
Dave Webb
Mike Woods, Executive Officer

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

The minutes from the April 18, 2013 State Mining Board meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.

The first item on the agenda was an overview of the agency's new coal mine electrician certification program. Jim Hafliger, Supervisor for Mine Education and Operations, stated this program is different from other programs the agency has implemented as the coal industry approached the Office of Mines and Minerals (OMM) about developing a mine electrician certification program. Typically the agency reacts to a legislative or regulatory initiative. Legislation was introduced and adopted by the general assembly giving OMM the authority to issue coal mine electrician certification to qualified individuals. The senate bill was sent to the Governor on June 25th and is awaiting his signature. Mr. Hafliger indicated the Governor has 60 days from the date the bill is received to take action, i.e. signing the bill, vetoing the entire bill or a line item veto. If no action by the Governor at the end of the 60 days, the bill automatically becomes law.

Larry Jenkel, State Mine Inspector – Electrical, briefly discussed the materials provided to the Board relative to the program. The first item was The Memorandum of Understanding between the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and OMM. The MOU was signed on April 29, 2013, which gave approval to OMM to implement a coal mine electrician certification program. Mr. Jenkel outlined the applications for electrical instructors and mine electricians. He read to the Board the eligibility requirements for an individual who was seeking coal mine electrician certification. Board member Cross asked about the fees for this certification and he was told all applicants are required to pay a \$50 application fee. Mr. Cross asked what about individuals who currently hold coal mine electrician certification through MSHA; would they be required to take an examination before issuance of state certification. Mr. Jenkel stated the state would grandfather all current card holders. All state coal operators would be contacted and asked to provide a list of coal mine electricians at their property. Certification would be issued based on the information received.

Next item on the agenda was the presentation of the development plans for the Peabody Midwest Mining, Gateway North Mine. Mr. Cliff Walker, General Manager at the Peabody Midwest Mining, Gateway Mine, addressed the board. The new slope mine will be located approximately one half mile west of Coulterville off State Route 13. The slope will be constructed on the south side of Route 13 and two shafts will be constructed north of Route 13. The coal seam is approximately 300 feet deep and slope is projected to be 2,266 feet in length. The slope will be constructed at an 8 degree slope and will be 20 feet wide and have a finished height of 15 feet. A 60” belt will be installed. The mine will construct a 14 feet diameter intake shaft and a 14 feet diameter exhaust shaft. Both shafts will be blind bores. When in full operation the mine will mine about 3.2 million clean tons annually. Under the present development plans the mine has 22 years of coal reserves and will employ 270 employees. A 12,000 feet long overland conveyor belt will run from the slope mouth to the existing preparation plant. Initially the mine will use the washhouse at the Gateway Mine and bus workers to the new slope. Work on the site is projected to begin in late July or first of August with coal production expected to begin in February, 2015. Board member Kirkpatrick made motion to accept the plans as presented with second by Board member Teegarden and motion passed.

The final item on the agenda was a discussion on first responders. Executive Officer Woods stated this topic has been brought up several times over the past few years due in part to the many issues that have resulted in filling out patient care reports. If first responders were introduced into the mines they would not replace the statutory requirement for EMTs. Mr. Woods has asked Brian Kittinger, EMS Regional Coordinator with IL Dept. of Public Health, to address the board concerning first responders. Board member Webb asked about the requirements for first responders versus EMTs. Mr. Kittinger first indicated that the training requirements for EMTs were increasing both in initial training and continuing education. A first responder would receive training that would allow them to handle or address many of the injuries that occur at a coal mine. A first responder would take a 40 hour initial class with a required 10 hours of annual continuing education. They are recertified every four years.

Discussion followed regarding the documentation of care given by an EMT. Mr. Woods indicated that OMM has nothing to do with EMTs other than requiring that they be in Illinois coal mines. The requirement that a run sheet be completed is not a requirement of OMM but IL Dept. of Public Health. Mr. Woods stated he knew several operators were concerned that filling out a run sheet could result in them getting sued; however, they have a mandate to fill out these reports regardless of a company’s reservations. The IL Dept. of Public Health could choice to

take action if EMTs fail to complete the required run sheets. This action could be one of the following; pulling an EMT's certification, pulling the coal mine provider license or suspending the coal industry's EMS program, which would effectively shut down all Illinois coal mines. Mr. Brian Kittinger asked to address the Board and audience and stated that being in compliance with requirements of Public Health provides protection and indemnity under the state EMS Act if the EMT was acting in good faith. There has not been a successful law suit against anyone when they have complied with the Act.

Board member Kirkpatrick asked if the EMTs would be required to also be certified as a first responder and Mr. Kittinger said no as they already are qualified far above that required for first responder. He indicated being licensed as an EMT is difficult and the first responder provides an opportunity to have more trained individuals available to respond to an accident.

This being the last item on the agenda Executive Officer Woods asked for a motion to adjourn, Board member Stewart made motion to adjourn with second by Board member Teegarden and motion passed.