



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Bruce Rauner, Governor

Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD
INA, ILLINOIS
APRIL 21, 2016

The following State Mining Board members were present:

John Duty
Larry Jones
Randy Lewis
Tom Smith
Jim Steiner
Steve Willis
Jim Hafliger, Executive Officer

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Jim Hafliger and Mr. Hafliger asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Board member Tim Kirkpatrick. The Board's new member, John Duty, was introduced to those in attendance. A roll call of board members was made with all members present. Having a quorum, Mr. Hafliger proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes from the October 22, 2015 State Mining Board meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.

The first item was a presentation by Knight Hawk Coal, LLC representative Tom Hasenstab pursuant to the company's approval of the development plans for the Prairie Eagle East Portal. The new portal will connect to the Prairie Eagle U/G Mine, which is nearing the extent of its fan limits. This mine expansion will be similar to Knight Hawk's Prairie Eagle South Mine. The East Portal will be a drift opening with six entries driven into an approximately 420' x 150'

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boxcut. The proposed mine openings are along the north highwall of the boxcut. These six entries are #3 – 8 from a 10 entry panel and will be mined from the inside to the outside. The portal is located west of Bonnie Creek and coal seam depth at the drift opening is approximately 102 feet. A question was asked about the Bonnie Creek flooding and Mr. Hasenstab indicated a berm would be constructed to help protect the area but it is felt the elevation is sufficient to prevent flooding. Steel canopies will be installed at each mine opening. Each canopy will be approximately 30' in length, 18' in width and 9 ½' in height. They will be pushed into the entry to allow the inby edge of the canopy to extend a minimum of 3' inby the brow. At least 20' of the canopy will extend outby the highwall brow. The company projects to have the pit dug and entries opened into the boxcut by mid-summer. Board member Steiner made a motion to accept the development plans as submitted with second by Board member Willis, motion passed by unanimous vote.

The next item of discussion was two requests by Cowin & Company, Inc. to construct a bleeder and material shaft at Mach Mining, LLC Mach #1 Mine and a bleeder shaft at M-Class Mining LLC, MC #1 and return shaft at M-Class Mining LLC, Viking Mine. Chris Moore from Cowin addressed the board and described the three parts to the proposed shaft construction; shaft collar, raise drilling and shaft lining. Collar construction for the proposed shafts will be similar at each shaft with the shaft width and depth to competent rock being the only major differences. Cowin would be drilling a pilot hole into the underground workings where the drill pipe would be lowered through the pilot hole into the mine and reaming head would then be attached. The cut material would fall to the shaft bottom and disposed of by mine personnel. The speed of drilling will be dictated by the mine's ability to remove the cut material. Mr. Moore provided information on ventilation in the shafts and reaming head revolution speed. He indicated all ventilation would be provided by the mine. Communication would be maintained between the surface drilling operation and underground personnel. The shafts will be isolated from underground workings during the cut through to the surface and will coordinate with the mine on establishing ventilation after completing the cut through. The final phase, shaft lining, will be completed in the manner typically done by Cowin & Company. The company will complete the work at M-Class Mining first and then proceed to the Mach Mining shafts. It is anticipated the depth at M-Class Mining will require 4 ½ to 5 months to complete a shaft. No representative from Mach Mining or M-Class Mining were in attendance to provide their plans for material disposal or ventilation. Board member Willis made a motion to accept only the shaft construction plans submitted by Cowin & Company with second by Board member Steiner. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Final item on the agenda was a request by MaRyan Mining LLC, Shay Mine to increase cache and refuge chamber distances. Executive Officer Hafliger stated that while everyone is given an opportunity to address the Board, the Board is limited in scope to interpreting mining statutes and cannot make an interpretation that is contrary to statute. The Coal Mining Act has set the distances for caches, which leaves no room for the Board to render an interpretation. Wes

Campbell representing MaRyan Mining indicated he understood and that they will go through the legislative process and would appreciate the Board's support. Mr. Hafliker said the Board is an impartial entity and would take the opportunity to review any proposed legislation but could not at this time in absence of legislation render its support.

Having no further business Board member Lewis made a motion to adjourn, second by Board member Jones and motion passed.