

MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF  
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD  
BENTON, ILLINOIS  
APRIL 17, 2008

The following State Mining Board members were present:

Jerry Cross  
Fred Frederking  
Don Stewart  
George Teegarden  
Dave Webb  
Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

Executive Officer Joe Angleton called the meeting to order. A roll call of board members was made with five members in attendance. Having a quorum of board members present, Executive Officer Angleton proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes from the January 31, 2008 State Mining Board meetings were reviewed and accepted as presented.

The first item on the agenda was the presentation of the shaft sinking plans for Sugar Camp Energy's M-Class Mining, LLC, MC #1 Mine located in eastern Franklin County. John Moore and Al Protheroe representing Cowin & Company Inc briefly described the shaft construction project.

Initially the overburden will be removed to a depth of 20 feet for the concrete collar; ground will be sloped back to prevent soil from sliding into the shaft. Small fan used while work is near surface and a large fan with 9,000 CFM used once past 50 feet. The excavation will include drilling and shooting and mucking the broken material. This will be done on 60 foot increments and forms for concrete are 30 feet high. Company will be following specific safety procedures to ensure no debris will fall on workers in shaft, all personnel in shaft will wear body harnesses at all times. The company anticipates 12-14 months to complete the project and one entry is currently being planned to extend from shaft toward the slope. Board member Webb made the motion to accept the plan submittal, seconded by Board member Teegarden and adopted by unanimous vote.

The next item on the agenda was a review of the barricade procedure for White County Coal, Pattiki Mine. A short video was shown to the board on the barricade. A number of questions were discussed; such as, would hanging the curtain be affected by the force of an explosion, time to deploy the barricade in adverse condition. Executive Director Angleton noted that in the

demonstration the Hilti gun jammed, which would cause a delay in constructing a barricade, he suggested a second gun be placed on the barricade sled. He also noted the foam sealant is essential to getting a seal around the uneven ribs and mine roof. In high coal areas, pre-hung barricading material would be required as too much time would be involved in attaching to the roof in high coal. The board discussed the question of the backwall and its ability to withstand 15 psi of overpressure. Executive Officer Angleton stated this question as well as time frame for construction of chamber; purging capability and egress/regress were still unresolved until MSHA published their guidelines.

The final item on the agenda was Emergency Escape Conveyances. A situation had occurred at the Mach Mining, Pond Creek Mine where a fall in the slope trapped approximately 50 employees and evacuation by the escape capsule took 3 hours 20 minutes. Mr. Angleton felt the Board needed to look at the size of escape capsules and consider what size is needed to evacuate miners and/or carry stretchers and possibly perform CPR. The Alimak at Monterey Coal Co., Mine #1 and a similar cage at White County Coal, Pattiki were given as two examples where several miners can be evacuated on each trip and if needed a stretcher could comfortably fit within the cage.

The discussion continued on future mines having larger escape capsules/cages and what if any changes could be made at Mach's Pond Creek Mine. The size of escape capsules has discussed previously but never considered an issue. Executive Officer Angleton expressed his concern for evacuation of injured people with only the escape capsule available. Mr. Angleton asked that a information be collected for the state's underground mines addressing the following questions: which of the existing mines have room for a larger capsule; are any similar in mechanical & physical conveyance as Mach's Pond Creek Mine; and, list the number and type of egress for each mine.

A report will be compiled following receipt of the above information.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

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Jerry Cross, Secretary

