

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD
INA, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 11, 2009

The following State Mining Board members were present:

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

The meeting was called to order by Southern Inspection District Administrator Don McBride as Executive Officer Joe Angleton had been detained and would be late in arriving to the meeting. A roll call of board members was made with all members in attendance. Having a quorum of board members present, Mr. McBride proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes from the April 23, 2009 State Mining Board meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.

The first item on the agenda was shaft sinking development plans by Cowin and Company for the Hillsboro Energy, Deer Run Mine. John Moore and Curt Gibson representing Cowin & Company presented the company's proposal.

The plans being presented today were for the first 170 feet and the company indicated they would come before the Mining Board in October to request approval for the remaining shaft construction.

The initial 26 feet would be removed with an excavator as the subsoil is stiff clay and will apparently hold long enough to allow collar support. A clam shell with muck bucket will next be used in shaft excavation. A 630 loader is available if the company decides to not use the clam shell. The shaft would be sunk in phases with concrete being poured between 2 ½ to 10 feet increments. The concrete wall would be 3 feet thick reinforced with rebar. It was the company's decision not to conduct normal excavation, which would typically be approximately 60 feet. The company will have four to five miners working in the shaft. Do not anticipate any water problems but have contingency plans if it is encountered. Work will be conducted 24/7, which will eliminate problems normally faced with a five day work schedule. Board member Fritzsche made a motion to approve plan, seconded by Board member Webb and approved by board.

The second item on the agenda was a submittal by M-Class Mining for an emergency hoist at their MC #1 Mine. Gary Miles gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed emergency hoist. The hoist would be constructed by Irvin Construction Services, Inc and would be placed at the 22 feet diameter intake/return shaft. This split shaft is 730 feet in depth. Emergency hoist would be semi-automatic with manual over-ride controls. Hoist is rated for 400 feet per minute, the company estimates that 78 miners (most expected working underground) can be evacuated in one hour. Hoist will have four fixed call locations; inside the hoist house, mine level, inside airlock (next to cage landing), and inside cage. Hoist is designed to carry six miners or a stretcher and two miners. Board member Stewart made the motion to accept the company's proposal, seconded by Board member Webb and approved by Board.

The final item on the agenda was presentation by Bill Jankousky, Safety Manager, Prairie State Generating Company, Lively Grove Mine for the company's bottom development plan. The company would continue to use the slope development contractor, Pittman Mine Service to develop the slope bottom area and connect to the intake and exhaust shafts. Pittman Mine Service would be employing qualified miners to perform this work. The bottom development will be in three phases; phase one is development of entries from slope bottom, phase two is turning right and developing entries to exhaust shaft and phase three is turning right and developing to intake shaft. Mr. Jankousky gave a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the roof control and ventilation for the three phase development. Board member Webb made the motion to approve the bottom development plans, seconded by Board member Fritzsche and approved by the Board.

Meeting was adjourned following the above discussion.

Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

Jerry Cross, Secretary