

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD
BENTON, ILLINOIS
MARCH 5, 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

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

The minutes from the October 23, 2008 State Mining Board meetings were reviewed and accepted as presented.

The first item on the agenda was the drift development plans for the Knight Hawk Coal, Prairie Eagle South Mine. Tom Hausenstab, Bill Sanders and Brock Patterson addressed the board regarding the Knight Hawk Coal request. The mine would be developed in a 670 acre reserve. The coal seam was the Herrin #6 that was 5 – 7 feet thick at a depth of 120 – 175 feet. The company was requesting a maximum of 150 feet crosscuts where needed. Board member Webb raised a question on the mine floor being fire clay and using 50 by 50 pillars would create problems. Mr. Hausenstab indicated they were aware of this problem and they would be 60 by 60.

The mine would have five drift entries in a 250 by 500 feet pit. Initially the coal would be deposited on pit floor and a radial stacker used. Eventually the coal would be sent by belt out of the mine and to the prep plant.

As the mine developed it would be passing by the workings of the Arch Minerals, Kathleen Mine and the Bernard Mine. A seismic survey had been conducted previously by Arch Minerals to establish a “mining free” zone around the Bernard Mine and this survey would be used by Knight Hawk. Board member Webb questioned the accuracy of the seismic survey and what did they do to confirm the survey’s accuracy. The company was asked to provide additional information as to what steps were taken for verification of accuracy of the seismic survey.

Board member Fritzsche made a motion to accept the Knight Hawk development plan with the understanding additional information would be provided on the seismic survey. Board member Teegarden seconded the motion and was passed on a unanimous vote.

The recent fatal accident at the Knight Hawk Coal, Prairie Eagle Mine was discussed and company personnel stated they were working on new safeguards pertaining to offloading material. Executive Office Angleton indicated the agency had developed guidelines for loading and unloading on mine properties.

Executive Office Angleton further stated the recent final rules on refuge alternatives provided the industry the guidelines they needed for chambers. He also stated there now was technology available to meet the state requirements for wireless tracking and felt operators who previously were using a dispatcher system for tracking must now employ one of the approved wireless tracking systems. It was understood wireless communications was not yet available. A letter was being sent to all underground operators requesting them to provide the following; policy or rules the company was implementing for employee/vendor material unloading, purchase orders for rescue chambers in place or proposed for your operation(s) and, describe the type of tracking system either in use or proposed for your operation(s)

Meeting was adjourned following the above discussion.

Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

Jerry Cross, Secretary