

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD
INA, ILLINOIS
OCTOBER 22, 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 Executive Officer Joe Angleton. A roll call of board members was made with all members in attendance. Having a quorum of board members present, Mr. Angleton proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes from the August 11, 2009 State Mining Board meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.

The first item on the agenda was slope sinking plan for ICG, Viper Mine as presented by Ray Pittman for Pittman Mine Service, LLC. Operations for slope construction would be similar to that performed by the company at the Prairie State Generating Company, Lively Grove Mine. The coal seam depth at the bottom of slope is 260 feet and the slope will be approximately 1,810 feet in length. Slope width during development will not exceed 20 feet, with a finished width of 15 feet. The excavated height for the slope will be approximately 18 feet.

Pit excavation will maintain a 3 to 1 slope with a sump system installed in the pit to protection against rainfall and rainfall run-off. The pit design calls for the pit to be wider than the Lively Grove slope pit. Mr. Pittman did provide some photographs from their Lively Grove operation to illustrate the initial development of the pit and slope entrance.

Slightly different conditions than at the Lively Grove slope will decrease the distance interval advanced for pouring backfill grout from 200 feet to 150 feet. Also conditions are expected to be wetter due to sand but will not have any problems with aquifers. Mr. Pittman outlined the ventilation and roof control measures the company would follow during construction.

There will be limited bottom development as the slope entry will connect into existing underground mine workings. The slope face will be advanced straight approximately 300 feet to

attach to an existing belt-line. A right hand turn-out angle will be advanced to attach to the existing haulroad. Board Member Teegarden made the motion to approve the slope plan submitted by Pittman Mine Service with second from Board Member Webb and approved by the board.

The next item was the 2nd phase shaft sinking plans submittal by Cowin & Associates for the Patten Mining LLC, Deer Run Mine. Cowin & Associates received approval at the August 11, 2009 State Mining Board meeting for excavating the first 170 feet. Company representative, Herb Gibson, outlined the project. The total depth for the proposed shaft is approximately 501 feet. There will be a four way station at the bottom. The first 170 feet is basically glacial till with the remaining distance in rock. The shaft construction set-up will be similar to what the company used at the Sugar Camp mine. The headframe will be constructed on carrier beams which will be set up on the completed concrete collar. Headframe will be approximately 55 feet high. The mucking operations will be different from Sugar Camp's as a Texas grab will be used rather than a 630 loader. A 630 could be still be used but the Texas grab is more efficient. The grab will hold approximately ½ yard. The grab will dump into a muck bucket. Blasting plan will be similar to the Sugar Camp operation with non-el caps being used for primary shaft excavation. Several questions were answered regarding the explosives and method being used. The concrete shaft lining is done with 20 foot shaft forms, which are lowered and set up and concrete poured after form is set. Mr. Gibson described in detail the installation of the water ring. This will be a ventilation shaft with no intent to handle materials or personnel. He did believe an escape hoist would be installed in the shaft.

Mr. Gibson was asked what fall protection precautions were being made in light of the fatality at the Sugar Camp shaft construction site. He indicated the company has a full fall protection policy and has available for all workers in the shaft 12 retractable tethers, which allows anyone to go anywhere in the shaft and be tethered. The company is unsure why the individual who died would have to be un-tethered since he was apparently only going across the platform to the other side of the shaft. The fall protection policy is being strictly enforced by the company.

Questions were asked if the company anticipated doing any bottom development. Mr. Gibson stated that was not in their plans. They would stub off from the bottom and build bulkheads, which would allow the company to mine into. A question was raised whether they would have to appear before the board if their bottom development work expanded beyond the stub rooms and Mr. Angleton stated they would not as long as the state mine inspector and the state mine inspector at large was in agreement on the work planned. With no further questions, Board Member Webb made a motion to approve the shaft development plans, seconded by Board Member Cross and was unanimously approved by the board.

Meeting was adjourned following the above discussion.

Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

Jerry Cross, Secretary