

MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF  
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD  
BENTON, ILLINOIS  
DECEMBER 15, 2010

The following State Mining Board members were present:

Jerry Cross  
William McClusky  
Tim Kirkpatrick  
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 October 21, 2010 State Mining Board meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.

Simon Stepp, Manager of Engineering, for Patton Mining, LLC, Deer Run Mine came before the Board to present the mine's roof control and ventilation plans for the mine's bottom development. Mr. Stepp indicated to the Board the two plans have been approved by MSHA. The purpose of the provided roof control plan was to detail the development of the slope bottom to establish the permanent ventilation and belting system for the mine. In the bottom development the mine would connect to a 22 foot diameter intake/return airshaft.

Currently the mine is using a 42" belt in the slope but would in the near future replacing it with the permanent 84" belt.

The top is good in the bottom area with limestone present. The main centers will be 100 x 100 but cross cut centers could extend up to 140 feet if adverse mining conditions encountered. Drawing #1 outlined the entry and crosscut lengths for the bottom development. The company was using at the minimum 60" resin bolts. Board member Webb asked if they were taking out shale in the bottom. Mt. Stepp stated the mine floor was a firestone/claystone, which was not too bad if it remained dry as it was more of a clay but did not do well when wet. The company was luck in that there was no water bearing sandstone present. Mr. McBride asked if the company would be asking for approval to make deeper than 20 feet cuts. Mr. Stepp stated yes they would be asking for deeper cut approval.

The initial ventilation for phases I and II will be with ventilation tubing, 48” in diameter. The tubing will be advanced to within 20 feet of the deepest point of penetration. Also, a stopping will be installed with the tubing extending through it after the breakthrough is completed. Mt. Stepp described these steps with the drawings provided in their submittal. For phases III and IV the ventilations tubing will be removed and the permanent ventilation fan will be started. A minimum of 20,000 cfm will be maintained in the last open during phase IV.

The board asked a few general questions regarding the two plans with Mr. Webb making the motion and second by Mr. Kirkpatrick to approve the bottom development roof control plan, motion passed. Mr. Cross made the motion to approve the bottom development ventilation plan and second by Mr. Teegarden, motion passed.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Frontier Kemper on the shaft development plan for Big Ridge Inc., Willow Lake Mine. Tyrone Wright and Brad Eddings representing Frontier Kemper came before the board to present the plans. The shaft would be 16’ in diameter to an approximate depth of 300’. A reinforced concrete collar will be installed for the first 80’ through the unconsolidated material. The remaining distance will be concrete lined with water rings. Company provided the information in the plan regarding their plans for drilling and shooting and would be using a two stage work deck. No one would be on the lower deck when work is being performed on the upper deck. A muck bucket will be used to remove material. All employees would wear fall protection.

Representatives from Willow Lake Mine, Ricky Phillips and James Miller, came before the board at this time to indicate a change in the original plans submitted by Frontier Kemper. Originally, the shaft would be sunk into virgin coal and the mine would drive to the shaft. This is now changed as the mine will mine in advance of the shaft’s completion. The shaft will be located in the 1<sup>st</sup> South Main off the 2<sup>nd</sup> West Main. It was stated there would be no delay in shaft sinking if area is not mined and Frontier Kemper would complete construction under either scenario.

Mr. Phillips and Mr. Miller proceeded to describe the cut-through procedures as they anticipated mine development to be completed by the first of June and the shaft not until mid July, thus having plenty of time to complete development even if there were delays. Stoppings will be constructed in the crosscuts to the left and right of the proposed air shaft intersection. Airlock doors will be constructed inby and outby the proposed air shaft intersection. The airlock doors will remain open until just prior to the shaft holing through into the mine. Frontier Kemper would hold up approximately 2-3 feet from the coal seam and allow the mine to be evacuated before punching through into the mine. A ventilation change would occur after shaft was completed.

Questions were asked by board members regarding the change in plans. Mr. Webb asked if a pilot hole would be drilled in advance of shaft development. The drill hole would only be done at the very end of the sinking. Also, the mine would be creating positive pressure thus alleviating a problem of carbon monoxide entering the mine through the drill hole after shots were fired. It was asked if the company had considered leaving a pillar and sinking into the pillar. The company could complete driving to the shaft through the pillar. This method was not

acceptable to the company. Mr. Webb made a motion to accept Frontier Kemper's shaft development plans with the changes by Willow Lake included and seconded by Mr. Teegarden, motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned following the above discussion.

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Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

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Jerry Cross, Secretary