

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD
BENTON, ILLINOIS
JANUARY 31, 2008

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. Having a quorum of board members present, Executive Officer Angleton proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes from the August 8th and October 18th, 2007 State Mining Board meetings were reviewed and accepted as presented.

Before proceeding to the first item on the agenda, Mike Woods, Manager for the Office of Mines and Minerals gave a brief presentation on a new computer based system for certification. For the past few certification examinations the agency has begun printing an applicant's certificate at the testing site. This eliminated the need to prepare a certificate at a later date and mail it to the applicant.

The new computer based system would allow the entry of all information on applicants at the examinations, thus eliminating data entry at a later day in Springfield. Mr. Woods further stated all certification information would be placed in a web-based database, which would allow operators to check certification numbers for their employees. Work was still being conducted on the computer system but expected it to be available for use in the near future.

A few minutes were taken to view a dvd of the Heintzmann Inflatable Barricade being installed underground. Following the video, Executive Director Angleton indicated the demonstration was useful to him as he saw first hand the advantages and disadvantages in the inflatable barricade. Due to its limited ability to explain into large voids in the mine roof and the potential of being punctured by a spad or nail, he recommended a wood frame be constructed along the roof and ribs. Adding foam sealant along the edge of the inflated barricade would help it become airtight.

The next item on the agenda was the review of company mine plans and Springfield Coal, Knight Hawk Coal and White County Coal were asked to attend the meeting and respond to a number of questions submitted to the companies prior to the meeting.

Springfield Coal was the first company before the board and Bill Jankousky, corporate safety director, addressed the board. He agreed with the comments by Executive Director Angleton and the company would implement his suggestions.

The back wall will be a solid block stopping wall, plastered on both sides and if it is comprised one the inflatable barricades will be placed in front of the block wall. They would no longer have the ability to airlock. Air sampling by using a scsr and stepping out to test atmosphere, Executive Officer indicated discussion with the barricade manufacturer could come up with something other than having to leave the chamber for sampling. The sanitation will be with a porta potty. Area be 20' x 7' x 29' or 4060 cu. ft. and adequate purge air for three purges. Questions were asked about the air skid such as its placement and adjustments of valves. All the regulation of valves will be from the inside the barricade.

Phil Kittinger, safety director for White County Coal Pattiki was next to present his company's plans. Mr. Kittinger stated each crosscut that would be used as a rescue chamber would be measured to determine where the 1x6 framing would be constructed to have an area of 3,000 cu. ft. The back-side wall will be a block wall and would be examined following an explosion to insure its integrity. If it is found damaged materials such as rigid pak foam and curtains will be available to repair the wall or create a new back-side wall. Purging is done with the 21 air tanks available on the sled. The first airlock curtain is built prior to the purging and the second is built during the purging. The curtains are called Hilti curtains and are often used as temporary seals during fire fighting. The each curtain has two Velcro vent holes and an entry door. A Hilti gun would be used to attach the curtain to wood framing and ribs. The rigid pak foam will be sprayed on both sides to create an airtight seal. Mr. Kittinger estimated it would take 5 -7 minutes to construct the first barricade. Executive Office Angleton questioned the ability of miners to deploy the barricade in heavy smoke. It was agreed a demonstration of deployment of the curtain would be done before the next meeting.

The final presentation was from Knight Hawk Coal and Bill Sanders, company safety director, addressed the board. Knight Hawk Coal proposes to use two types of in-place chambers; one in solid and one in an intake escapeway crosscut. Eight questions had been presented to each company and Mr. Sanders stated he was going to comment on each question.

In regard to barricades, Knight Hawk would have the back wall already built and the airlock wall would be a pre-constructed 8x8x16 hollow block wall leaving out the final eight blocks at the top for ventilation. A tube will already be in the constructed wall, which will allow for sampling. The wall will be a dry stack construction with sealant on both sides to ensure it is airtight. A mandoor will be placed in the airlock stoppings. An emergency sled will be in the room and has material to repair the back wall if damaged from an explosion. In regards to the question on the block stopping wall withstanding 15 psi overpressure, Mr. Sanders stated according to a NIOSH study at this time there are no block stoppings capable of withstanding 15 psi overpressure. One of the reasons for keeping out the last blocks for ventilation was in the hope if an explosion

occurred this would also act as a pressure relief and minimize the damage to the wall. As previously stated, a sample tube will be in the wall with a shut off valve. Sampling equipment will be on the emergency sled. Portable toilet will be in the airlock. The typical chamber will be 6'x25'x20 or 3,000 cu. ft. There will be adequate air to purge this area three times.

Board member Stewart asked why props were not being set which could help prevent the stoppings from being compromised. Mr. Sanders indicated props were on the sled for use after an event if needed. Board member Cross asked which type of chamber, off the solid or in the crosscut, would the company use. Mr. Sanders indicated decision still be considered by the company but would probably go with the crosscut option.

There was discussion on what MSHA may eventually require for back walls and the inability of existing stoppings to withstand 15 psi. The company looked at all options and felt the pre-built concept was best for the miners and the blocks out of walls would help prevent a compromise.

American Coal has decided to go with a manufactured chamber (Strada) versus an in-place constructed rescue chamber.

No further items on the agenda the meeting was adjourned.