

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD
REND LAKE COLLEGE
OCTOBER 23, 2008

The following State Mining Board members were present:

Ken Fritzsche
Don Stewart
George Teegarden
Dave Webb
Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

Executive Officer Joe Angleton called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A roll call of board members was made with all members present with the exception of Jerry Cross and Fred Frederking. Having a quorum of board members present, Executive Officer Angleton proceeded with the meeting.

The first item of business was approval by the Board of the minutes for the July 10, 2008 State Mining Board meeting.

The second item was an objection by Fayette Coal Holding, LLC to permits being issued for three wells within their coal holdings. Duane Pulliam, Interim Supervisor for Oil and Gas Division, addressed the board indicating that State Mining Board had jurisdiction when oil drilling was requested through coal reserves. Typically, this matter never has to come before the board as an agreement is reached between the two parties, thus negating the need for intervention by the board. In this situation the rules and regulations that apply to the board's jurisdiction is Section 240.1305b – Requirements in Inactive Mining Areas. This objection by Fayette Coal Holding, LLC was denied by the Oil and Gas Division and felt a hearing was not required due to the failure by Fayette Coal Holding, LLC to submit an objection within 10 days of receipt of application to drill. No action was required of the Board but they agreed with the decision of the Oil and Gas Division.

The next item of discussion was a non-agenda item, the recent fatality at the White County Coal, Pattiki Mine. A description of the accident was presented to the Board and discussion followed on how similar accidents could be prevented in the future. Executive Officer Angleton stated a memo had been sent to all underground operators regarding movement of continuous miners from a finished cut to its next cut. It was noted the last fatality in the state, in 2003 was also an

underground fatality where the miner operator was also pinned between the continuous miner and the coal rib.

The request from Hillsboro Energy for their slope development plan approval was removed from the agenda upon request by the company.

The final item on the agenda was a review of safety requirements for Illinois mines. Executive officer Angleton indicated the mines needed to have a commitment on wireless tracking and communication by the next mining board meeting. All underground operations in Illinois with the exception of Springfield Coal and White County Coal have gone with a manufactured rescue chamber. Discussion followed on the ability of rescue chambers constructed following an explosion to adequately purge the rescue chamber. Also, questions were still being asked whether the chamber walls could be constructed in adverse conditions. Even using the inflatable Heintzmann barricade had problems with coal height. Questions were still being addressed by NIOSH on heat generation in manufactured chambers and the integrity of inflatable chambers to withstand puncturing such as from a roof fall. Discussion continued on several topics regarding manufactured or constructed chambers but it was felt any decisions must wait until NIOSH completes their studies and MSHA has adopted their final rules.

Meeting was adjourned following the above discussion.