

BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS

SUMMARY OF MEETING

July 7, 2015

The following is a summary of the July 7, 2015 Meeting:

- I. Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Randy Moore, Chairman. Members present were Randy Moore, Phillip Hale, Douglas Deel, Ricky O'Quinn and Bennie Johnson. Also present were Bradley Lambert, DMME Deputy Director, Mary Gibson, Regulatory Boards Administrator, Mike Willis, Mine Safety Engineer, Chris Whitt, Emergency Response Coordinator, Robert Clay of Mine Safety and Health Administration and Patty Varner, DMME Administrative Specialist.
- II. Opening statement delivered by Randy Moore, Chairman.
- III. Motion made and seconded to accept July 7, 2015, meeting agenda and approve June 2, 2015, meeting summary. All members were in favor to approve.
- IV. Review of Virginia Substance Abuse Cases (Closed Session)

Of the cases that resulted in hearings, evidence was taken by the Board in closed session, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3711(A)(4) and 45.1-11.35(E). In the closed session, the Board worked out agreements, allowing individuals to return to work conditionally, and took other disciplinary actions including revocation of all certifications held by miners.

- V. Review of cases of Virginia certificate holders
James R. Whitt

Board Decision: The Board agreed to address an unscheduled case involving an urgent situation arising from an ongoing investigation of an ignition / explosion which occurred on June 17, 2015, at Mill Branch Coal Corp. Dorchester Mine, Mine Index No. 14698AB. Division of Mines (DM) Mine Safety Engineer and Emergency Response Coordinator gave testimony to the Board regarding individual safety violations issued on July 1, 2015, to the second shift supervisor, James R. Whitt, during the mine event.

The Board voted unanimously to temporarily suspend immediately Mr. Whitt's first class mine foreman certification pending his appearance before the Board on August 11, 2015.

VI. Open Agenda

Board Administrator Mary Gibson informed the Board that the scheduled report on the oxycontin grant was sent to the Attorney General's Office giving information on moneys remaining, expenditures and number of people served to date.

Mary Gibson will meet on July 8 with the providers group for the purpose of advice on increasing financial aid to best benefit the clients, i.e. assisting with cost such as those the client is now responsible for as part of the treatment program.

Division of Mines Chief Randy Moore reported that he and Deputy Director Lambert met with Virginia Division of Mineral Mining Director Phil Skorupa regarding reciprocating certifications between the two divisions. Presently, the Blaster's certification reciprocity is in place. The Board agreed to allow reciprocity for the general miner. Other certifications later will be reviewed to determine the necessary requirements for reciprocity.

I. Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2015.

II. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.