
VIRGINIA COAL MINE SAFETY BOARD

**Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy
Thursday – November 3, 2016 – 9:30 A.M.**



MINUTES

VIRGINIA COAL MINE SAFETY BOARD

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patti Church
Richard R. Waddell
Billy Joe Powers
Brett Holbrook
Joseph Tate
Tom Asbury

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Harless Mullins
Carroll Dale
Mike Kennedy

OTHERS PRESENT:

M. Randy Moore, Chief, Division of Mines
Mike Willis, DM Safety Engineer
Butch Lambert, Deputy Director, DMME
Gloria Clark, DMLR Recorder
Becky Sanders, AML

Meeting Called To Order

Co Chair Patti Church called the meeting to order. A quorum was established with seven members present.

Co Chair Church called for review of minutes from previous meeting held on May 14, 2015; a motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimous vote taken.

Overview of Virginia Coal Mine Safety Performance and Current Issues

Randy Moore, Chief, Division of Mines, presented an overview of the Virginia coal mine safety performance and current issues for the current year. Mr. Moore discussed what he felt was the biggest achievement which was Virginia mines operated for 14 months without a serious personal injury.

Mike Willis, Mine Safety Engineer, then presented an overview of the Virginia coal mine safety performance and current issues. Coal tonnage production figures for 2015 were down from 15.5 million tons in 2014 to 13.5 million tons. Current tonnage reporting shows a reduction in coal production for Virginia in 2016 to about 13 million tons. The top producing mine in Virginia was CONSOL/Buch with a total production of 4,353,037 tons. Employment figures showed approximately 2730 people working in the coalfields. This is a slight decline from the figures of 2014. (3565 in 2014)

There was one fatal accident reported on March 16, 2015. The accident occurred at Paramount Deep Mine #41 in which the fall of rib pinned the foreman making a pre-shift examination against the shuttle car.. There have been no fatal accidents reported for 2016.

MSHA NFDL (Non-Fatal Days Lost) ratings nationally rose above 3 in 2016 and Virginia's rating remained steady at 2.25 to 2.3. The surface rating was a little high on the national level, but slight decrease was noted in Virginia for 2015. Six serious injuries occurred in 2015 and two (2) have occurred so far in 2016. A recap of the recent Virginia Mine Fires and Explosions was discussed with the group as well as the explosion which occurred at the Dorchester Mine on June 17, 2015.

Substance abuse cases in 2015 totaled 784 and to date, 29 new cases have been reported to the BCME. Twenty-two (22) additional revocations have occurred and five persons have been reinstated for this reporting period. This decline is being attributed to the efforts of the Board of Coal Mining Examiners in addressing the issue of substance abuse as well as a decrease in the number of new miners being hired.

Only five (5) roof falls were reported in 2015 and two serious injuries involved skin control issues. This decline is attributed to the activity of the coal industry.

The number of maps and plans processed for the first three quarters was 502; once final quarter figures are reported, this number could possibly be 600. This information is now being processed electronically and has made the process much simpler for the DM staff to report.

Mike Willis advised that there are currently 47 positions in the Division of Mines and nine of those positions are currently vacant. There will be 10 vacant position soon because one person will be retiring. Mike further advised that as many six persons would be retiring in 2017.

Review of Virginia Coal Mine Safety Awards for 2015

Large Surface Category:

- Lone Mountain Processing – 107,686 Man Hours Worked
- The Black Diamond Company/Wellmore #8 Prep Plant – 99,189 Man Hours Worked
- Apex Energy No. 10 – 73,041 Man Hours Worked
- Paramount Coal Company/Tom's Creek Mine – 79,810 Man Hours Worked
- Humphrey's Enterprises/No. 26 Strip – 51,913 Man Hours Worked

Medium Surface Category:

- Knox Creek Coal Corp/Prep Plant – 40,155 Man Hours Worked
- Omega Highwall/Mill Creek – 31,800 Man Hours Worked
- Pioneer Fuels/Blending Terminal – 31,431 Man Hours Worked

Small Surface Category:

- Paramount Coal/Black Knife – 24,129 Man Hours Worked
- Extra Energy/Virginia Plant No. 1 – 23,438 Man Hours Worked
- The Black Diamond Company/ Wellmore #7 Prep Plant – 14,379 Man Hours Worked
- PB Dirt Movers – 12,090 Man Hours Worked

Large Underground Category:

- CONSOL/Buch 1 – 1,020,800 Man Hours Worked
- Patriot Mining, LLC, No. 2 – 90,528 Man Hours Worked

Medium Underground Category:

- SANW, Inc./Mine No. 4 – 67,070 Man Hours Worked
- D & H Mining No. 2 – 57,320 Man Hours Worked
- AB&J Coal/Mine No. 6 – 43,970
- Bristol Coal Corp/Mine No. 9 – 26,501 Man Hours Worked

Small Underground Category:

- Pioneer Coal Mine No. 1 – 27,130 Man Hours Worked
- Four O Mining Corp./Mine No. 10 – 27,130 Man Hours Worked
- DA Coal Mining, Inc./No. 5 Mine – 21,745 Man Hours Worked

Randy Moore also discussed the various awards recently won by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Division of Mines. These included the award presented by the Interstate Compact Commission for Surface Mine Foreman Continuing Education Program and for the Coal Underground Mining for the Underground Mining Continuing Education.

Mike Willis also advised that at the TRAM Conference, DM received overall first place for the training video “The Miner’s Bond” as well as first place in the Printed Materials Category for the Continuing Education PowerPoint Training for Mine Foreman. The video “The Miner’s Bond” was shown at the National Mine Rescue day in Beckley, WV and to the Board following the Mine Safety Board meeting. The video was well received by both.

Mike Willis also advised the Board that the DM Mine Rescue Team finished in second place on the second day of the competition at the VMI Mine Rescue Contest.

Presentation of New Award Winning DMME Training Video – “The Miner’s Bond”

This video was presented to the Coal Mine Safety Board following the meeting. Video was well received by the Board.

Open Agenda

❖ **Next Meeting: To be announced at a later date.**

Adjournment

Upon a motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Clark
Hearings Coordinator