
VIRGINIA COAL MINE SAFETY BOARD

**Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy
Thursday–December 14, 2017–9:00 A.M.**



MINUTES**VIRGINIA COAL MINE SAFETY BOARD****MEMBERS PRESENT: MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Tom Asbury
Richard Waddell
Brett Holbrook
Harless Mullins
Carroll Dale
Joseph Tate

Patti Church
Mike Kennedy
Billy Joe Powers

OTHERS PRESENT:

M. Randy Moore, Chief, Division of Mines
Mike Willis, DM Safety Engineer

Meeting Called To Order

Temporary Co-Chair Richard R. Waddell called the meeting to order. A quorum was established with seven members present.

Temporary Co-Chair Richard R. Waddell called for review of minutes from previous meeting held on November 3, 2016; a motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimous vote taken.

Randy Moore, Chief, Division of Mines, presented a motion to elect a Co-Chairperson. Rick Waddell was nominated and elected as Co-Chairperson.

Overview Of Virginia Coal Mine Safety Performance And Current Issues

Mike Willis, Mine Safety Engineer, then presented an overview of the Virginia Coal Mine Safety performance and current issues. Coal tonnage production figures for 2016 were 12.3 million tons. Current tonnage reporting shows an increase of about nine percent in coal production for Virginia. The top producing mine in Virginia was CONSOL/Buch with a coal production of approximately 5.3 million tons.

There were no fatal injuries were reported 2017. Most complaints we receive are substance abuse. No ignitions were reported. One inundation was reported at D-18. Roof falls increased from seven (7) to 19 this year. We received three illegal mining complaints. Violations and Closures are around 1200 for the year. Contractor violations are less than 100. We had 20 individual violations. Most individual violations are working without a general miner certification. Substance abuse cases have gone up this year. We had 38 new ones. The Board has revoked 568 people so far. 246 people have been reinstated. There are 16 people currently in suspension. We have six individuals who are permanently revoked.

The number of maps and plans processed so far this year was 617. After final numbers are reported this number will probably be closer to 700. Most mine licenses are submitted electronically now. After the first of the year all exams will be electronic.

Mike Willis stated that we currently have 36 staff with 11 vacancies. There are 47 positions in the Division of Mines. We have eight people who will probably retire within the next two years.

Randy Moore advised the Board of Coal Mine Examiners made a change in the regulation to allow Division of Mined Land Reclamation (DMLR) inspectors who have the Surface Foreman Certification to take an exam to be certified as a Surface Mine Inspector. DMLR inspectors are on mine sites and have experience in that area.

Mike Willis talked about the DM Mine Rescue Team. We have had the team for two years now. We have 11 members. They made 25 mine visits and over 2500 hours of training this year. The team went to the National Mine Rescue Contest. They received a trophy at VMI this year.

Mike Willis discussed the awards recently won by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Division Mines. These included the award presented by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC). The Division of Mines won in the stat category for coal surface mining for Surface Foreman Continuing Education. The Division of Mines won 1st place in the state category for coal underground mining with the video "The Miner's Bond". The Division of Mines received 1st place for the 2017 Surface Foreman Continuing Education from the Training Resources Applied to Mining (TRAM). Carroll Green received the Bill Clemons award for his service to mine rescue.

Mike Willis advised that we are looking at revising our internal risks. This has not been updated in over 20 years. We have a process where every surface mine goes through annually and underground mine every six months. We devise a risk score for every mine in the state.

Review of Virginia Coal Mine Safety Awards for 2016

Large Surface Category:

- Paramount Contura, LLC, 88 Strip – 196,461 employee hours
- Clintwood Elkhorn Mining, LLC, Laurel Branch Surface – 125,893 employee hours
- Dickenson Russell Contura, LLC, McClure River Prep Plant – 122,975 employee hours
- The Black Diamond Company, Wellmore #8 Prep Plant – 101,732 employee hours
- Lone Mountain Processing, Lone Mountain Processing – 88,893 employee hours
- Surface Minerals Company, Huffman Fork – 78,722 employee hours

Medium Surface Category:

- Paramount Contura, LLC, Tom's Creek Prep Plant – 59,060 employee hours
- Revelation Energy, LLC, P-7 Pigeon Creek – 57,101 employee hours
- Ridgetop Development, LLC, #1 – 49,874 employee hours

- Humphreys Enterprises, Inc., No. 27 Strip – 46,983 employee hours
- Ramaco Resources Land Holdings, LLC – 45,550 employee hours
- Clintwood Elkhorn Mining, LLC – Clintwood Elkhorn III – 36,752 employee hours
- Power Fuels, LLC, Power Fuel Blending Terminal,- 29,438 employee hours
- Omega Highwall Mining, LLC, Hill Creek Surface/West Fork – 25,356 employee hours

Small Surface Category:

- Omega Surface Mining, LLC – Louis Lowe Surface Mine – 24,848 employee hours
- C W Augering, Inc., No. 2 – 19,870 employee hours
- Extra Energy, VA Point No. 1 Surface – 13,900 employee hours
- Twin Star Mining, No. 2 Surface – 13,740 employee hours

Large Underground Category:

- Paramont Contura, LLC, Deep Mine #26 – 181,881 employee hours
- Calico Coal, Inc., Meridian #2 – 110,170 employee hours

Medium Underground Category:

- Capital Coal Corporation, No. 9 – 61,210 employee hours
- Jarisa, Inc., Deep Mine #25 – 59,573 employee hours
- AB&J Coal Company, Inc. No. 6 Mine – 49,977 employee hours
- D&H Mining, Inc., No. 2 – 43,725 employee hours

Small Underground Category:

- DaCoal Mining, Inc., No. 5 Mine – 23,320 employee hours
- Four O Mining Corp., No. 10 Mine – 13,818 employee hours

Open Agenda

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

Adjournment

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