



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor  
Colleen Callahan, Director

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD BENTON, ILLINOIS

January 17, 2020

The following State Mining Board members were present:

John Duty  
Bernard Harsy  
Michael Huff  
Ronnie Huff  
Steve Willis  
Don Stewart, Executive Officer

### Call to Order, Roll Call of Board Members

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Don Stewart. A roll call of board members was made with Bob Eggerman absent and all other members present. Having a quorum, Mr. Stewart proceeded with the meeting.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 24, 2019 State Mining Board meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved and accepted as presented.

### Patton Mining LLC, Deer Run Mine – U-Type Bleederless Ventilation and Extended Entry and Crosscuts Centers

Mark Cornell, President of Patton Mining LLC, addressed the Mining Board regarding the company's proposed plan to implement a U-type bleederless ventilation system in their longwall panels and increase entry and crosscut centers. This proposal was presented and discussed in detail during the October 24, 2019 State Mining Board meeting. At that meeting the Board voted

to table the request until the next meeting to give its members more time to research the proposed U-type bleederless ventilation system.

Follow up questions were asked by the board. Bernard Hersy asked if the company planned to go back into the panels that they had previously retreated from. Mark Cornell said that those panels were sealed off and they would not be going back into them. Art Rice asked if Patton Mining was still on schedule to begin this work and was told that they are still on track to start working sometime in March or April.

Executive Officer Stewart asked if this proposal was for permanent mine development or just when adverse conditions existed. Mark Cornell stated the purpose was to stretch the crosscuts out to make everything bigger so the environment is more stable for the seals. They plan to use progressive seals, putting a seal at every crosscut, which will help them reduce the number of seals.

Since there were no further questions, a motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal. Executive Officer Stewart called the roll and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Miner Certification

The purpose of this agenda item was to determine whether the State Mine Inspectors should be teaching the classes for state certification programs such as Mine Examiners and Mine Managers. These classes were being conducted by Illinois Eastern Community College employees at the time of this meeting.

Executive Officer Stewart stated that according to the State Mine Inspector job description, inspectors are to assist with courses of instruction for mine industry employees seeking state mine certification. He requested that the board vote on a motion to have the State Mine Inspectors teach state certification classes going forward.

The inspectors present were asked to give their thoughts and concerns. State Mine Inspector Dave Colombo wanted to make sure the curriculum being taught was consistent between all inspectors for every certification. John Smith, a teacher with Illinois Eastern Community College said that the college does have a consistent curriculum that is given out to every instructor, so they are all on the same page.

It was determined that the inspectors would get together to come up with a consistent curriculum for all to use. Art Rice indicated that all inspectors can teach these classes and that for the most part, these courses already have a consistent curriculum prepared from when the inspectors used to teach these classes. A motion was made and seconded to have the State Mine Inspectors teach

certification classes. Executive Officer Stewart called the roll and the motion passed unanimously.

After the motion passed, Dave Colombo requested that student attendance be tracked to determine if the students who attended classes performed better than those who just elected to take the test without the class. He also requested that the test questions should be reviewed for accuracy before each test is given.

Board Member John Duty made motion to adjourn. Board Member Mike Huff seconded the motion.