



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor

Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD
INA, ILLINOIS
JUNE 11, 2015

The following State Mining Board members were present:

Larry Jones
Tim Kirkpatrick
Randy Lewis
Tom Smith
Jim Steiner
Steve Willis
Jim Hafliger, Executive Officer

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Jim Hafliger. A roll call of board members was made with all members present. Having a quorum, Mr. Hafliger proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes from the April 16, 2015 State Mining Board meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.

The only item on today's agenda is the request by Foresight Energy to increase cross cut centers at the Mach #1 Mine and MC #1 Mine from 150 feet to 200 feet. Parker Phipps, General Manager at Mach Mining, addressed the board stating the Mach Mine has begun tailgate development under MSHA's new bleeder policy going from a three entry to four entry system. Today's request to increase cross cut centers will not only allow the company to catch up on tailgate but development but will provide increased pillar stability. Ventilation will also be

State Mining Board Meeting 6/11/2015

improved as having fewer crosscut will eliminate leakage issues. The company has switched to using auxiliary tubing. Currently the company is mining on 150 foot centers and at times have driven further while waiting for a cross cut to be blown through. The company has found they can still effectively ventilate at beyond 150 feet. The mine has experienced problems during bolting due to horizontal stresses where the top often falls before it can be bolted. Reducing the number of cross cuts in the panel will decrease exposure to this problem.

Gary Miles, Chief Engineer at MC #1 Mine, addressed the board regarding the MC #1 request. He indicated this mine is doing similar to Mach Mine and is going to a four entry tailgate. Having gray shale as the top for much of the mine has created roof control problems and reducing the number of cross cuts in a panel will help reduce the exposure to miners to bad top conditions. As Mr. Phipps had stated regarding air leakage, having 20,000 foot long panels any reduction in cross cuts will definitely benefit panel ventilation.

Executive Officer Hafliger asked the board members if they had any questions or concerns for the two gentlemen.

Board member Willis asked what kind of support was being used for development. Mr. Phipps indicated if in limestone 6 foot bolts and 8 foot if not in limestone. The intersections were 8 foot bolts with straps. Mr. Willis asked what was being done when they start retreating on the longwall. Mr. Phipps stated it had not been approved by MSHA but the company submitted that #4 entry, which is the active tailgate entry in the first panel, will have a single row of pumpable cans, 8 foot skin to skin. The next entry over, which is the belt line entry, will have a double row of pumpable cans 8 foot skin to skin. The #2 entry will be the travelroad and have submitted just for the intersections. Finally, the #1 entry no support is planned. Board member Willis stated ventilation is essential in longwall development and it appeared to him the company has taken steps to ensure the entries remain open.

Board member Jones asked since no line curtain is being used, if the fans were ever shut off during development. Mr. Phipps stated there were regulators or valves that would allow air to be directed up the entry and when the cross cut connection is made air can be redirected and outby entry tubing is then advanced. Line curtain is used on an idle shift but only to ventilate an idle face. The fan is moved up during the idle shift. As long as they can remain in cycle there is no reduction in ventilation and the mine has two fans in use during the entry development.

Board member Kirkpatrick asked if the line curtain was used on weekends and idle shifts and Mr. Phipps stated curtains were maintained during these periods.

State Mine Inspector John Gabby stated to the board he liked the current fan system being employed at the mine as it was keeping everyone out of the dust.

Mr. Phipps added that he would ask the Board give approval that the 200 foot centers apply to bleeder development also as it would provide the same benefits in the bleeders as in gate entry development.

Board member Steiner asked if this approval was for not only for the Mach #1 and MC #1 mines but the Deer Run, which Mr. Phipps responded yes. Mr. Steiner asked were they mining 18 foot entries, again Mr. Phipps stated yes. Mr. Steiner asked Inspector Gabby his opinion on increasing pillar size in the bleeders and Inspector Gabby felt that would definitely be beneficial and was in a favor of the 200 foot centers.

Board member Smith asked with this pillar extension if the company would DTI the auxiliary fans? Mr. Phipps stated the foreman were required to check the fans every four hours, when in operation, but typically do not DTI.

Executive Officer Hafliger asked for clarification that the company's request was not just for the entry development but also included bleeder development, which was confirmed by the Mr. Phipps and Mr. Miles.

Executive Officer Hafliger indicated today's action will only involve the Mach Mine and MC #1 Mine and not the Deer Run Mine as the initial request for pillar extension did not include the Deer Run Mine. Mr. Phipps indicated that while Foresight would like to get approval for all three operations, it is understood that cannot be done today and he further stated the Deer Run operations was having difficulties at this time and was currently not operating. The company would come back to the board to request pillar extension for this mine when it has resumed operations.

Executive Officer Hafliger reminded the board members that the board could only take formal action on items not presented in the meeting agenda.

Mr. Hafliger asked if there was a motion from the board to accept the request by Foresight Energy for extended cross cuts in gate entries and bleeder development. Board member Steiner indicated he would make the motion to accept with a second by Board member Jones. Motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Board member Kirkpatrick and second by Board member Steiner, motion passed.