



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD INA, ILLINOIS OCTOBER 24, 2013

The following State Mining Board members were present:

Fred Frederking
Tim Kirkpatrick
Don Stewart
George Teegarden
Dave Webb
Mike Woods, Executive Officer

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

The minutes from the July 17, 2013 State Mining Board meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.

The first item on the agenda pertained to Article 11 – Mine Rescue and Executive Officer Woods stated draft legislation has been given to the agency’s legal counsel for review. The main component of the draft legislation would require all underground operators to have a mine rescue team. Mr. Woods was unsure whether the bill would be introduced during veto session.

The second item was certification examination scoring and Executive Officer Woods indicated the mine examiners and mine managers examinations have a ventilation map, which is pass/fail, and a written examination of 150 questions and must score 75 and 80 or above respectively for the two certifications to pass. A candidate could receive up three additional points during the orals if it is found the candidate knew the material or answer of a question(s) that were missed on the written, the addition of three points to a person’s score up could raise one from a failing grade to a passing grade. While in principle this appears a good method of conducting examinations, there is concern the “good old boy” situation could occur and a person receive additional points when it is not merited. To maintain the integrity of the examination especially in respect to the state mine inspector examination should not be additional points added as a result of the oral examination. All certification applicants must achieve a passing

grade from the written and pass the map or for a state mine inspector candidate to be on the A-list must score a 92. Orals will still be a part of the examination process and will be administered where needed but will no longer allow one to increase their score. If one does fail the mine examiner or mine manager examination the agency felt one should not have to wait six months until the next scheduled examination so there will be another examination scheduled for December. This will allow an opportunity for an individual to re-apply and take the examination. There will not be classes prior to this examination. The examination will also allow an individual who received his mine examiner at the October examination to take the mine manager examination in December. The agency will continue this new examination scheduling for future examinations. A question was asked if an individual must take the written examination if he or she only failed the map. Executive Officer Woods stated that both written examination and map would be required. Motion by Board member Webb to take subjectivity of the Mining Board out of testing for all examinations and no additional points will be given during an oral. Board member Stewart seconded and motion passed.

The next item relates to the need for a state mine inspector-at-large examination. This classification has recently gone into the union and to fill an opening CMS grades all applications. There currently is not an examination administered by the agency to base a grade for eligibility. Even though the applicants already hold state mine inspector certification a test must be created for this classification. The examination will be more supervisory in nature and OMM is looking at the test being an oral examination with the Mining Board asking the questions. There will be a point value for each question.

The final item was the new mine electrician certification. Draft rules are being developed for the new mine electrician certification. Several questions were asked regarding the new certification, such as; how will current MSHA electrical qualification card holders be notified, (looking to contact all operators for list of MSHA qualified electricians) does MSHA card holders have to obtain Illinois certification (if not actively using electrical card in Illinois then state certification not needed) and if a person does not take the annual retraining and loses their state certification how does one get it back (still being reviewed by agency). The greatest amount of discussion surrounded the renewal fee for mine electrician certification. Mine Education and Operations Supervisor Jim Hafliger stated everyone felt charging another \$50 fee for renewal was too much but a \$25 fee is being recommended. He indicated administrative expenses will continue each year as the agency must maintain a database and issue new and renewal certification. The fees from new certification and renewals will not cover all the costs associated with the new program but is a step in showing an effort is being made to meet expenses. There was concern by several in attendance that the additional cost for renewal would prevent many for continuing to maintain their certification and there would be a reduction of qualified electricians. They were told there does not need to be a reduction in the number of qualified electricians as an MSHA qualified electrician does not have to obtain the state certification unless they are performing work which requires the state electrical certification. Board member Teegarden made the motion that a \$20 renewal fee be charged for administrative purposes and the board accept the draft rules as presented. Second by Board member Frederking and motion passed.

Board member Teegarden made motion to adjourn with second by Board member Frederking and motion passed.