

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
ILLINOIS STATE MINING BOARD
BENTON, ILLINOIS
JULY 29, 2011

The following State Mining Board members were present:

William McClusky
Tim Kirkpatrick
Don Stewart
George Teegarden
Dave Webb
Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

The meeting was called to order by Executive Officer Joe Angleton. A roll call of board members was made with all members in attendance with the exception of Board Member Cross. Having a quorum of board members present, Mr. Angleton proceeded with the meeting.

Following legislation enacted in 2006 and 2007, all underground coal operators were required to take specific steps to protect the industry's workforce in the event of a mine emergency. Many of these new provisions were to be provided to the agency and approved by the State Mining Board. Today's meeting was convened to review the state's underground operator's emergency response plans (ERP).

As the ERPs were reviewed a number of questions were raised concerning the adequacy of the plans. Since several operators were using the M-20 (20 minute oxygen device) as the belt wearable SCSR and stored the one-hour SCSR device either in caches or on mantrips, the Board discussed the maximum distance the initial one-hour unit could be stored outby the working face. It was determined the first device could not exceed 500 feet from the face. Several operators stated the location of SCSR caches or mantrips outby the working face by a specific number of crosscuts and Board member Kirkpatrick felt that due to the varying lengths of crosscuts utilized by Illinois mines it was extremely difficult to know the actual distance from the face the units were stored and asked that all operators revise their plans to reference distance in feet.

The discussion continued on SCSR storage distance since the Crown III Mine uses filter self rescuers and stores the SCSR as required in 11.08(a) on the unit mantrip, which is approximately 950 feet from the working face. Executive officer Angleton felt the distance was too great when using the filter rescuer. Further discussion on the use of filter rescuers determined that the filter rescuer was an antiquated device and the company's miners should minimally have in their possession the M-20. A straw poll of the board members indicated the company would not receive plan approval if their ERP was re-submitted with filter self-rescuers.

The Mining Board emphasized that if any operator chooses to keep the required SCSR device as mandated in 11.08(a) or 11.08(b) more than 25' from the person, this can only be done according to a plan approved by the Mining Board and it must be included with the ERP.

The Mining Board stressed the provisions of the Act must be strictly adhered to especially with respect to what is required for approval by the Board or where minimum standards are set; such as, 225 ILCS 705/11.08(c-5), which requires a minimum of 30 SCSR devices in each cache. In regard to the above referenced subsection, 225 ILCS 705/11.08(c-5), the Mining Board interpreted the "minimum of 30 SCSR devices in each cache..." to be those caches required in the escapeways at the distances outlined in the subsection.

Another issue addressed by the Mining Board was inspection of SCSRs. Board member Webb made a motion that operators must perform the required checks of SCSRs, daily and 90 day, as mandated in the Coal Mining Act. The procedures for conducting the inspections shall be included in the state ERP. The plan must indicate how and where the required 90 day inspection will be recorded. Board member Kirkpatrick seconded the motion and was adopted.

The Mining Board adopted a motion that all underground operators re-submit their state Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and to provide the agency updated ERPs if changes occur to the ERP. The motion was made by Board member Teegarden and seconded by Board member Stewart.

Executive Officer Angleton was directed by the Board to send a letter to all underground operators requesting a new ERP. Included in the letter would be an outline of the requirements for the ERP. Board member Teegarden asked that the Board be provided a copy of the letter prior to its issuance.

Executive Officer Angleton stated there was not further items on the agenda and announced the meeting was adjourned.

Joe Angleton, Executive Officer

Jerry Cross, Secretary