

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF COAL MINE SAFETY**  
**DEP Cambria Office**  
**September 8, 2015 – 10 a.m. – Ebensburg, PA**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

John Stefanko, Acting Chairman, Deputy Secretary for Active and Abandoned Mine Operations  
John Gallick, PCA, AlphaNatural Resources  
Stan Popich, PCA, Rosebud Mining Company  
Charles Shaynak, PCA, Consol  
Ron Bowersox, UMWA  
Frank Reidelbach, UMWA  
James Sabella, UMWA

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jim Pablic, Alpha  
R. Henry Moore, Jaskson-Kelly  
Will Dando, PA Coal Alliance  
Laura Edinger, DEP Policy Office  
Joe Iole, DEP, Regulatory Counsel  
Craig Carson, DEP, Bureau of Mine Safety  
Jeffrey Kerch, DEP, Bureau of Mine Safety  
Arthur Brower, DEP, Bureau of Mine Safety  
Jeffrey Stancheck, DEP, Bureau of Mine Safety  
Allison Gaida, DEP, Bureau of Mine Safety

**CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Acting Chairman John Stefanko, Deputy Secretary for Active and Abandoned Mine Operations called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the DEP Cambria Office, Conference Room 1A/B in Ebensburg. Acting Chairman Stefanko asked for introductions around the room.

Acting Chairman Stefanko asked the Board to consider its first item of business, which was approval of the June 23, 2015, meeting minutes.

**John Gallick moved to adopt the minutes as presented to the Board.**

**Ron Bowersox seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.**

**UPDATE ON STATUS OF FINAL REGULATION – Standards for Surface Facilities:**

Final rulemaking on Standards for Surface Facilities was adopted at the Board's June 23 meeting. Acting Chairman Stefanko informed the Board that this item will be on the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) agenda for the October 8 or October 22 meeting (date not yet confirmed).

As stated in the past, IRRRC requests that someone from the Board attend the meeting, which is located in Harrisburg, with the DEP representatives. Once a date is determined, the Board will be notified and a member can attend or have PCA act on the Board's behalf. After IRRRC approves the regulation, it will be reviewed by the Attorney General for 30 days and then published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* as final. The Board will be notified of the meeting as soon as it is announced.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:**

Acting Chairman Stefanko introduced John Englert from the PA Department of Health's, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Englert presented on EMT practices and training in Pennsylvania. His presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period.

Discussion focused on the possibility of certifying EMT-Miners in Pennsylvania as is the practice in West Virginia. Mr. Englert spoke to this possibility, explaining that, WV's program is not a nationally-recognized certification and, therefore, not associated with any other states' program. Reciprocity is not accepted. Mr. Englert stated further that EMS does not currently have the resources to create EMT-industrial curriculum. Mr. Englert noted that the contact person for West Virginia's program is Mr. John Thomas should the Board want to discuss WV's program in more detail.

An updated notice for Scope of Practice for EMS providers in PA was released in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on August 29, and a new approved and required medication list for EMS providers was released on September 5.

- *Expanded Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Services Providers of Air Ambulance Services:* <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol45/45-36/1626.html>
- *Approved and Required Medications Lists for Emergency Medical Services Agencies and Emergency Medical Services Providers:* <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol45/45-35/1586.html>
- *Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund Funding Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015-2016:* <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol45/45-35/1587.html>

Acting Chairman Stefanko requested that the Board could take some time to digest the information presented and the topic would again be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. EMR and EMT skill sets will be distributed to the Board prior to that meeting.

### **UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE-BASED CABLE STUDY REQUIREMENTS:**

Acting Chairman Stefanko said this item was put on the agenda to communicate to Board members that PCA members had met with DEP staff and together revised the previous version of the draft regulation on shielded cables and sensitive ground fault which had been presented at the June 23 meeting. The revision was shared with the Board on August 25 to give an opportunity for UMWA members to discuss the revised draft with DEP. However, Ron Bowersox has not had yet had the opportunity to share these substantial revisions.

Acting Chairman Stefanko said he would like to move forward with this regulation at the December 8 meeting.

### **MSHA PROXIMITY RULE:**

At the last meeting the Board moved to have DEP draft initial regulatory language to incorporate the MSHA rule on proximity detection systems for continuous mining machines in underground coal mines into PA mine safety regulations. Acting Chairman Stefanko informed the Board that MSHA is proposing another rule related to proximity adding additional equipment not in the original rule. The Board agreed to move forward with this rule as written, and then propose another later when MSHA's in-process rule is final.

**A motion was made by John Gallick to move forward with the proposed MSHA rule on proximity detection systems for continuous mining machines in underground coal mines, Ron Bowersox seconded the motion which was then unanimously approved by the Board.**

DEP will draft a full rulemaking package for the December 8 meeting.

### **BUREAU OF MINE SAFETY DIRECTOR POSITION:**

Acting Chairman Stefanko updated the Board members on the replacement of the Bureau of Mine Safety Director. Five candidates were interviewed and a candidate has been recommended to the Secretary. The selection recommendation will need to go through the approval process and he hopes to have a permanent Director in place within a month or so. Acting Chairman Stefanko commended Craig Carson on the excellent job he has been doing as Acting Director in the interim.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Acting Chairman Stefanko asked if there were any other issues the Board would like to consider. No other issues were brought forward.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Acting Chairman Stefanko asked the members of the public in attendance for comments. There were no public comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss,

**Frank Reidelbach made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stan Popich seconded this motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.**

The Board adjourned at 10:52 a.m. The next Board meeting will be held on December 8, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the DEP Cambria Office in Ebensburg.