MINUTES
Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment
Virtual Meeting
April 14, 2021

The Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment (TAC) held a regular meeting on April 14, 2021, using a Microsoft Teams meeting platform. DEP offices have been closed since March, 2020 in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. The meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

TAC MEMBERS

Ron Bowersox
Paul Borchick

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT

Rich Wagner, Bureau of Mine Safety (BMS)
Chas Washlack, BMS
Arthur Brower, BMS
James Ross, BMS
Gary Barkley, BMS
Jeff Hamilton, BMS
Margaret Scheloske, BMS
Abbey Cadden, Policy

OTHERS PRESENT

Rachel Gleason, PA Coal Alliance

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting were distributed and reviewed. TAC members Ron Bowersox and Paul Borchick approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Section 416(5) Replace Engine Oil and Filter

There was discussion regarding Schedule of Maintenance Section 416(5) Replace Engine Oil and Filter. The requirement is to change the engine oil and filter at 100-hour intervals.
Jeff Hamilton reported that several mines have inquired as to the possibility of changing the replacement of engine oil and filter to 200 hours now that newer equipment and synthetic oils are being used. There was discussion regarding avenues for testing under normal conditions to allow collection of data, including manufacturer recommendations to see if this is a viable option. The TAC noted that they would not be opposed to this. Rich Wagner explained that under 105(12) the Department may be able to grant approval on a mine specific basis. The other option is to present a change to the law as written, through the legislative process. The Department will consult with legal counsel to investigate the best course of action.

DEP Return to Office

A TAC member inquired as to when the Bureau would be returning to office status. The Director reported that the Commonwealth is targeting July 1, 2021. However, this date may change depending on evolving conditions. It is possible that regular meetings may be able to be scheduled in the office after a return to work date has been solidified. The Commonwealth is also researching the option of possible telework arrangements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m. The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on July 14, 2021, at the DEP New Stanton Office, Westmoreland Room. If the offices are not open, a virtual platform will be utilized.