

**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.