

MINUTES
Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment Meeting
July 10, 2024

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment (TAC) was held on July 10, 2024, in the Westmoreland Room at the DEP New Stanton Office in New Stanton, PA. The meeting was held in person and using Microsoft Teams. The meeting began at 10:02 a.m.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Bowersox
Todd Homet

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT

Richard Wagner, Bureau of Mine Safety (BMS)
Chas Washlack, BMS
Rick Murphy, BMS
Jeff Hamilton, BMS
Nick Dady, BMS
Dan Lambert, BMS
David Lowery, BMS
Arthur Brower, BMS
Margaret Scheloske, BMS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT VIA TEAMS

Laura Griffin, Policy

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Vlassich, Rosebud Mining
Nick Drumm, Rosebud Mining

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TEAMS

Rachel Gleason, Pennsylvania Coal Association

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. Minutes of the April 10, 2024 meeting were reviewed. TAC members Ron Bowersox and Todd Homet approved the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Rosebud Mining-Parkwood Mine Plan No. 5468 – Plan to Fuel Diesel Equipment in an Intake Escapeway Request for approval.

Ron Bowersox reported the following:

May 30, 2024 Request was received from Rosebud Mining Company

June 11, 2024 The TAC and Rosebud Mining met by telephone to review the plan.

June 11, 2024 The TAC issued their report recommending temporary approval, if requested

July 10, 2024 The TAC recommended approval

Director Wagner reported that temporary approval had not been requested and the Bureau was still reviewing the plan with the operator.

Chapter 4 Recordkeeping Software for Operators

Director Wagner informed the TAC that the Board of Coal Mine Safety has been considering a request from Todd Moore, Consol Energy, for the option of electronic recordkeeping in the underground mines. This may require regulation or legislative changes.

Director Wagner requested the TAC's opinion on reviewing Chapter 4, Section 414, specifically as it applies to diesel to see if there is anything that may preclude use of an electronic record, or what the path forward may be to allow it.

After discussion, the TAC would like to reserve any recommendation, pending the presentation and results of the testing of the software which will be presented by Mr. Moore at the next Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Vlassich asked about the new 200- hour oil change legislation and its requirements. Chas Washlack reported that the legislation became effective on June 13, 2024. A mine plan revision would need to be requested from the Bureau according to The Equipment Task Force recommendations that are referred to in the Safety Laws of Pennsylvania for Bituminous Coal Mines. This can be found on the Bureau's website in the Equipment Approvals Section.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on October 9, 2024, at the DEP New Stanton Office, Westmoreland Room.