

BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS

SUMMARY OF MEETING

October 7, 2014

The following is a summary of the October 7, 2014 Meeting:

- I. Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Randy Moore, Chairman. Members present were Randy Moore, Bennie Johnson, Jr., Douglas Deel and Ricky O'Quinn. Member Phillip Hale was absent. Also present were Bradley Lambert, DMME Deputy Director, Mary Gibson, Regulatory Boards Administrator and Tina Neal, DMME Administrative Specialist.**
- II. Opening statement delivered by Randy Moore, Chairman.**
- III. Motion made and seconded to accept October 7, 2014, meeting agenda and approve September 9, 2014, meeting summary. All members were in favor to approve.**
- IV. Review of Virginia Substance Abuse Cases (Closed Session)**

Of the cases that resulted in hearings, evidence was taken by the Board in closed session, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3711(A)(4) and 45.1-11.35(E). In the closed session, the Board worked out agreements, allowing individuals to return to work conditionally, and took other disciplinary actions including revocation of all certifications held by miners.

V. Open Agenda

Mary Gibson asked for consideration by the Board whether a monthly meeting of the Board be deemed necessary based on the declining number of substance abuse cases. The Board agreed that a decision would be made after the 15th of each month whether a meeting will be held, and the Board would be notified at that time.

The Board discussed the Mine Inspector certification examination. Chief Moore, Board Administrator Gibson and other DMME staff recommend a thorough review of the content of the examination. The Board discussed two options regarding this exam: revamping of the current content or elimination of the examination. Coal Mine Safety Law 45.1.161.20. - Qualifications of inspectors of coal mines, states that each mine inspector conducting inspections of underground coal mines shall have a thorough knowledge of the various systems of the mines. The Board agreed that the lengthy sections and number

of practicals on the Mine Inspector certification examination is not necessary to illustrate such knowledge. Also, many of the sections and practicals of the mine inspector exam are redundant from the First Class Mine Foreman certification exam, which is a prerequisite of sitting for the Mine Inspector exam. The Board agreed that condensing the mine inspector exam will not reduce the validity of the exam. Also, the Board agreed that we could look at adding “surface” material to the exam since Inspector duties require surface mine inspections.

VI. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be November 4, 2014.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.