

BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS

SUMMARY OF MEETING

NOVEMBER 4, 2014

The following is a summary of the November 4, 2014 Meeting:

- I. Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Randy Moore, Chairman. Members present were Randy Moore, Phillip Hale, Douglas Deel and Ricky O’Quinn. Member Bennie Johnson, Jr. was absent. Also present was Tina Neal, DMME Administrative Specialist.**
- II. Opening statement delivered by Randy Moore, Chairman.**
- III. Motion made and seconded to accept November 4, 2014, meeting agenda and approve October 7, 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

Chairman Moore reported on figures from West Virginia’s Department of Mines which Director Eugene White recently shared regarding substance abuse – 552 miners temporarily suspended, 79 reinstated, 67 in treatment plans, and 269 suspended for three years due to no follow-up on suspension. West Virginia’s substance abuse law was enacted in 2013. Virginia has not been notified officially of these figures.

Chairman Moore reported that one Mine Inspector certification exam had been administered without the practicals as was agreed to by the Board at last month’s meeting. Division of Mines will continue to revamp this examination to better meet the purpose and criteria of a Mine Inspector certification, primarily through the Certification Update Committee. Changes of the certification criteria will be brought to the Board for review.

Chairman Moore informed the Board of the good number of coal mine safety annual awards that have been awarded to coal miners and coal mining operations including 26 mines with seven of those having no lost time in three years due to accident or injury and one surface mine with no lost time in five years. Mr. Moore commended the Board for their contribution to this safety record through their on-going efforts in addressing cases involving safety negligence and substance abuse in mining.

VI. Next Meeting

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 2, 2014.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.