

**UTAH LABOR COMMISSION  
MINE SAFETY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday June 30, at 11:00 A.M  
Carbon County Events Center  
310 South Fair Grounds Road  
Price UT 84501**

**The following Advisory Council members were in attendance:**

Sherrie Hayashi, Commissioner, Utah Labor Commission  
Steve Childs, Skyline Mine  
Don Shelley, Deer Creek Mine  
Todd Bingham, President, Utah Mining Association  
Miles Nelson, Associate Vice President, College of Eastern Utah  
John Baza, Division Director, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Allyn C. Davis, District 9 Manager, MSHA  
Kim McCarter, Professor, U of U Department of Mine Engineering  
Ralph Sanich, Manager of Health, Safety and Training, Interwest Mining Company  
John Byars, Manager of Engineering, Sufco Mine, Arch Coal  
Terri Watkins, Chief Nursing Officer, Castle View Hospital  
Mike Dalpiaz, International Vice President, United Mine Workers of America  
Bruce Riches, Captain Department of Public Safety  
Greg Funk, Sheriff of Emery County  
Kristine Pankow, Seismologist, Utah State University

**Absent:**

Jimmy Brock, Senior Vice President, Consol Energy  
Randy Taton, President, Mine Health and Safety Solutions  
J D McKenzie, Coal Mine Engineer, BLM

**Legislative Liaison present:**

Senator David Hinkins

**Others present:**

Steve Behling, General Manager, Consol Emery Mine  
Pete Hackford, Division Director, Utah Labor Commission, Div of Boiler, Elevator and Coal Mine Safety  
Kent Houghton, Director, Office of Coal Mine Safety  
Debbie King, Administrative Secretary, Coal Miner Certification  
Steve Rigby, Bureau of Land Management

**1. Sherrie Hayashi, Commissioner – Meeting called to order 11:00 AM**

- Review of last meetings minutes
  - Mike Dalpiaz made a motion to approve as written.
  - Todd Bingham seconded the motion.
  - Minutes were approved without opposition

**2. Introduction of New Members**

- Law enforcement, Greg Funk, Emery County Sheriff,
- Seismology, Dr. Kristine Pankow, Research Professor and Director, U of U Seismology Stations.

**3. Commissioner Hayashi** - addressed the meeting and discussed the reason for the Office of Coal Mine Safety not being filled after the resignation of Garth Neilson due to budget constraints. Because of the Division's ability to cut costs and the importance of having the office filled they were able to fill it as a part-time position. It was emphasized that the office will differ and be more of a proactive partnership with the coal industry and the other government agencies.

- There was a statement made by Mike Dalpaiz that he was not satisfied with the direction of the office and that it should be more of an investigative and mine inspection role. He felt the office was going in the wrong direction.
- Todd Bingham stated that the coal operators would welcome a proactive role with the office, and that the coal mine operators would like to meet with Kent at a future date.
- John Baza discussed the value of the office in working with MSHA.
- Al Davis reviewed MSHA's interaction with the Office of Coal Mine Safety in the past and said that MSHA would have a positive interactive role in the future with the office with accident investigation and disaster planning. Kent was invited to attend the quarterly MSHA/BLM mine review meetings.

**4. Report to MSTAC** - Kent Houghton addressed the meeting and covered his background in the mining industry and his qualifications for the job. He then discussed his progress in getting the Office of Coal Mine Safety back up and interfacing with the coal industry and various government organizations. He discussed his progress in contacting the mines, state and local government agencies, and his plans to attend Emergency Management meetings in the counties where coal mines are located. He will also work with education and training organizations.

**5. New Business** - Pete Hackford addressed the meeting concerning the review of administrative rules especially for the Office of Coal Mine Safety, and Miner Certification and asked for input on them.

- Commissioner Hayashi summarized by saying that the Labor Commission was dedicated to ensuring the Office of Coal Mine Safety is effective.
- There was discussion by Bruce Riches about the emergency management offices in the counties and their relationship with that of the Office of Coal Mine Safety. Sheriff Funk discussed that they were active in mine disaster planning and that Kent had contacted the Emery county representative. Kent said that he planned to attend these meeting in the future.

**6. Old Business** - Commissioner Hayashi asked if there was any other business to discuss. There was none.

**7. Adjourn** – Commissioner Hayashi asked for a motion to adjourn.

- Mike Dalpiaz made motion to adjourn
- Don Shelly seconded motion
- Meeting adjourned 11.55 A.M.
- Next meeting to be determined