

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

**September 15, 2011 at 11:00 A.M  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Heber M. Wells Building  
160 East 300 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

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

Sherrie Hayashi, Commissioner, Utah Labor Commission  
Steve Childs, Skyline Mine  
Miles Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor, Utah State University - College of Eastern Utah  
Mike Dalpiaz, International Vice President, United Mine Workers of America  
Kristine Pankow, Associate Director – Seismograph Stations, University of Utah  
Wess Sorenson, General Manager, Arch Coal Co., Skyline Mine

**Absent:**

Jimmy Brock, Senior Vice President, Consol Energy  
Randy Taton, President, Mine Health and Safety Solutions  
J D McKenzie, Coal Mine Engineer, BLM  
Don Shelly, Deer Creek Mine  
Todd Bingham, President, Utah Mining Association  
John Baza, Division Director, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil Gas and Mining  
John Bayers, Manager of Engineering, SUFCO Mine, Arch Coal  
Allyn Davis, District 9 Manager, MSHA  
Bruce Riches, Captain, Department of Public Safety  
Terri Watkins, Chief Nursing Officer, Castlevue Hospital  
Ralph Sanich, Manager of Health Safety and Training, Interwest Mining Company  
Greg Funk, Emery County Sheriff  
Kim McCarter, Professor, U of U Department of Mine Engineering

**Legislative Liaison present:**

None

**Others present:**

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

**1. Sherrie Hayashi, Commissioner – Meeting called to order 11:20 AM**

- Review of last meetings minutes
  - A quorum of voting members was not present so minutes of last meeting were not voted on. Corrections were noted to titles of two members, Dr. Kristine Pankow, Associate Director – Seismograph Stations and Miles Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor, Utah State University – College of Eastern Utah.

2. **Report to MSTAC** – Kent Houghton, Director of the Office of Coal Mine Safety addressed the meeting. He gave a summary of his mine visits, MSHA/BLM meetings and Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) meetings that he attended during the last quarter. He noted that there had been no emergency response training during the quarter by any of the mines. He noted that communications between the mines and the local emergency services offices were in need of improvement due to the fact that some of the mines have not been having their annual training. This will be an area he will concentrate on during the next quarter. Mine safety was discussed, and it was noted we have been having a good year so far in that area. Mine technology was discussed in the areas of the mine tracking systems that have been improving and new communications systems that were now available to the mines. New proposed requirements by MSHA to put proximity sensing systems on the continuous mining machines to stop on going fatalities of men being hit and crushed was discussed, this technology has been developed and is used in some of the mines back east and overseas
  - Mike Dalpiaz and Pete Hackford discussed that the counties should be sent letter about the communications between the mines and the emergency service offices, Kent Houghton stated that this would be his priority next quarter.
  - Wess Sorenson stated that the proximity sensors on the miners were a good idea but he feared that the workers would rely on the system for their safety and if the system should not be working fatalities would still occur.
3. **Old Business** – There was no old business to discuss.
4. **New Business** – Commissioner Hayashi stated that the MSTAC meeting should regularly be held in Price in the future and that Kent Houghton, Director of Coal Mine Safety will chair the meetings. The Commissioner expressed an interest in the MSTAC meetings being more of a working session among the stakeholders to help coordinate and identify ways of improving safety in the mines.
  - Mike Dalpiaz asked about funding for the Office of Coal Mine Safety on a full time basis. Commissioner Hayashi stated that the Labor Commission has funding to support the Director as a part time position. The Commission will also seek additional funding from the Brook wood-Sago grant sponsored by MSHA and we will also seek additional funding from the State.
  - Pete Hackford mentioned that there had been interest in having a state trophy for the national mine rescue competition in Ohio. Debbie and Kent will look into this.
5. The topic of the value of seismograph data relating to mining was discussed.
  - Kristine Pankow gave an informative tutorial on the seismograph system at the University of Utah and how it worked and how the data was interpreted and applied.
6. **Adjourn** – Commissioner Hayashi adjourned the meeting at 12:30 P.M.
7. **Next meeting-** Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the Carbon County Events Center, 310 South, Fairgrounds Road, Price Utah Meeting at 11:00 A.M.