

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

**Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 11:00 A.M.  
Carbon County Events Center  
310 South Fair Grounds Road  
Price, Utah 84501**

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

Kent Houghton, Chairman  
Steve Childs, Skyline Mine  
Miles Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor, College of Eastern Utah  
Mike Dalpiaz, International Vice President, United Mine Workers of America  
Kristine Pankow, University of Utah, Associate Director of Seismograph Stations  
Kim McCarter, Professor, University of Utah Department of Engineering  
Don Shelley, United Mine Workers of America  
Todd Bingham, President, Utah Mining Association  
John Bayers, Manager of Engineering, SUFCO Mine, Arch Coal

**Absent:**

Jimmy Brock, Senior Vice President, Consol Energy  
Randy Taton, President, Mine Health and Safety Solutions  
J D McKenzie, Coal Mine Engineer, Bureau of Land Management  
John Baza, Division Director, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil Gas and Mining  
Allyn Davis, District 9 Manager, MSHA  
Bruce Riches, Captain, Department of Public Safety  
Terri Watkins, Chief Nursing Officer, Castleview Hospital  
Ralph Sanich, Manager of Health Safety and Training, Interwest Mining Company  
Greg Funk, Emery County Sheriff

**Legislative Liaison present:**

Senator David Hinkins

**Others present:**

Pete Hackford, Division Director, Utah Labor Commission  
Debbie King, Administrative Secretary, Coal Miner Certification  
Mike Pedersen, Assistant Division Director, Utah Labor Commission  
Steve Behling, Mine Manager, Consol Energy, Emery Mine  
Steve Rigby, Mining Engineer, Bureau of Land Management  
Robert Blackburn, LT Emery County Sheriffs Department

- 1. Kent Houghton, Chairman – Meeting called to order 11:17 A.M.**
  - Review of last meetings' minutes for June and September.
    - Mike Dalpiaz made a motion to approve as written
    - Miles Nelson seconded the motion
    - Minutes were approved by voice vote

**2. Report to MSTAC-** Kent Houghton addressed the meeting and gave a summary of the activities of The Office of Coal Mine Safety for this quarter. During the quarter he visited every underground mine in the state and met with their respective safety departments. He attended the National Coal Mine Rescue Competition in Columbus, Ohio, and represented the State of Utah at the competition. The State was able for the first time to present a trophy for the highest placing Utah team in mine rescue at the national competition. He and Debbie King awarded it at the awards banquet to the Deer Creek Mines, Silver Team. He attended the local emergency planning committee meetings in Carbon and Emery counties, the BLM/MSHA quarterly meeting, the Skyline Mine emergency response meeting, and attended two training sessions at the U of U CEU training center. He gave an overview of the yearly safety condition of the mines in the state and an overview of the status of technology in the mines. He noted that the only area that needs improvement was the coal operators having their annual emergency response training.

**3. Report to MSTAC-** Debbie King of the Office of Coal Mine Certification gave a presentation to the meeting on the new on-line application procedure for coal mine certifications. This will be done on the Labor Commission's website. She also covered the website's new on-line access to the coal mine certification data base which will allow those with certifications to view them and print copies.

**4. Old Business-** There was no old business to discuss.

**5. New Business-** Coal mine safety issues were discussed.

- Todd Bingham gave summary of the safety awards given out at the Utah Mining Association yearly convention.
- Todd Bingham said that the Utah Mining Association will be having a coal mine safety conference at the Little America Hotel on April 13, 2012, in Salt Lake City. The purpose of the conference is to provide safety training for Utah mining companies.
- Kim McCarter introduced Thomas Hethmon from the University of Utah Mining Department and he addressed the meeting.
- Kim McCarter said that there will be grants from NIOSH for graduate students in Seismology for ground control in the mines. He stated that there was new technology in this area that would be a great benefit to mine safety.
- Kim McCarter wanted to know if the MSTAC committee was following the recommendations of the Utah Mine Safety Committee.
- Kent Houghton said he will review the recommendations and give a report to the MSTAC committee at the next meeting about the areas on which the committee could possibly work.

**6. Adjourn-** There was no further business and there were no objections.

- Kent Houghton adjourned the meeting at 1:29 P.M.

**7. Next Meeting-** Thursday, March 15, 2012, at the Carbon County Events Center, 310 South Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah – Meeting at 11:00 A.M.