

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

**Thursday, June 21, 2012 - 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
Allyn Davis, District 9 Manager, MSHA
Miles Nelson, Associate Vice Chancellor, College of Eastern Utah
Mike Dalpiaz, International Vice President, United Mine Workers of America
Kim McCarter, Professor, University of Utah Department of Mining Engineering
Don Shelley, United Mine Workers of America
J D McKenzie, Coal Mine Engineer, Bureau of Land Management
Terri Watkins, Chief Nursing Office, Castle View Hospital

Absent:

Jimmy Brock, Senior Vice President, Consol Energy
Randy Tatton, President, Mine Health and Safety Solutions
Steven Childs, Skyline Mine
Bruce Riches, Captain, Department of Public Safety
Greg Funk, Emery County Sheriff
John Byars, Manager of Engineering, SUFCO Mine, Arch Coal
Kristine Pankow, University of Utah, Associate Director of Seismograph Stations
John Baza, Division Director, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil Gas and Mining
Ralph Sanich, Manager of Health Safety and Training, Interwest Mining Company
Todd Bingham, President, Utah Mining Association

Legislative Liaison present:

Senator David Hinkins

Others present:

Pete Hackford, Division Director, Utah Labor Commission
Debbie King, Administrative Secretary, Coal Miner Certification
Gary Leaming, Safety Director, SUFCO Mine, Arch Coal
Steve Behling, General Manager, Consol Energy, Emery Mine

1. **Kent Houghton, Chairman – Meeting called to order 11.24 A.M.**
 - Approval of last meetings minutes. There was not a quorum of members present to vote on the minutes for the last meeting.

2. **Report to MSTAC-** Kent Houghton addressed the meeting and gave a summary of the activities of the Office of Coal Mine Safety for the quarter. He visited every coal mine in the state during the quarter and met with their respective safety departments. He and Debbie King represented the state at the Price mine rescue contest and he presented the governors trophy to the winning team, Deer Creek Silver Team. He attended the Local Emergency Planning Council meetings in Sevier and Carbon Counties the meeting in Emery County was canceled. He participated in the

Interstate Compact Commission and MSHA teleconference. He attended a new miner training session at the College of Eastern Utah and the safety conference put on by the Utah Mining Association. He attended the MSHA/BLM quarterly meeting. The Labor Commission and the Office of Coal Mine Safety are presenting for the first time a safe operator of the year award for the year 2011. This year's recipient for underground coal mine is the Arch Coal, Dugout Mine and the safe operator of the year coal preparation plant goes to Arch Coal, Castle Valley Preparation Plant. The safe operator of the year award for a surface mine goes to Alton Coal Development, Coal Hollow Mine.

3. **Presentation by Live Wire Innovation** – Mike Haugen the CEO of Live Wire Innovation gave a presentation of their cable trouble shooting system they have developed. This system is a safer system than the thumper units used in the mines presently. Newer and safer technology is always of interest to be reviewed by the MSTAC.
4. **Old Business** – Carried forward from the last meeting Kent Houghton prepared a hand out with a summary of the Coal Mine Safety Commission recommendations that had been addressed by the current statutes and recommendations that had not been addressed.
 - o Kim McCarter started discussion on recommendation #7 concerning the development and procedure for independent technical evaluation of mining plans in unusual conditions which is not addressed by the MSTAC or the current statutes.
 - o There was a general discussion by the members on how the review of mine plans could be accomplished since it would be beyond the scope of the MSTAC committee and would require qualified mining engineers and the formation of a new organization which would require staffing and funding. Under the present statutes the MSTAC can only make recommendations to the legislature to address this issue. There was no consensus of the members on how to proceed on this recommendation except to adhere to the statutes and the directives of the MSTAC and vote to make a recommendation to the legislature.
 - o Kent Houghton noted that to proceed on this matter would require a vote by the committee and since there was no quorum of members present this topic would be tabled to be addressed at the next meeting for further discussion.
5. **New Business** – Since there was not a quorum of members to vote on further action on the proposed recommendations this discussion was tabled until the next MSTAC meeting.
6. **Adjourn** – There was no further business to discuss.
 - o Kim McCarter made the motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - o Miles Nelson seconded the motion
 - o Meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote.
 - o Kent Houghton declared the meeting adjourned at 1.43 P.M.
6. **Next Meeting** – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 11.00 A.M. at the Carbon County Events Center, 310 South Fairgrounds Road. Price, Utah.