

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

**Thursday, September 20, 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
Mike Dalpiaz, International Vice President, United Mine Workers of America
Kim McCarter, Professor, University of Utah Department of Mining Engineering
J D McKenzie, Coal Mine Engineer, Bureau of Land Management
Steven Childs, Skyline Mine
Ralph Sanich, Manager of Health Safety and Training, Interwest Mining Company
Mark Compton, President, Utah Mining Association

Absent:

Jimmy Brock, Senior Vice President, Consol Energy
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
Don Shelley, United Mine Workers of America
Terri Watkins, Chief Nursing Office, Castle View Hospital

Legislative Liaison present:

None

Others present:

Debbie King, Administrative Secretary, Coal Miner Certification
Gary Leaming, Safety Director, SUFCO Mine, Arch Coal

- 1. Kent Houghton, Chairman – Meeting called to order 11.10 A.M.**
 - Approval of last meetings minutes. There was not a quorum of members present to vote on the minutes for the last two meetings.

- 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 attended the Local Emergency Planning Council meetings in Sevier, Carbon and Emery Counties. He attended a surface refresher training session at the College of Eastern Utah and attended the MSHA/BLM quarterly Meeting. He also attended the annual SUFCO emergency response training and the Utah Mining Association Convention. The office investigated one safety complaint from Alton coal and one pre shift incident at the West Ridge mine.

3. **Report by Mark Compton** – Mark Compton President of the Utah Mining Association gave an overview of their new Mining Ambassador Program that will be initiated in the public schools with the fourth grade classes. This program will educate the students on the importance of mining in our state and its importance to the community and their lives, and will also provide safety education. There was a discussion among the council members on the program and it was viewed as being a very positive and beneficial program. There was further discussion on the need to promote the coal industry in a more positive light to the public.
4. **Old Business** – Carried forward from the last meeting was a discussion on the recommendations of the Coal Mine Safety Commission. Since there was not a quorum of members present to vote on any proposed recommendations this will be addressed at a future meeting.
 - Kim McCarter noted that research being conducted at the University of Utah that would greatly advance safety in the mines would benefit from funding grants from the state. He will draft a proposal for this for a future recommendation.
5. **New Business** – Kent Houghton reported that there were now four vacancies on the MSTAC Committee. The MSHA representative will be filled when they have a permanent director for District 9. There are two mine safety training vacancies and one coal mine operator vacancy. The Labor Commission will accept recommendations to fill these vacancies.
 - The proposed draft for the annual Coal Mine Safety report for 2011 was presented to the committee for review and comments. Their written comments will be forwarded to the Labor Commission for review and changes.
 - There was discussion on improving attendance and participation for the meeting if video conferencing were to be used. Kent Houghton will look into implementing this suggestion.
6. **Adjourn** – There was no further business to discuss and no objections.
 - Kent Houghton declared the meeting adjourned at 12.15 P.M.
6. **Next Meeting** – The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 11.00 A.M. at the Carbon County Events Center, 310 South Fairgrounds Road. Price, Utah.