

MINUTES
Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment
Virtual Meeting
July 14, 2021

The Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment (TAC) held a regular meeting on July 14, 2021, using a Microsoft Teams meeting platform. DEP offices have been closed since March, 2020 to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. The meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

TAC MEMBERS

Ron Bowersox
Paul Borchick

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT

Chas Washlack, Bureau of Mine Safety (BMS)
Rick Murphy, BMS
Arthur Brower, BMS
Gary Barkley, BMS
Jeff Hamilton, BMS
Margaret Scheloske, BMS
Abbey Cadden, Policy Office

OTHERS PRESENT

Rachel Gleason, PA Coal Alliance
Todd Moore, Consol
Ron Vlassich, Rosebud

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. Minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting were distributed and reviewed. TAC members Ron Bowersox and Paul Borchick approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Donaldson: DPM filter being evaluated by MSHA

Paul Borchick noted that a request had been received regarding approval of a new Donaldson Filter. The filter is currently being evaluated by MSHA. The state will automatically accept the filter if MSHA approves it. Art Brower explained that if the filter is to be used on an approved engine, a modification would need to be requested and approved by the TAC. This information has been provided to the manufacturer.

Rosebud Mining Company: Request to extend the oil and filter change interval to 200 hours

There was discussion regarding making a change to the current Schedule of Maintenance Section 416(5)- Replace Engine Oil and Filter requirement of oil and filter change intervals, from 100 to 200-hours.

The TAC will review any data submitted for a test beyond 100 hrs. The TAC will consider the change but it's not clear if the TAC has the authority to approve the change since it's written in the state mining law as 100 hours. The TAC may issue a recommendation after reviewing any data submitted; but it may not be binding due to the need for a legislative change by the Board of Coal Mine Safety.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Moore encouraged the TAC to look at data and research from all states when considering change to diesel practices in Pennsylvania.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on October 13, 2021, at the DEP New Stanton Office, Westmoreland Room. If the offices are not open to the public, the TAC requested that an alternate location be utilized.