

MINUTES
Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment
Meeting
April 13, 2022

The Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment (TAC) held a regular meeting on April 13, 2022, using a Microsoft Teams meeting platform. The meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TEAMS

Ron Bowersox
Paul Borchick

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT VIA TEAMS

Richard Wagner, Bureau of Mine Safety
Chas Washlack, BMS
Art Brower, BMS
Jim Ross, BMS
Jeff Hamilton, BMS
Dave Lowry, BMS
Margaret Scheloske, BMS

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TEAMS

John Spade, Diesel Instructor
Rachel Gleason, PCA
Todd Homet, Consol

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Minutes of the January 12, 2022 meeting were reviewed. TAC members Ron Bowersox and Paul Borchick approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Rohmac Model DP 64D Power Package

January 4, 2022	The request was received from the manufacturer
March 7, 2022	The Bureau and TAC performed an inspection
March 8, 2022	The Bureau requested the TAC to review and comment
March 10, 2022	The TAC issued their report recommending temporary approval if requested
March 17, 2022	Rohmac requested temporary approval
March 17, 2022	The Bureau approved temporary approval
April 13, 2022	The TAC issued formal approval

NEW BUSINESS

Bureau Director Wagner announced that this is Paul Borchick's last meeting and thanked him for his service and commitment to the health and safety of the coal miners of Pennsylvania.

Ron Bowersox told Paul that it has been a pleasure working with him over the years and he felt that they had worked well together, and he also appreciated his commitment to the safety of the miners.

No more new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Spade, diesel instructor had questions about gas testing with the ECOM, battery life, and ECOM accuracy and variations. He also inquired if there was any other gas analyzer that could be used to comply with Chapter 4 of the Safety Laws of Pennsylvania for Underground Bituminous Coal Mines.

Discussions followed regarding industry practices and equipment used to comply with the laws. It was noted that Chapter 4 does not mention a specific gas analyzer to be used, but the ECOM has been the standard and chosen analyzer since the beginning of using diesel equipment in Pennsylvania underground coal mines.

Discussion followed on information found in the ECOM operation manual, standards used for testing, and practical use of the ECOM.

John said he may be doing more classroom comparisons of gas analysis results.

Paul Borchick asked if there was any further public comment. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Borchick thanked those present for their participation with the Diesel TAC throughout the past thirteen years and informed them that he would not be seeking reappointment when his term expires on May 17, 2022. He wished good luck to the new appointee and offered assistance if needed with the transition.

All the attendees thanked him for his service and wished him well.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m. The next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on July 13, 2022, with either a Microsoft Teams virtual platform or at the DEP New Stanton Office.