

MINUTES
Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment
Meeting
July 12, 2023

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment (TAC) was held on July 12, 2023, in the Westmoreland Room at the DEP New Stanton Office in New Stanton, PA. The meeting was held in person and using Microsoft Teams. The meeting began at 10:03 a.m.

TAC MEMBER PRESENT

Ron Bowersox
Todd Homet

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT

Richard Wagner, Bureau of Mine Safety (BMS)
Chas Washlack, BMS
Gary Barkley, BMS
David Lowery, BMS
Margaret Scheloske, BMS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT VIA TEAMS

Art Brower, BMS
Laura Griffin, Policy
Max Schultz, Policy

OTHERS PRESENT

Rachel Gleason, PCA

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. Minutes of the April 13, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Ron Bowersox asked the Department if a letter was needed from the TAC for the approval of filters. Discussion followed, it was agreed that a letter was not required and that having suitable documentation from MSHA would be enough for Department approval.

TAC members Ron Bowersox and Todd Homet approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Qualifying Diesel Equipment Trainers

Chas Washlack reviewed the current Procedure for Approval of Diesel Instructors and stated that Method A is what would be applied. He said that the Department is continuing to pursue ways to have qualified trained trainers available. The law dictates that part of the training needs to be hands on with equipment that would be used at a specific mine site and the Department would not be able to handle that. However, the Department could possibly perform the remainder of the training in New Stanton if we had the resources. Director Wagner informed the group that there have not been any funds allocated for this; if we are able to obtain funding, it would be about one or two fiscal periods away unless one of the current line items is unable to be purchased.

It was agreed that there is a need to have more than one qualified person to train diesel instructors. There are emergency provisions, where the Department could step in if needed; however, it was noted that the lack of equipment is the bigger issue if the Bureau was to become involved in this training. It was concluded that the Department will reach out to the industry regarding the need for more than one trainer and ask for suggestions to add more persons qualified to train diesel instructors. Rachel Gleason said that she could reach out to those members of the PCA.

Diesel-Powered Equipment: Extend Oil and Filter Change Interval from 100 hours to 200 hours

Rachel Gleason provided an update on the proposal to extend oil and filter change hours. She reported that It was forwarded to the Transportation Committee for review and she was able to get it out of that Committee. It is now one of five senate bills that made it to the House calendar. She does not anticipate any movement until there is an approved budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Brookville Model 30T215D

Art Brower reported that this engine package will be available for inspection sometime in October.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m. The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on October 11, 2023, at the DEP New Stanton Office, Westmoreland Room.