

MINUTES
Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment
Meeting
April 9, 2025

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment (TAC) was held on April 9, 2025, 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 10:01 a.m.

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Bowersox
Todd Homet

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT

Rich Wagner, Bureau of Mine Safety (BMS)
Chas Washlack, BMS
Nicholas Dady, BMS
Arthur Brower, BMS
Margaret Scheloske, BMS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT VIA TEAMS

Jeff Hamilton, BMS
Jack Palumbo, Policy

OTHERS PRESENT

Nick Drumm, Rosebud Mining
Ben Stock, Rosebud Mining
Bernie Pavlick, Rosebud Mining
Ronald Vlassich, Rosebud Mining
Mark Knoll, Rosebud Mining

OTHERS PRESENT VIA TEAMS

Rachel Gleason, Pennsylvania Coal Association

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Minutes of the July 10, 2024, meeting were reviewed. TAC members Ron Bowersox and Todd Homet approved the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fueling of Diesel-Powered Equipment in the Intake Escapeway

Ron Vlassich, Rosebud Mining Company began a discussion regarding a request at the Knob Creek Mine to fuel diesel-powered equipment in an intake escapeway. Director Wagner explained to the TAC that this request did not appear to meet the intent of Section 411 of the Act and that egress of miners may be compromised in the event of a fire.

It was noted that a potentially comparable plan had been previously approved; however, it was stated that each request is unique and approval of one situation does not assure approval of another. Furthermore, Director Wagner advised that the Department's position, as discussed at prior TAC meetings, is that Section 411 is very specific in discouraging diesel refueling in the intake escapeway and that Section 411 wants mine operators to be proactive and develop an appropriate refueling area for all mines instead of attempting to rely on intake escapeways.

Discussion followed and Director Wagner told the representatives from Rosebud that the Department would be willing to review a new plan for consideration with substantial safety enhancements.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. on July 9, 2025, at the DEP New Stanton Office, Westmoreland Room.