

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY

June 28, 2011

1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Arielle Avishai, **David Lane, Eric Perry**

HDQ – Steve Sheffield, Josh Rockwell

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – Duane Matt

TIPS – **Lou Hamm**

NTTP – Sarah Donnelly, Tom Hines

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – **Dave Berry**

NAAMLPL – John Koerth

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- The **Western Region Technology Transfer Team** held its annual meeting at the ASMR Conference in Bismarck, ND. We discussed the role of Technology Transfer in the Region and what we can do to improve. We had a demonstration of the FLIR Thermal Camera that is provided nation-wide for checkout by TIPS. A FLIR company representative demonstrated the ability of the thermal camera and answered questions. The meeting also included a briefing on the progress of the GeoMine initiative.

MCR Report

- **Protecting Threatened Bats at Coal Mines. August 31-Sept 3, 2010 Charleston, WV.** 86 forum and 72 field trip participants. The proceedings has been published and is now available. The electronic version should be available by the end of July.
- **Ohio State University CCB Research** – OSU is working on securing the permit for the high-volume FGD gypsum demo project near Conesville power plant of AEP. Placement of FGD gypsum is expected to begin in late summer or early fall. Background monitoring is in progress.
- **EPA CCR Rulemaking** – EPA published its proposed rule on June 21, 2010 on regulating CCR landfills and impoundments. OSM was officially given the lead on mine placement. EPA has defined minefilling as pertaining only to coal mining. EPA comment period ended November 19, 2010. Will not publish in 2011. Will initiate a new round of public comment.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking**- Work is progressing on revising the 2008 proposed rule and the environmental assessment.
- **MCR Natural Stream Design (NSD) Workshop:** Working on making a webinar on the event available on the Web.
- **MCR AML Mitigation Workshop:** A conference call is scheduled for July 18 to begin planning for a regional AML workshop to focus on: (1) AML grouting related to subsidence mitigation; (2) Improving Consistency and Predictability with the USCOE

options for Wetlands and Waters of the U.S. on AML sites; and (3) Alternatives to On-Site Mitigation on AML projects.

AR Report:

- The ARTT Team conducted the monthly teleconference on May 2, 2011. All State representatives, with the exception of West Virginia, were present.
- State representatives asked that ARTT conduct a second Blasting Workshop. Funding for the event is a concern. It was suggested that we consider using the MSHA Academy in Beckley, WV for the function.
- The Fall ARTT meeting will be held at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia September 20 through 22, 2011. The ARTT members provided suggested topics. An agenda has been developed with presentations from Applied Science PI's, NTTP, TIPS, and OSM reports on technical issues.

NTTP Report

- NTTP received the results of the Fiscal Year **2012 Needs Survey** indicating what the training needs are for the upcoming fiscal year. The results of the Needs Survey will be discussed with the NTTP Steering Committee at their meeting July 27-28.
- **Peaches Butler** is retiring this week after 42+ years of service. We are in the process of hiring two new course coordinators.
- The initial course presentation of the **Acid-Forming Materials: Soils and Overburden** class is scheduled of July 19-22 in Evansville, Indiana.

HEADQUARTERS Report

- **Underground Mine Mapping** - During the June CLT meeting, OSM managers opted to fund every UGMM project submitted for FY'11. All together 15 projects, some with severable portions, will be funded with \$663,594. Josh Rockwell is currently working with each Region and the Budget Office to have the funds placed in the appropriate accounts.

TIPS Report

- TIPS held its **Steering Committee meeting** in Denver on May 24-26. A briefing was given on the progress of the GeoMine initiative along with the Remote Sensing Pilot Project. Among the initiatives from the Steering Committee was a request for a field instrument that would test for Selenium levels in water. There was great interest in a third Geospatial Conference. States indicated that they had derived a lot of effective procedures and initiatives from the past two meetings and they indicated a great need for a third. Funding may be an issue, but we are discussing sponsorship with the IMCC for next year. TIPS is currently addressing other action items from the meeting.

IMCC Report

- We have been working with OSM to provide general input on the agency's anticipated proposed rule on mine placement of coal combustion residues. IMCC plans to submit

some overview comments within the week and suggest further collaborative meetings in the future to flesh out concepts for the rule that accommodate state concerns. There is some talk on Capitol Hill about oversight hearings on AML, with a specific focus on hardrock. We should know more soon. IMCC is also awaiting word on the availability of some year-end funding from OSM to support our benchmarking initiative and more specifically to sponsor a national workshop on underground mine mapping that would share the results of recent applied science work in this area with all the states.

WEIB Report

- The western states, tribes and OSM will hold the **annual management meeting** in Denver on August 9 and 10, 2011. WIEB continues to coordinate with IMCC on national policy and funding issues.

NAAML P Report

- **2011 NAAML P Annual Conference.** October 9-12, 2011. Olympic Valley, California (Squaw Valley/Tahoe area). “The Gold and Silver States – the Legacy of Mining that Built the West.” Conference will be jointly hosted by California and Nevada AML programs. Conference tours will include AML sites in both California and Nevada. Call for papers has closed and conference planning is progressing. For information: http://naamlp.net/2011_conference/main.htm

Applied Science Report

The Director has authorized funding for three more 2010 applied science projects.

- Predicting TDS Release from Central Appalachian Coal Mine Spoils: Dr. Lee Daniels: Virginia Tech
- TROMPE From the Past Will Come the Future: Bruce R. Leavett
- Stream Restoration - Long Term Performance: Jack Nawrot: Southern Illinois University

The Director is seeking additional technical evaluation from AR on two 2010 AMD projects that may receive funding.

- Innovative Remediation of Acid Mine Drainage through Passive Aerobic/Anaerobic Filtration Processes: Dr. Clayton Clark: Florida A&M University (MHEI)
- Improved sulfate-reducing bioreactors for the remediation of high total dissolved solids drainage associated with coal mining and processing in the U.S.: Dr. Liliana Leticariu: Southern Illinois University

Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2010.

- NAAML P Annual Meeting Olympic Valley, CA October 9-12, 2011 by WR
- NASLR Annual Meeting, The Resort at Glade Springs in Daniels, WV, September 25-28, 2011 by AR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October, 2011 by MCR
- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2011, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2011 by MCR

Next conference call will take place at **1 PM Central Time, August 16, 2011.**