

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
MEETING SUMMARY

July 3, 2012

1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

AR – Arielle Avishai, **Lois Uranowski**, David Lane

HDQ – **Josh Rockwell**

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – **Duane Matt**

TIPS – Lou Hamm

NTTP – Tom Hines, **Jim Kennedy**

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLTP – **John Koerth**

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- Work continues on expediting the applied science cooperative agreements and interagency agreements.
- We continue to work with MCRCC on the upcoming NAAMLTP conference. We are assisting with the upcoming 2013 ASMR conference.
- We have begun work on a possible press release regarding our applied science cooperative agreements/interagency agreements.
- Duane is the acting Multimedia Training and Asset Management branch manager for the next four months.

MCR Report

- **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 is being sued by the environmental community and ash recyclers for not publishing a rule in a timely fashion.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking**- Solicitor review has been completed on the proposed rule and EA. A proposed rule is scheduled for November of 2012. A conference call with EPA was held June 7 where EPA confirmed that they expected OSM to do SMCRA rulemaking.
- **ASMR Annual meeting June 9-14, 2012 in Tupelo, MS** The MCR is assisting ASMR with this event. It sponsored technical sessions on Acid Mine Drainage Mitigation Case Studies in the Illinois Coal Basin and Natural Stream Design for the Midwest that were very well attended with good discussion. Attendance was apx 185. The next annual meeting will be in Laramie, WY June 1-6, 2013.
- **NAAMLTP Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA** The MCR is assisting NAAMLTP with this event and will take the lead on an exhibit. WR will assist with the exhibit.

AR Report:

- Plans continue to be made for the **ARTT Blasting that is to be held at the MSHA Academy in Beckley WV September 5-6, 2012**. The event is limited to 60 blasting specialists from states and OSM.

NTTP Report

- **SMCRA Principles and Field Procedures** course in Columbus, Ohio from June 3 – 15. The course was very well received with the vast majority of the students rating the course as highly useful or essential to their current position.
- A special session of the **Acid-Forming Materials: Fundamentals and Applications** was delivered June 5-8 at the request of the State of Montana and was customized specifically to address issues pertinent to Montana circumstances. Special acknowledgement to Eric Perry, Richard Beam and Brian Hicks for their exemplary work with preparation and delivery of this course.
- The revised **Quantitative Hydrogeology** course was delivered June 26-29 at the request of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

HEADQUARTERS Report

- **Rule(s) Status**
 - Cost Recovery-On 5-10, a revised draft was sent to Ruth Stokes for review and in preparation for her to brief the Director.
 - Coal Combustion Residue-OSM received comments on the EA from SOL. The draft rule is complete.
 - Temporary Cessation-The draft rule an EA have been sent to SOL for a final concurrence and Mr. Klein will be briefing the Director.
 - Stream Protection Rule-Senior management and the Department are considering additional alternatives to the draft rule. It does not look like the draft rule will be published before the end of December.
 - Limited Liability-A preliminary draft rule is complete and has been delivered to Mr. Whitehouse. Mr. Postle is conducting Tribal Consultation. Feedback from the tribal council meeting could result in slight modifications to the preliminary draft rule.
- **OSM Booth-MINExpo** September. Last week Jeff Trump (co-coordinator) and myself met with Tiara and Karrie regarding the table top displays. The themes and pictures were selected and Tiara and Karrie, during their free time, will work on completing a preliminary display. I am coordinating efforts to secure rental chairs and a table. Jeff is working on the logistics of shipping the displays.

TIPS Report

- The budget is close to being finalized.

IMCC Report

- FY 2013 Appropriations Bill – the full House Appropriations Committee approved the Interior FY 2013 Appropriations bill on June 28 along party lines. Among other things, the bill provides nearly \$69 million for state Title V regulatory grants, the same as last year. OSM had proposed a cut of \$10 million for these grants. The bill also contains a provision prohibiting OSM from spending any funding on a re-write of the stream buffer

zone rule. The Committee report contains language rejecting OSM's cost recovery proposal (which would have increased permit fees) and OSM's proposal to increase inspections and enhance federal oversight of state regulatory programs. In particular, the Committee did not approve the \$4 million and 25 FTE increase requested for this activity. The Committee report also contains language cautioning against the OSM/BLM consolidation and directs that no further funds be spent on studies to merge the functions of the two agencies. Also, during consideration of the Interior Appropriations bill, an amendment offered by Rep. Lummis (R-WY) to prohibit funding for EPA to develop rules related to financial assurance under Section 108(b) of CERCA was adopted following vigorous debate from both sides. Rep. Lummis relied heavily on a WGA resolution on bonding for mine reclamation. Whether these, and other, riders will survive in the Senate remains to be seen. Similar provisions did not become part of the Omnibus Appropriations bill last year.

- AML Amendments – During consideration of the massive (600 page) Surface Transportation Bill, an amendment offered by Senator Baucus (D-MT) was approved that would cap payments to certified states and tribes under Title IV of SMCRA at \$15 million per year. The amendment was contained in that portion of the bill that provided off-sets for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program administered by the Interior Department on behalf of rural counties in the West. The only certified state impacted by the bill is Wyoming, which stands to lose 90% of its annual funding. However, there are implications for non-certified states, in that an equivalent amount of money that would otherwise have been paid to Wyoming will not be reallocated for the historic coal production account, pursuant to the 2006 Amendments to SMCRA. This will reduce historic coal share funding by almost 1/3 for these states. Efforts are underway to reverse this debilitating amendment to SMCRA, but the prognosis is very uncertain at this time.
- IMCC Benchmarking – IMCC has requested \$125,000 for its benchmarking contract with OSM to facilitate a geospatial workshop in late 2013 or early 2014. IMCC will work with an OSM/State Steering Committee to plan the workshop, should the funding be approved with year-end funds by OSM.

WEIB Report

- WIEB is working with OSM to plan for a western states/OSM meeting sometime in late August or early September. That meeting will be coordinated with an IMCC meeting on water quality at mining operations

NAAML P Report

- Issued another call for papers for the Des Moines conference.

Exhibit Schedule

The following is the current OSM exhibits planned for the calendar year 2012.

- NAAML P Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA MCR (National Coordination)
- MINExpo International **2012** September 24-26, **2012** Las Vegas, Nevada HDQ
- NASLR Annual Meeting, Daniels, WV September 30- October 3, 2012 by AR
- TX Surface Mining & Reclamation Workshop, College Station, TX October, 2012 by MCR

- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2012, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2012 by MCR

Applied Science Discussion

The following are the list of 6 proposals that were selected for funding in FY 2012. OSM management has determined that there will be no solicitation in FY 2013.

Title	PI	Institution	OSM Funds	Total Funds
Assessing Geomorphic Reclamation in Valley Fill Design for West Virginia	Leslie C. Hopkinson	West Virginia University	\$148,858	\$200,000
Geotechnical Properties and Flow Behavior of Coal Refuse under Static and Impact Loading	David Zeng	Case Western Reserve University	\$199,460	\$266,662
Blasting Effects on Coal Refuse Impoundment Structures	Braden Lusk	University of Kentucky	\$200,000	\$405,000
Underground Coal Gasification: Water-Quality Hazards and Risk Mitigation Strategies	Joshua White	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	\$200,000	\$200,000
Evaluation of Geomorphic Reclamation Performance and Models in the Southwestern United States	Mark C. Stone	University of New Mexico (Hispanic)	\$199,675	\$417,561
Low-cost, Green Technology to Improve Water Quality in Mining-Impacted Ecosystems, Phase I – Model Development and Optimization	Xingmao Ma	Southern Illinois University	\$199,946	\$427,099

Next conference call will be September 11, 2012 at 1 PM Central.