

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM  
MEETING SUMMARY

September 11, 2012

1:00 – 1:30 PM Central Time

Participants

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

HDQ – **Josh Rockwell**

MCR – **Kimery Vories** (Team Leader)

WR – **Duane Matt**

TIPS – **Lou Hamm**

NTTP – **Tom Hines**

IMCC – **Greg Conrad**

WEIB – Dave Berry

NAAMLTP – **John Koerth**

Attendees in **Bold**

WR Report

- The WR (Henry Austin in particular- with a little assistance from Duane Matt) is helping with the **OSMRE booth at both the MINExpo and the NAAMLTP** conference.
- The **Total Station** was demonstrated by Stefanie Self and Mike Richmond at the WV offsite meeting. The demonstration was well received and future demonstrations are planned throughout the AR (and all regions).
- **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories** was recently assigned a grants person and awarded their Applied Science monies. They plan on, not only completing their research grant, but, creating a guidance document for OSM/States/Tribes on how to mine using the in-situ coal mining method.

AR Report:

- The **ARTT Blasting Workshop** was held at the Beckley, WV Mine and Safety Health Administration (MSHA) Academy Sept 5-6, 2012. We had 48 attendees at this event. We have received 33/48 evaluation sheets back to this point. We are getting a 95% overall satisfaction rate for this event. A suggestion was made to have more events like this to be held at the MSHA Academy or facilities similar to this one.
- OSM will be working a booth at the **MineExpo 2012** event to be held from Sept 23-26, 2012. Completed applied science fact sheets and other items will be available for informational and educational purposes. There will also be a table top display at this event for OSM.

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 and recycling communities for not publishing a rule in a timely fashion.
- **OSM CCR Rulemaking-** Solicitor review has been initiated on the proposed rule and EA. A proposed rule is scheduled for September of 2012.

- **NAAMLPA Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA** The MCR is assisting NAAMLPA with this event. The MCR will be providing an exhibit. OSM will have 20+ people participating.
- **Mine Placement of CCRs: Planning for the Future, Forum 2014** – A steering committee has been initiated to begin planning for a forum in 2014.
- **Protecting Threatened Bats at Coal Mines II, Forum 2015** – A steering committee has been initiated to begin planning for a forum in 2015.

### NTTP Report

Numerous **NTTP Course offerings** were delivered in July and August including:

- Acid-Forming Materials: Soils and Overburden was presented in Evansville, IN July 17-20
  - Historical and Archeological Resources was presented in St. Louis, MO July 24-26
  - Principles of Inspection was presented in Columbus, OH August 7-10
  - Passive Treatment was presented in Columbus, OH August 14-17
  - Surface and Groundwater Hydrology was presented in Charleston, WV August 14-17
  - Bonding Workshop: Cost Estimation was presented in Pittsburgh, PA August 21-23
  - AML Design Workshop: Dangerous Openings was presented in Wilkes-Barre, PA August 21-24
- Several courses that had been offered once earlier in the training year were **cancelled to be compliant with budgetary constraints.**
  - The **NTTP Steering Committee** met in Denver, CO Aug.8-9
  - NTTP staff is busy with **planning the FY13 training schedule** of classes, instructors and locations.

### HEADQUARTERS Report

#### **Active Rulemaking:**

Stream Protection Rule-Additional alternatives have been vetted and selection of additional alternatives is taking place.

Cost Recovery Rule-Currently being placed into the surname process.

Limited Liability Rule-The rule entered the surname process last week.

Coal Combustion Residues Rule-OSM is currently responding to a letter from Congressman Markey to the Secretary concerning the rule. OSM is coordinating the response with BLM.

Temporary Cessation of Operations Rule-Waiting for OSM senior management briefing.

#### **Possibly Upcoming Rulemaking:**

Definition of Coal Rule-Define coal ranks internally to stop relying on ASTM's coal rankings.

Emergency Action Plan Rule-From an IG recommendation regarding Dam Safety, OSM may conduct rulemaking to require EAPs up front. Currently an EAP is not required until the start of failure.

#### **HR Issues:**

Vice DeVito-Regulatory Analyst-Harry Payne  
NEPA Specialist 13/14 to be advertised

Vice Mitchell-Economist

**Other Business:**

OSM Booth-The booth and materials have been shipped. DOI/DI-2000 to be used when complimentary luncheon tickets are provided.

ADTI-Cecil Slaughter, Hydrologist, Div of Reg Support is looking forward to running with ADTI.

TIPS Report

- TIPS is poised to assist the IMCC in organizing a **Geospatial Conference** in 2013 as discussed by state members of the TIPS Steering Committee meeting last May.
- Director Pizarchik along with Tonya Mullins, Billie Clark, and Steve Trujillo attending a memorandum of understanding signing with the **Adams State University** to cooperate with the OSM in training, and cooperation between the University and OSM. The TIPS Training Program currently works with Adams State to provide distance learning TIPS courses nationwide. This effort will provide more online training for OSM and more cooperation with placing and training students in the future.
- TIPS remote sensing specialists are in the field in Colorado in cooperation with state personnel to use the **Raven drone aircraft** to obtain aerial imagery over an AML site to assess revegetation success. This is a proof of concept experiment in the use of drone aircraft cameras for evaluating site vegetation. This is the second trial of drone aircraft use by TIPS for remote sensing on coal mine reclamation. The Raven drones are provided through a cooperative arrangement that TIPS has developed with the USGS who are also on site on this project along with BLM personnel.
- New **AmeriCorps personnel** are soon expected to join TIPS in the Denver office to assist with remote sensing projects and with redesign of the TIPS website.

IMCC Report

- The states are watching with great interest the **continuing resolution** for Fiscal Year 2013 which was introduced on September 10. The bill includes a provision to clarify and fix the unintended consequences of an amendment to Title IV of SMCRA in the Surface Transportation bill that was passed in July which would **limit payments to certified states and tribes to \$15 million per year**. That amendment could be read to limit payments to uncertified states for their historic production shares. The newest amendment is also fraught with problems, so it will be interesting to see how things play out in the next few days as Congress contemplates action on the CR.
- **IMCC will be holding its Mid-Year meeting on October 11 and 12 in Chicago** with several issues on the agenda, including the potential transition/re-vitalization of Administrations.
- IMCC continues to work with the **pilot program partners regarding Geomine** who are in the process of reviewing a draft report on progress under the pilot project. A draft report should be available for others to review later this year.
- IMCC may also assist with facilitating a **workshop on Geospatial applications**, assuming it receives funding for the project.

### WIEB Report

- The WIEB, western states, tribes and OSM conducted an annual meeting on August 21, 2012. Issues discussed included pending federal rulemaking projects, federal funding, oversight issues, etc. WIEB member states continue to work closely with IMCC to address the many pending issues associated with the above discussion topics.

### NAAML P Report

- NAAML P Annual Meeting September 23-26, 2012 in Des Moines, IA. Currently 150 registered outside the state of IA.

### 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, Bryan, TX October 4-5, 2012 by MCR
- TMRA Annual Meeting, TX, October 2012, by MCR
- ISMR Jasper, IN December, 2012 by MCR

**Next conference call will be November 20, 2012 at 1 PM Central.**