

# WRTT Conference Call

November 17th, 2008

Monday 11:00 AM Mountain Time

Call: 1-877-612-4949 Passcode: 8870122

## WRTT

### Topics of Interest:

- Please check out the updated TIPS website for recent updates! These are located in the “What’s New?” section of the page. <http://www.tips.osmre.gov>
- Please check out the updated NTTTT website for recent updates! These are located at: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>
- WRTT Team Meeting will be in conjunction with the 2009 ASMR/BLRS Conference in Billings, MT May 30-June 5, 2009. Tentatively, the WRTT team meeting will occur from 8:00 – 12:00 Thursday during the event.
- Abstracts and Posters for the 2009 ASMR/BLRS are due January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- The Geomorphic Forum will be held in Bristol, VA April 28-20 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center. Please go to the website to register: <https://www.dce.siu.edu/index.php/Conferences/Geomorphic-Reclamation-and-Natural-Stream-Design-at-Coal-Mines>
- Holiday Season: Have a happy holiday!

### Discussion Topic(s):

No discussion topic this month! For your information, here are the last two topics that were discussed:

#### **Title V**

The regulation of active mines is a demanding job and requires constant vigilance on the part of the regulatory agency. Many times, situations arise outside the domain of the regulatory agency that requires a course of action not specifically defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) or the state or tribal regulations. The following are examples of operations that tend to coincide with coal mining operations, many times operating under their own jurisdiction:

- Methane wells
- Oil and Gas Wells
- Logging Operations

I would like everyone to bring to the call an example of how you handle these situations. Are there procedures in place that exist at this time to handle these conflicts? If not, should there be?

## **Title IV**

AML problems exist. The technologies used to deal with these problems are ever changing. Each OSM office, state and tribe may have new and innovative technologies to address these problems. I would like each office to:

1. Talk about a new and innovative AML solution they have come up with in the last year or two. If you used OSMRE supplied software/hardware, please let us know. If you did not use existing OSM software/hardware to do this, then, let us know what you did use. We always like to hear about any new and exciting developments in the technological field!
2. Bring to the attention of the group an AML problem they would like addressed and see if anyone knows how to address this problem.

**NOTE:** If you have any interesting topics for discussion, please let me know! The January call will be a Title IV discussion call.

## **WRTT Member Reports/Information**

Alaska:

Title IV: Work continues at Slipper Lake. The Usibelli wash plant will be torn down. Some shaft work also continues. Natural Regrade will be used to design the reclamation for a 300 foot highwall left over from hydraulic mining.

Title V: The Flir camera was used on the Wishbone Hill site successfully.

Arizona (Navajo):

Title V: The Black Mesa Mine EIS process is still ongoing. Talks are ongoing concerning keeping certain facilities at both the McKinley and Black Mesa Mines.

Title IV: No Report.

Arizona (Hopi):

Title IV and V: No Report.

Colorado:

Title V: In the process of bond releasing 14 sites. They are keeping a watchful eye on the Peabody coal company restructuring.

Title IV: No report

Montana:

Title V: The Absaloka mine permit is being finalized. 2 applied science cooperative agreement proposals are being submitted from the state. The office has officially moved to their new location. A few of the staff recently attended a tribal relations meeting. MT was evaluating the possibility of signing off on an applied science cooperative agreement being done by a group of researchers from MT Tech and Eastern Washington

University. They are interested in trying to develop a sediment model using WEPP (Water Erosion Prediction Project- a model thought to be better than RUSTLE) for coal mining.

Title IV: A coal fire investigation taking place in both Yellowstone and Musselshell counties. The recent mine blowout on the little Blackfoot river is being monitored closely.

**Montana (Crow):**

Title IV and V: No Report.

**New Mexico:**

Title V: Attorney's are looking at the San Juan Mine's disposal of CCB's. An NOV was issued to Peabody for Ownership and Control violations.

Title IV: Water and Earth Technology is involved in a site assessment of the Vermijo Park Rank near Raton. A study on the uses of coal spoil (gob) is being conducted on sites near Raton and Gallup.

**North Dakota:**

Title IV and V: No Report.

**Utah:**

Title IV and V: Numerous AML sites are being taken care of. The department has a new hire (Jan Morse). She will be working on the AMLIS database and numerous other duties. Budget cuts are taking place.

**Wyoming:**

Title V: 13 bond releases are taking place (from area bond release to final bond release). 7 amendments are being processed. One of these permits is being expanded from 200 acres to 5000 acres. There have been 2 new applications (School creek and Young's creek). An ongoing IT project is currently in the works. The electronic permitting project expects to be up and running by the end of 2009.

Title IV: The field season is about finished. There are 4 projects nearing completion: 2 in the Rock Springs area, 1 in the Gas Hills and 1 in the Kemmerer area. Marcia Murdoch has been Beta testing the new AMLIS system.

**Casper Field Office:**

Title IV and V: No Report.

**Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office:**

Title IV and V: No Report.

**Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office:**

Title IV and V: No Report.

**TIPS:**

The NGA pilot project is ongoing. The service manager meeting recently took place in Pittsburgh, PA. A new and improved service manager will be visiting your local OSM, state or tribal office soon!

### **Technical Assistance, Training and General Information**

All information regarding the TIPS/NTTP/TECHNOLGY TRANSFER programs can be found at the following websites:

- [www.techtransfer.osmre.gov](http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov)
- [www.tips.osmre.gov](http://www.tips.osmre.gov)
- [www.doilearn.gov](http://www.doilearn.gov)

#### **Next Call:**

**(Due to the 19<sup>th</sup> being a holiday, the next call will be held on January 26th, 2008).**