

WRTT Conference Call

September 30th, 2010

Thursday 11:30 AM Mountain Time

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

WRTT

TIPS, Technology Transfer, Training and General Information:

- 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 **NTTT** website for recent updates! These are located at: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>
- Check out the newly designed **OSMRE** website at: <http://www.osmre.gov>
- Check out the newly designed **OSMRE-WR** website at:
<http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov>
- Please review the *new* **WRTT** *SharePoint* site at:
<https://nttt.osmre.gov/TechTransfer/default.aspx>
- Upcoming events: <http://amd.osmre.gov/ttcalroot/TTCalendar.aspx>

Discussion Topic(s):

Technology is advancing at an amazing pace. OSMRE has committed itself to trying to keep pace with this technology. We have dedicated ourselves to fully integrating the use of both remote sensing and mobile computing technology into our mission statement and program goal and we vow to support SMCRA to the fullest extent possible.

A national SMCRA GIS that brings in live-data from all State and tribal programs is currently underway as a pilot project. I would like to hear your thoughts on this project and what you like/dislike about this project.

Robert Welsh presented information today concerning the new “Geomine” project. OSMRE has taken the lead on this project, and, Mr. Welsh is the team leader for this project. He explained that a pilot project is now in its formative stages and involve the states of TN, WV, VA and KY as well as OSMRE, USACE, USFWS and EPA. The project will involve the use of “live data” from these programs and use that data as part of a national SMCRA GIS database program. Mr. Welsh stressed that collaboration is the key for this program to work and that, again, the pilot project had just begun.

The response from the WRTT team seemed to be favorable to the project. Everyone is interested in just how this project will progress. Mr. Welsh will provide updates to the WRTT team leader as new developments occur.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

- Alaska: Mrs. Jing noted that the Usibelli permit was being renewed. A bond release at Gold Run pass was being processed with 76 of the total 96 acres being fully released. Exploration permits for the West Arctic and Jonesville sites were given.
- Arizona (Navajo): Mr. Stucker noted that he hired a new GIS analyst. He hoped to have a full complement of 10 people by the end of the year. There have been legal issues delaying the advent of tribal primacy. Otherwise, general inspection duties have occurred.
- Arizona (Hopi): Not present (power outage).
- Colorado: Mrs. Brown said there have been two new permit applications: One is on private land (New Horizon North) and one new load out (McLean Canyon mine). There are 7-8 bond releases pending approval.
- Montana: Mr. Glenn stated that there were 12-15 active mine fires in Eastern MT that were being addressed.
Mrs. McDannel stated she had received information concerning a new business process meeting. This meeting involved MT DEQ and area coal companies. She said initial reactions to the proposed business changes were mixed. She stated that there were amendments pending approval. The Western Environmental Law Center seemed to be one of the hold-ups with getting the amendments processed in a timely manner.
- Montana (Crow): Not present (phone lines are down).
- New Mexico: Miss Delay stated she was involved with IT/GIS developing an enterprise level geodatabase. She stated they are sharing that information with BLM.
Mr. Clark stated he'd been involved with folks from the University of New Mexico and are working on a fly ash project on the San Juan mine. He stated he tested out the Juno unit while there and couldn't see the screen very well in bright sun. He also stated that he like the GIS coverage on some of the provided scanned mine maps (Dave...clarify).
- North Dakota: Mr. Welch stated that a permit revision was submitted to add 16,924 ac to the Falkirk mine. Routine inspections are taking place.
Mr. Welch stated that there was an environmental group protesting the new South Hearst mine. He also stated that the mobile computing has been very helpful in daily operations. They have been using explorer tablets and ArcPad. They have been using the downhole camera a lot. Mr. Johnson stated they had recently obtained imagery from a local college that had proved to be helpful. Drill and grouting of subsidence was ongoing.
- Utah: Mrs. Morse stated that their main project was the White Oak bond forfeiture site. This is a reclaimed bond forfeiture site that has experienced severe erosion (since the reclamation was completed). DOGM is exploring ways to redesign and repair the erosion.
- Wyoming: Not present.
- Casper Field Office: Not present

Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office: Mr. Calle stated that work was ongoing on the stream protection rule. They were working on Chapter 2 deliverables/EIS alternatives. The next section the stream buffer zone team was to work on was Chapter 3: Describe the affected areas.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: Miss Shaeffer stated that the John Henry mine, located in Washington State, was denied a permit revision due to the company not complying with existing permit conditions.

TIPS: Mr. Hamm stated that the Geomine pilot project was underway. He also stated that we had new “shared” equipment to loan out to all OSM offices/state offices/tribal offices. These included: A new gas meter, and, a new X-ray fluorescence probe.

Mr. Austin stated that the ASMR conference was coming up June of 2011 and that a ½ day bond release workshop was planned.

Next Call: October 26th, 2010 (subject to change)