

# WRTT Conference Call

May 31st, 2011

Tuesday 11:00 PM 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. **\*Note: A new version of the TIPS website will be unveiled soon (TBA). Please check the site frequently.**  
<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>
- WRTT annual conference: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 1-4 pm. If you are not attending the meeting, and, you have a question you would like answered, or, have a topic you would like addressed during the general session, please send me an e-mail/call me.

### Discussion Topic:

OSMRE’s Applied Science program has had a significant impact on the development and/or advancement of reclamation techniques pertaining to both active mine sites as well as abandoned mine sites. Due to budget constraints, this program has been eliminated for the 2012 budget year.

How do you propose we address the problem of creating *new* reclamation techniques for the future? Also, how do you propose we *transfer* the development of a new reclamation technique to others?

Montana started the meeting by asking if anyone had any information on gravimetric studies related to coal. OSM suggested that any information on this topic be posted to the WRTT SharePoint site. New Mexico stated that operators may be interested in pitching in with extra monies for reclamation type studies (they cited their own studies on fly ash characterization and disposal as examples). Alaska suggested querying OSM AML folks

on their knowledge of geophysical studies and their success relative to detecting underground voids. They recall North or South Dakota did some work, and maybe Kansas too, with GPR or other techniques. They think the success was limited, & personnel from those states or Ginger (OSM AML) would know more about it. They also made the comments about improved map-grade GPS accuracy in reply to my asking about improved reclamation techniques. Carrier wave accuracies for map grade instruments are in the decimeter range, +/- 10 cm vertically. This is near survey-grade accuracy, & probably accurate enough for OG mapping for design purposes. These machines are easier to use & far less expensive than survey-grade instruments. Survey grade requires 3-4 times the cost for purchase, and (They've been told) a week's training minimum to begin to be able to function. The savings are less money outlay required for equipment, software, training, and paying workers' time to become proficient.

Alaska also suggested that carrier wave vs. code frequencies have shown a difference of a decimeter and this would translate into savings on training costs. Alaska noted that OSM already had a transfer of information via its success stories on the TIPS website. He suggests the use of a medium like a bulletin board. Montana suggested the use of a listserv. He suggested that Title IV and Title V could be separated into different groups. UT stated that she liked receiving an e-mail versus trying to remember to go to the SharePoint site. OSM stated that the SharePoint site could be set up to send reminders to anyone in the group that someone had posted to the site. New Mexico stated that grant proposals to universities were very effective.

### **WRTT Member Reports/Information**

**Alaska:** Title V: Noted that 13 drill holes related to in-situ coal mining had been drilled on native land (ciri beluga). Drilling was planned on Mental Health trust lands in the near future.

Title IV: Tree planting was taking place on the North Jones site. A contractor from Florida was taking care of the tree planting. Reclamation plans were in order for the Healy Creek highwall. Future reclamation was planned for the gold mining districts around Fairbanks.

**Arizona (Navajo):** Title V: The public comment period for the BHP Navajo mine was over. A CHIA was taking place for area four north of the same mine. A new EA was proposed for this mine as was to be reviewed by OSM personnel.

**Arizona (Hopi):** Not present.

**Colorado:** Not present.

Montana: Title IV: MT-AML is curtailing all hard rock projects. No bids for work, coal or otherwise, are being taken until some decision is made with regard to the 2012 OSM proposed budget.

Montana (Crow): Not present.

New Mexico: Title IV: Coal reclamation is wrapping up in the Raton area. A new archeologist was hired as well as a new intern.

Title V: Jim O'Hara is retiring. The coal program is taking over the uranium program.

North Dakota: Title V: Lots of flooding! The title V program hired a new employee. A technical review is being completed on the South Heart permit. Due to the numerous objectors to this permit, an informal conference for South Heart Permit application is scheduled for late June. A revision of the Falkirk mine -17,000 acres- is currently in progress.

Utah: Title V: A statewide coal inventory is still in progress. AMLIS data entry is taking place. A procedures manual and health and safety plan is being developed in conjunction with BLM. Three AML projects are taking place (2 hard rock/1 uranium).

Wyoming: Not present.

Casper Field Office: North Dakota AML project- Columbus 11-112 highwall- being actively reclaimed. An MOA was being worked on for a historical site. The office noted that their employee, John Sieving, was a resident expert with gravimetric survey collection and data.

Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office: Navajo EPA/EPA working on impoundment water quality issues. Work is ongoing in regards to the stream protection rule. An EA was taking place on the Kayenta mine. A CHIA and EA were taking place on the BHP Navajo mine.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: Not present.

TIPS: The TIPS steering committee was recently held in Denver, CO. It was well attended (though, only one Western states representative attended). Numerous topics were discussed (such as service manager success, software, etc.). Notes from this meeting will be forthcoming.

**Next Call: July 19th, 2011 (subject to change)**