

**MEETING SUMMARY
MCR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM
STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**

DATE: **August 20, 2008**
TIME: 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM CDT

ATTENDEES:

Alabama AML:

Alabama Surface Mining:

Arkansas Mining Division: **Wayne VanBuren, Greg Melton**

Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals:

Illinois AML:

Indiana Division of Reclamation:

Indiana AML:

Iowa Mining and Minerals Bureau:

Kansas Surface Mining Section:

Louisiana Injection and Mining Division:

Mississippi Mining and Reclamation Division:

Missouri Land Reclamation Program:

Oklahoma AML:

Oklahoma Department of Mines:

Texas Mining and Reclamation Division:

OSM MCR: **Kimery Vories**

OSM BFO:

OSM TFO:

OSM IFO:

Significant updates in bold italics

NEW THIS MONTH

1. ***OSM CCB Rulemaking*** The ANPR was published March 14, 2007. *OSM plans to have the proposed rule published sometime between November 2008 and March 2009.*
2. **The Geomorphic Reclamation Forum is officially scheduled for April 28-30, 2008 in Bristol, VA.**
3. **2009 AML Conference will be September 24-30, 2009 in Rogers, AR**
4. **Applied Science High Priorities for FY 2009**
 - **Reforestation Issues:** Develop innovative and improved methods for: (1) cost effectiveness; (2) forest productivity; and (3) erosion control.
 - **Blasting Issues:** Develop innovative and improved methods for: (1) assessing and controlling ground vibration and airblast; (2) monitoring blasting characteristics and their effects; (3) assessing structure response and damage caused by blasting; and (4) assessing the impacts of vibration on water wells.
 - **Hydrology Issues:** Develop innovative and improved methods for: (1) preventing, minimizing the extent and duration, and restoring stream loss associated with underground mines; (2) predicting outfalls, water quality and quantity associated with mine pools, and the

potential for mine blow-outs; (3) predicting, preventing, and treating mine drainage from abandoned or active mines; and (4) assessing water quality parameters.

- **Soils-based Crop Yield Predictor:** Develop and demonstrate an accurate soils-based predictor of crop yield to be used to determine revegetation success without actually growing crops.
 - **Carbon Dioxide Gas Intrusion:** Evaluate potential causes for carbon dioxide gas intrusion into houses and other man made structures built on reclaimed coal mine spoils; identify practical solutions for its prevention; and develop methods for remediating and/or eliminating it.
 - **Coal Mine Voids and Fires:** Develop reliable techniques and methods for detecting and characterizing coal mine voids and fires.
 - **Invasive Species:** Develop innovative and improved methods for identifying, assessing, managing, and preventing invasive species (i.e. cheat grass, etc.) on reclaimed mine lands.
5. **Indiana Bat Coordination Meetings** – PTSB chief, Len Meier met with other OSM, State and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) participants to kick off the initial meeting of the Indiana Bat Working Group in Atlanta, Georgia Tuesday, June 10, 2008. This meeting follows up discussions between OSM and FWS management regarding improving consistency and effectiveness of protection and enhancement plans for Indiana Bats on SMCRA mine sites under the 1996 Biological Opinion. OSM members on the Working Group are Ian Dye and Craig Walker. State members are Tim Taylor from Indiana, Richard Wahrer from Kentucky and Bob Fala from West Virginia. State members were chosen by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission.
6. **Midwest Reforestation Meetings** – The Upper Midwest Reforestation meeting was held June 26, 2008 in Terre Haute, IN. It included representatives from academia, industry, and the States of IL, IN, and MO. The participants provided valuable input on state specific considerations related to the use of the Forestry Reclamation Approach in the Upper Midwest. Modifications of the FRA were not recommended. Many of the participants were interested in OSM organizing a field visit to the FRA sites in Ohio as the methods used there seemed to be most applicable to the Upper Midwest. The representatives of Peabody Energy were interested in developing a demonstration project at a mining operation in Indiana and in Illinois so that appropriate research could be conducted to verify the validity of the approach. *The Lower Midwest Reforestation meeting was held July 22, 2008 in Austin, TX. It included representatives from academia, industry, and the States of TX, MS, AL, and LA. The participants provided valuable input on state specific considerations related to the use of the Forestry Reclamation Approach in the Lower Midwest. Most of these states have been using modified FRA approach to reforestation for many years. Emphasis is placed on use of coarse textured soils that are less vulnerable to compaction, planting a dense vegetative cover to protect from erosion during intense rainfall events, use of commercial pine species for use in commercial forestry, and machine planting for uniform high level of survival and low cost.*
7. **Larry Lewis** reported that the **AML AMD work group** is ready for the next MCR AMD workshop. It will be located in Fort Smith AR September 22-23, 2008. The Holiday Inn has been contracted as the meeting place for the event. The program and registration information has been released. Please register as soon as possible. The field trip includes 4 sites in Arkansas and 2 in Oklahoma.

ONGOING EFFORTS

- 8. Indiana Bat and Coal Mining Forum.** The steering committee is planning for a forum to be held the summer of 2009 in Charleston, WV with a full day field trip and a two day forum. This event may be put off until 2010 while waiting for results from USFWS.
- 9. CCB Placement after new OSM CCB Rule Forum.** The steering committee is planning for a forum to be held during the last half of July 2009 in Morgantown, WV with a full day field trip and two day forum. This event will most likely be moved to 2010 while waiting for the publication of the proposed rule.
- 10. Geomorphic Reclamation Forum.** The steering committee is continuing planning for a forum to be held April 28-30, 2009 in Bristol, VA with a full day field trip and two day forum.
- 11. Ohio State University CCB Research –** MCR has been working with the OSM CCB regional team at the request of OSU to begin cooperating on an Ohio CCB research initiative to conduct case studies on the use of FGD in mine reclamation. OSU recently requested information on FGD projects on mined land East of the Mississippi.
- 12. American Society of Mining and Reclamation (ASMR) Annual Meeting –** WR staff are actively involved in assisting the planning for the meeting June 2009 in Billings Montana.
- 13. The new OSM Technology Transfer Website** is a work in progress it can be accessed at www.techtransfer.osmre.gov. or by going to the MCR website at www.mcrcc.osmre.gov and under the Links list clicking on “NT³ OSM Technology Transfer.” *Please visit the applied science page to view final reports for past projects.*
- 14. Next Conference Call** will be scheduled for October 21, 2008 at 10 AM CST.