

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

DATE: **July 1, 2008**  
TIME: 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM CDT

ATTENDEES:

Alabama AML: **Larry Barwick**

Alabama Surface Mining:

Arkansas Mining Division: **Wayne VanBuren**

Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals:

Illinois AML: **Larry Lewis**

Indiana Division of Reclamation: **Todd Huff**

Indiana AML: **Marvin Ellis**

Iowa Mining and Minerals Bureau:

Kansas Surface Mining Section:

Louisiana Injection and Mining Division:

Mississippi Mining and Reclamation Division: **Stan Thieling, Lonnie Barrier**

Missouri Land Reclamation Program:

Oklahoma AML:

Oklahoma Department of Mines:

Texas Mining and Reclamation Division: **Mark Schlinggen**

OSM MCR: **Kimery Vories, Len Meier**

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 in July of 2008.*
2. **Science Strategy Meeting on the White Nose Syndrome in Bats** – PTSB staff member Kim Vories attended this meeting, June 9-11, 2008 in Albany New York. There were about 100 people in attendance representing US FWS, Bat Conservation International, OSM, university biologists, and representative State staffs from New York and surrounding States. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the participants on the scientific findings to date and to develop both scientific and management strategies for determining the cause, potential effects and mitigative strategies, and management options. Kim attended to ensure that the OSM Bats and Mines Initiative takes into account the latest research findings regarding this important health risk to bats. Six species of bats have been impacted including the endangered Indiana bat, a species of significant interest in 14 coal mining states. While the disease has not yet been positively verified from coal producing states, where it has been found, mortality rates have exceeded 90% in some hibernacula. The national Indiana bat census will be taking place during early 2009 and will include observations to determine the extent to which the syndrome is impacting other states.

- 3. Applied Science High Priorities for FY 2009** The Director of OSM has tasked each region to come up with two high priority applied science topics for FY 2009 by June 13. The following are the regional priorities sent to the Director.

#### Appalachian Region

Priority 1 – **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.

Priority 2 – **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.

#### Mid-Continent Region

Priority 1 – **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.

Priority 2 – **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.

#### Western Region

Priority 1 – **Coal Mine Voids and Fires:** Develop reliable techniques and methods for detecting and characterizing coal mine voids and fires.

Priority 2 – **Invasive Species:** Develop innovative and improved methods for identifying, assessing, managing, and preventing invasive species (i.e. cheat grass, etc.) on reclaimed mine lands.

- 4. 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. Len worked with Lois Uranowski from the OSM Appalachian Region and FWS leadership to kick off the working group meeting by discussing historical perspectives of the Indiana bat issue, regional consistency, expectations for the workgroup and an explanation of the team charter. The work group accepted the draft charter developed by the Management group and began work on the effort. Indications are that the workgroup was well on the way to meeting the goals at the end of the first meeting. 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. (See attached Charter for the group)
- 5. Upper Midwest Reforestation Meeting** – 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. Planning continues for the meeting in Austin TX on July 22.

6. **Larry Lewis** reported that the **AML AMD work group** is planning 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 just been released. Please register as soon as possible. A dry run of the field trip will take place May 27. The field trip includes 4 sites in Arkansas and 2 in Oklahoma. The work group will meet within the next few days to finalize the field trip logistics. The NTTP program has agreed to provide funding to support the travel of MCR state staff who would not be able to attend without travel support. *Please contact Kim Vories if you need travel assistance.*

### **ONGOING EFFORTS**

7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **Geomorphic Reclamation Forum.** The steering committee is continuing planning for a forum to be held during the last half of April 2009 in Bristol, VA with a full day field trip and two day forum.
10. **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.
11. **American Society of Mining and Reclamation (ASMR) Annual Meeting** – MCR staff played important roles at the ASMR Annual Meeting June 14-18, 2008 in Richmond, Virginia. During the event, OSM technology transfer staff will provide an exhibit on current technology transfer initiatives. Kim Vories worked the OSM display with help from other regional offices. Kim participated in the National Executive Council meetings on June 15 and 18. The committee determined that the 2009 meeting will be in Billings MT, 2010 in Harrisburg, PA, and 2011 in Bismarck, ND. Kim presented a paper on Indiana bats and coal mining. Paul Behum presented a paper on passive treatment of AMD.
12. The new OSM **Technology Transfer Website** is a work in progress it can be accessed at [www.techtransfer.osmre.gov](http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov). or by going to the MCR website at [www.mcrc.org](http://www.mcrc.org) and under the Links list clicking on “NT<sup>3</sup> OSM Technology Transfer.” *Please visit the applied science page to view final reports for past projects.*
13. **Next Conference Call** will be scheduled for August 20, 2008 at 10 AM CDT.