

WRTT Conference Call

April 20th, 2009

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 NTTT website for recent updates! These are located at: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>
- The annual Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration meeting will be held February 22-25, 2009 in Denver, CO at the Colorado Convention Center. Please visit their website at: <http://www.smenet.org/meetings>
- 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>
- 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 TUESDAY during the event. Please check out the website for this conference: <http://www.billingslandreclamationsymposium.org>
- Check out the newly designed OSMRE website at: <http://www.osmre.gov>

Discussion Topic(s):

Folks working in the abandoned mine lands (AML) field take great pride in their reclamation projects. Due to recent events, the public has begun to focus more on AML sites (for a variety of reasons- AMD, blowouts, etc). To help with this problem, OSMRE has formed a partnership with the state of VA and is currently working on a project using remote sensing to characterize and locate AML sites. Would this project work with our western states?

This project may help solve one problem: Locating and reclaiming AML sites. Another problem is long term monitoring AML sites. Unlike Title V sites (which have a set of rules to follow before bond release takes place), Title IV regulations do not have to monitor an AML site after reclamation has taken place (please correct me if I am wrong on this point). Do any of your offices have a plan for long term monitoring of reclaimed AML sites?

ND stated that the VA project looked great and that they were using something similar to evaluate AML sites in their own state. ND stated that this type of technology has a variety of uses.

AK stated that the biggest use of this type of technology was its use in change detection of a site over time.

WY already uses existing underground maps and aerial photography to find and evaluate AML sites. They follow up/monitor reclaimed sites by contracting a company to look at those sites years later.

MT has a system in place to evaluate sites 2-3 years post reclamation. They use a helicopter once a year to fly over 200 sites. On the ground, they are using GPS enabled tablets and topofusion to ground truth these sites.

UT stated that old AML sites had been evaluated over 15 years ago and that they plan on using a contracted company to re-inventory these sites in the coming year.

MT stated that even certified states keep coming across new AML sites.

ND noted that timely imagery and high quality data is a must.

UT stated that the use of satellite technology is a great idea, if anything, just to help find openings on hills/mountainsides.

ND noted that inventory of AML sites and post-reclamation go hand in hand with each other.

WY noted that, at the very least, NPDES requirements are still in place on reclaimed AML sites, even if there isn't any other post-reclamation rules and regulations.

MT noted that growing vegetation is always a problem on reclaimed sites. Weeds tend to be a huge problem and detection with satellite imagery would be very helpful if a difference between the two could be shown.

All states noted that they were VERY interested in using this technology to locate and track burning coal seams and mine fires.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: **Roger Allely**

Arizona (Navajo):

Arizona (Hopi):

Colorado:

Montana: **Heather Luinstra**

Montana (Crow):

New Mexico: **James Smith**

North Dakota: **William Dodd**

Utah: **Steve Fluke**

Wyoming: **Marcelo Calle**

Casper Field Office: **John Sieving**

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

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office:

TIPS:

General Discussion

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
- www.tips.osmre.gov
- www.doilearn.gov

**Next Call:
May 18th, 2009**