

WRTT Conference Call

February 23rd, 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 NTTTT website for recent updates! These are located at: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>
- 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):

Geospatial technology is becoming a big factor in the Title V arena. Federal agencies, states and tribes all play a part in the National Coal Mining Geospatial Committee (NCMGC). The goal of the NCMGC is “to identify and promote geospatial technology solutions for regulatory business processes in implementing Title 4 and Title 5 programs to fulfill the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The Committee focuses on identifying and promoting geospatial technologies that increase the effectiveness and efficiencies of organizations working on SMCRA-related projects on a national scale”. To this end, a push has been made to try and develop standards (American Society for Testing and Materials type standards) so that all data that is collected, input into databases and uploaded are all available to all federal, state and tribal agencies in a similar format.

What are your thoughts on the development of national ASTM standards for geospatial data? How are your agencies currently saving such data? Do you follow a specific set of guidelines? Has your federal/state/tribal agency formed their own standards for saving geospatial data?

***Note:** All comments are currently being taken by Alan Wilhelm (303-293-5081) and Karen Jass (303-293-5037) of OSMRE on this very issue. Please call them with your comments/suggestions.

This month's meeting was well attended. Most folks on the call agreed that all states and tribes already collect data in one way, shape or form but that no standards exist for that data. Alaska agreed with this and noted that, at the very least, a minimum set of standards must be set. Most folks on the call decided that having a set of standards for geospatial data was a win-win situation. New Mexico noted that the turn-around time between agencies and companies would be greatly reduced if we had a good set of standards. New Mexico also noted that if these regulations were developed, they would need to be enforced. The OSM-CFO noted that a national database was being constructed using Title IV and V data. OSM-CFO noted that talking about the development of geospatial standards had been talked about at last year's Geospatial conference. North Dakota noted that some underground standards had been developed. They also noted that they had a member on the ASTM standards committee on their staff.

Overall, the general consensus of the group was that a set of ASTM standards for geospatial data needed to be developed and was a good idea.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Russ Kirkham/Lei ping
Arizona (Navajo): John Stucker
Arizona (Hopi): Not present.
Colorado: Sandy Brown
Montana: Chris Bardash
Montana (Crow): Not present.
New Mexico: Dave Clark/Linda Delay
North Dakota: Guy Welch
Utah: Steve Fluke
Wyoming: Carol Bilbrough
Casper Field Office: Alan Boehms
Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office:
Heather Erickson
Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: Not present.
TIPS: Not present.

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:
March 16th, 2009**

Note: The next call will be both a Title IV and V call.