

# WRTT Annual Conference

June 3rd, 2009

## 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>
- Check out the newly designed **OSMRE** website at: <http://www.osmre.gov>
- 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>
- The NAAMLN National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands 31st Annual Conference will be held September 27-30, 2009 in Rogers, AR. Please check out the website for further information: <http://www.onenet.net/~naamlp>

### Discussion Topic(s):

Question: Do you have any concerns on how we are currently doing business?

The general consensus from the group was that the service managers are doing a good job. One concern was the speed of having a question or request answered. Suggestions from the WRTT group on how to alleviate this problem:

- Create an online avenue for questions. This online avenue could take multiple formats such as: Facebook, MySpace, chat boards, blogs, twitter or a water cooler type forum right on the TIPS website. Any of these sites would be used for posting questions, and, either getting answers from OSM, or, from other state or tribal users of these programs.
- The questions could also be posted under each software expert’s area of expertise on the TIPS website.
- Due to budgets, could OSM start promoting the use of LiveMeeting/Go to meeting for future meetings?

It was noted that state and tribal usage of these sites might be limited due to IT issues such as firewalls.

**Question:** What practices should we keep?

Again, the general consensus was that we were doing a good job. The ability to check out our shared equipment was a high point with the program and that we've done a good job at scheduling and delivering the shared equipment to all of our sites.

**Question:** What do we need to change?

There was much discussion on this topic. The main topic was the fact that each state and tribal department were not getting updates in a timely fashion. This was not due to the service managers getting the software to the state or tribe, but, rather, the software sitting in one spot after being delivered to the office. Many participants wondered if there was any way OSM could help in this arena. Other topics and ideas that came about during this discussion:

- Updates for software: Could keyserver be used to automatically update software like Microsoft does with their updates? If not, then, could our main software manager broadcast the software update information out in advance of it being physically sent out to the office(s)?
- Could OSM work with the states and tribes to come up with a more formal update and distribution process for software and the following updates? An MOA might be the way to go.
- Would the service manager meet with the IT contact/reclamation program supervisor and discuss the software distribution problem?
- Could OSM come up with some sort of "follow up" after sending out the software to make sure it has been distributed properly?
- There were download problems expressed during the meeting. Some of the programs were so large that downloading took an excruciatingly long time.
- Could OSM provide some sort of online course synopsis for a course attendee to refer back to after a course concludes?

## **WRTT Member Reports/Information**

**Alaska:**

AML: North Jones Overburden Drilling Project – to determine degree & extent of combustion for remediation design

Jonesville Fires Phase I Road Maintenance – to rock road, fire truck turnaround, and camping sites at Slipper Lake.

North Jones Vertical Openings – close two raveling shafts, connected to slope tunnels that run donwdip ~1500 feet to the crosscut tunnel at the bottom of the mountain

Usibelli wash plant – waiting for green light from Usibelli Coal Mine to tear down this and other structures, where kids have paintball fights. One person seriously injured falling through roof, bouncing off top of tank to concrete 20 ft. below.

Inventory of dangerous openings in old gold mines in Hope, AK for remediation design.

Arizona (Navajo):

Nothing new to report. Ongoing pursuit of tribal primacy.

Arizona (Hopi):

Nothing new to report. Ongoing pursuit of tribal primacy.

Colorado:

10 bond releases under review

New permit submitted by Peabody - proposed Sage Creek Mine

Contractor is updating the cost estimating program – Colorado Integrated Cost Estimating System (CIRCES)

Hiring freeze in place; four furlough days next State fiscal year starting July 1, 2009

Montana:

Nothing new to report.

Montana (Crow):

Not present.

New Mexico:

NM AML update: Busy with construction projects and bat surveys. Using a down hole camera has been very helpful for shaft bat surveys. Helps us determine if more investigation is needed before sending a person down the shaft.

NM is that we are planning a collaboration with MT and OSM to look at potential CCB related groundwater contamination, and at least in NM, some input regarding an enhanced groundwater monitoring plan at San Juan Coal. Angela McDannel and I had a preliminary discussion with Eric Perry (OSM-Pittsburgh) by conference call at Billings, and Jim O'Hara is coordinating with Bob Postle in regard to this matter. Monte Anderson, our hydrologist, is also in the loop. Eric suggests that Amy McGregor (OSM-Denver) may also be someone we should include because of her experience with metal speciation.

North Dakota:

We are in the process of reviewing about 12 bond release applications and busy with permit revisions.

The South Heart surface coal mining permit application, which is in a new mining area in the state, has been withdrawn but we expect that it will be re-submitted this fall.

Likewise, Otter Creek new surface coal mining permit application is being delayed with issues raised during our completeness review. We expect completeness for this application this fall.

AML major projects involve drilling and grouting of an old underground mine near Williston and backfilling about 4500 feet of highwalls near Hazen.

Utah:

Not present.

Wyoming:

Nothing new to report.

Casper Field Office:

No report.

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

No report.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office:

No report.

TIPS:

No report.

### **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](http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov)
- [www.tips.osmre.gov](http://www.tips.osmre.gov)
- [www.doilearn.gov](http://www.doilearn.gov)

**Next Call:  
July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
11 am Mountain time**

