

WRTT Conference Call

March 16th, 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):

All members of WRTT are expected to call in for this month’s call. This will require members to report any highlights from their respective programs this month. Afterwards, if you have any topic you feel needs discussed, please bring that up during our general discussion.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska:

No Report.

Arizona (Navajo):

Lyle Ben was hired as a new reclamation specialist.

Arizona (Hopi):

No report.

Colorado:

CO is still having budget problems. They are on a hiring freeze. They are just maintaining. The Redcliff permit is still being reviewed. BLM is doing an EIS. A revision for 16,000 acres was turned in by the Colowyo mine and was deemed incomplete. Peabody is going to open a new underground mine near the Seneca mine. Bond releases and rule revisions continue. CO wondered if anyone else was having difficulty with VER and asked for suggestions.

Montana:

MT is in the process of evaluating CO's database system and might use it in the near future. Electronic files management would be one of those tasks it would take care of. The spring creek mine expansion is still taking place. The Bull Mountain mine development is moving along nicely.

Montana (Crow):

Tanner and Squirrel Creek AML Projects will be completed this work season. Uranium Pits near Devil's Canyon will be worked on this season. We have been in contact with the Park Service (Lovell, WY office) for reclamation work on their Uranium Pits by Crow AML Program. The Pryor RR Tunnel is also a potential project for this summer. Verbal approval by the property owner has been received. Crow Tribe is aware of bond recalculation for the Absaloka South Extension, Crow Reservation. Our teams of consultants are still working on the Crow Primacy Plan; addendum two of their contract has recently been signed.

New Mexico:

Dave said they'd send their VER rules to CO to review. NM will be sending a representative to the ESRI conference to do a presentation and poster. NM wanted to thank Navajo AML and WY for their support with the applied science cooperative agreement proposal reviews. NM hired a new project manager in AML (Zoe Isaacson).

North Dakota:

Two new applications were submitted. Both were incomplete. ND is asking the legislature for two new positions. 2,500 acres were bond released. 450 underground mine maps have been georeferenced. ND had a problem with the DOI intrusion software...it interrupted their ability to hit the software licenses server. A virus caused a shutdown of the ND system.

Utah:

Due to cutbacks and travel restrictions, UT may not attend the WRTT conference this year. The AMR Program has a request for proposals for to put in place 'level of effort' contracts with a couple of consulting firms. The contracts will allow consultants to be held on retainer to do inventory, engineering, and fire projects. Two construction projects are scheduled to begin this spring. The Alton coal mine permit is still under review.

Wyoming:

The Jacobs ranch mine was acquired by Arch minerals creating a supermine. E-business/IT work continues. New projects are being submitted, with a preferred timeframe occurring sometime between April and June. Work is ongoing in both the Evanston and Rock Springs areas. A grouting project is being working on in the Rock Springs area. This area was evaluated using geophysical tools. The Carissa project needs work as it was vandalized. Downhole camera work continues.

Casper Field Office:

Quickbird imagery is being used to evaluate contemporaneous reclamation. AML projects continue in WY.

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

No report.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office:

An AML rules meeting took place in Denver, CO. The E-AMLIS system was a topic of conversation that was addressed at the meeting. All offices were represented at the meeting. Ownership and Control rules were revised. 732 letters will be going out to affected states and tribes soon. DFD received a "draft" application for the release of 500 acres at Centralia. DFD will respond with comments and Centralia will then submit a formal bond release application.

TIPS:

Reminder: TIPS steering committee meeting is coming up fast. WEIB members need to be informed of any fixes needed on the TIPS website. A new MOA will be sent out soon. The last one was done in 2005. This one will address the need of having Keyclient installed on all computers running TIPS software. It will also state that equipment purchased for the state/tribe is now theirs.

General Discussion

Henry noted that the stimulus bill had \$105 set aside for DOI. 50% of that is going to the park service. He also noted that the USDA had a level II access plan. Henry also stated that the ASMR/BLRS conference was coming up and early bird registration was due May 15th.

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:
April 20th, 2009**