

WRTT Conference Call

May 18th, 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. The WRTT team meeting will occur from 1:00-5:00 Wednesday 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):

Coal continues to be the leading source of power generation in the United States. In fact, over half of the electricity produced in this country comes from the burning of coal. With approximately 268 billion tons of recoverable coal reserves (according to the Energy Information Administration- EIA), coal looks to be a major energy source for years to come. At current mining rates, and, with all of this coal being burned at over 600 power plants in the United States, the United States should have approximately 240 years of coal powered electricity left.

Question: With the advent of stricter energy sanctions, will coal continue to be a major force in energy production within the United States? Will “clean coal technologies” such as fluidized bed combustion, flue gas desulfurization, integrated gasification combined cycle and other technologies help or harm the coal mining industry? How (or will) any of this affect our federal, state and tribal regulatory programs?

Australia's number one export is coal. The ACA (Australian Coal Association) is an industrial body representing Australia's Black Coal producers. The ACA created the Coal21 Initiative, which brought together the coal and electric power industries, unions, federal and state governments, and research organizations. Their goal is to demonstrate technologies that would allow for the continued use of affordable coal-fired electricity but with significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. They created the Coal21 Fund, and have committed \$1 billion for the development of low emissions technologies.

“Can we learn from this example and somehow unite US industry, government bodies, and researchers to accomplish the same goal?”

Someone stated that with regard to flue gas desulfurization, capture and storage can be problematic. It is tough to get it out of airstreams.

Another stated that DOE stimulus money may be used for higher education related to coal technology fields.

Underground coal gasification would be successful if there was a way to minimize the disturbance to the area.

In Virginia, there is a hybrid power plant that uses coal bed methane and coal for electricity production. Other power plants already have gas nozzles to get them started.

Sandy Brown stated that there is not a way to capture methane right now in CO. Wyoming gives carbon credits for reclamation.

Topics to be discussed at the upcoming WRTT meeting were brought up also. These were: 1. How do most states and tribes currently archive documents? Sandy Brown commented on this topic on how Colorado addresses this issue, and, 2. Carol Bilbrough plans to present GIS templates that Wyoming uses for its mining applications.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Roger Allely and Liping Jing

Arizona (Navajo): John Stucker: Title V is hiring 4 new people.

Arizona (Hopi): Norman Honie: 2 OSM grant-funded tribal inspectors will be hired.

Colorado: Sandy Brown: Colorado is anticipating a number of large permit applications.

Montana: Angela McDannel: MT discussed Dr. Wu's applied science grant.

Montana (Crow):

New Mexico: Dave Clark: Dave reported on the success of the geomorphic reclamation conference. He also noted NM is pursuing a contract for electronic archiving of records to supplement long term records management by the state Records Management Division.

North Dakota: Guy Welch: New mine area application (Arctic Creek Mine?) was withdrawn due to incompleteness, but will be resubmitted at a later date.

Utah:

Wyoming: Carol Bilbrough: 2 new school mines, the School Creek Mine and the Young's Creek Mine

Casper Field Office: John Sieving: Business as usual.

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

Heather Erickson: Business as usual.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: Elizabeth Shaeffer: business as usual.

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:
July 13th, 2009**