

# WRTT Conference Call

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

Monday 11:00 AM Mountain Time

Call: 1-877-612-4949 Passcode: 8870122

## WRTT

### TIPS, Technology Transfer, Training and General Information:

- 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>
- NAAML P 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):

Western Region Technology Transfer Team (WRTT) high priority topic. Topics submitted so far:

- An investigation of methods such as mass grading, blasting, dynamic compaction, excavation and backfill to induce subsidence and advance surface stability including recommendations regarding applicability, limitations and costing.
- Investigation of cost effective and durable alternatives to grout injection to stabilize subsiding ground in developed areas.
- Development of risk assessment model to evaluate/predict potential impacts and possible property damage due to recharge of abandoned underground coal mines in populated areas.
- Reducing cheat grass invasion.
- Evaluation of species for seed mixes that are competitive against cheat grass. There is also research on a smut (fungal infection) that infects cheat grass and renders the seeds sterile.
- Soil Compaction.
- Differential settling.
- Cost and success stories of completed applied science cooperative agreements

The purpose of today's discussion was to come up with a high priority topic for the Applied Science Cooperative Agreement solicitation. The WRTT came to a consensus on the following topic: "Reclamation methods to prevent the establishment of cheatgrass and management practices to control cheatgrass invasion".

### **WRTT Member Reports/Information**

Alaska: Not present (Roger tried to call in but the call was refused...this problem has been solved).

Arizona (Navajo): John Stucker reported that the subject of tribal primacy is ongoing. Three mines are the topic of discussion: 1. The McKinley mine is in the process of shutting down, 2. The BHP Billington mine is in the process of renewing their permit, and, 3. A phase 1 bond release for the Peabody mine has been temporarily halted.

Arizona (Hopi): Not present

Colorado: Not present (Sandy tried to call in but the call was refused...this problem has been solved).

Montana: Tim Lewis and Heather Luinstra both attended and stated that there were varying amounts of reclamation projects that were ongoing.

Montana (Crow): Not present.

New Mexico: Dave Clark stated that the legislature has money for uranium projects (inventorying and prioritizing them). An RFP is done and a bidder has been selected for the project. The San Juan mine permits is up for renewal. Bond release inspections are to occur on the McKinley mine.

North Dakota: The South Heart Coal permit application has been withdrawn. We are expecting the Otter Creek Permit application completeness response later this month. The AML highwall reclamation project near Beulah has been completed and AML grouting project near Williston is continuing.

Utah: Stacy Shifflet attended the call today for Steve Fluke. She said a project had begun in the north Timpic area of UT.

Wyoming: Carol Bilbrough stated that the school creek coal mine has yet to be approved (20,000 acres). A mine on the MT/WY border has not been approved due to the CHIA. Electronic permitting is an ongoing project.

Marcelo Calle stated that there were ongoing construction projects in Rock Springs and Evanston. Channel reconstruction was occurring in Hannah.

Casper Field Office: John Sieving and Jeff Fleischman both attended the call. John stated that all permitting for the Absaloka mine is now taking place in the Casper Field Office.

Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office: Not present.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: Not present.

TIPS: Lou gave a list of both the Appalachian Region, Mid-Continent Region and OSM Headquarters high priority topics.

## **General Discussion**

Any topics of interest from our OSM offices, states and tribes are to be brought up at this time.

1. **High priority topic:** The WR is tasked with coming up with one high priority topic to be used in the 2010 Applied Science Cooperative Agreement solicitation.

**NOTE:** The conference call problem has been fixed! All WRTT members should be able to call in without difficulty next time.

**Next Call:  
October 26th, 2009  
(Title V)**