

# WRTT Conference Call

April 19, 2010

Tuesday 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>
- Upcoming events: <http://amd.osmre.gov/ttcalroot/TTCalendar.aspx>
- **Additional Topic:** High priority topics are due July 1<sup>st</sup>!

### Discussion Topic(s):

OSMRE defines a certified state/tribe as “States and Tribes that have certified they have no coal mining-related hazards remaining”. These certified states “may use AML funds for any expenditure directed by their state legislature as long as all coal work is completed.” Certified states/tribes: How has this process worked for you so far? Non-Certified states/tribes: How is the current process working for you?

One comment that was made immediately was made by the OSM Casper Field Office (CFO). They stated that the 2011 presidential budget included a proposal to cease AML funding of certified states and tribes. There are currently four states and three tribes that fall in that category. The CFO currently has two states and one tribe that fall in that category. Hopi commented that, even though the process has currently been working very well, many folks are already looking for other jobs due to the *proposed* 2011 budget. This would affect not only their personnel, but, their public facilities projects (PFP) as well. CFO noted the following: Following the 2006 amendments to SMCRA, in order to certify, states/tribes are to certify as having completed priority 1, 2 and 3 coal problems. Prior to the 2006 amendments to SMCRA, states/tribes certified as having completed priority 1 and 2 problems only. Completion of p3 was not required. Now states and tribes that previously certified will be required to reclaim any newly discovered p1, p2, as well as p3 sites. CFO also noted that if a state/tribe had completed all priority 1 and 2 sites, they could *automatically* become certified. All states and tribes on the call noted that the process of applying for and receiving grants was still working very well, but Utah noted that the new restrictions set for non coal vs. coal funding are not working well at all. Those funding allocation requirements, 65% for coal and 35% for non coal, prevent Utah from following the priority list they set according to their state AML plan. Many

high priority non coal hazards are being neglected while lower priority coal sites are receiving new focus. Utah disagrees with OSM that this is the best way to spend the money that SMCRA already provides to Utah. WY noted that, even though they are a certified state, they set aside a large chunk of funding to fix coal related incidents.

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

Alaska: The FLIR thermal camera was sent to AK and will be used to evaluate the Jonesville site. A preliminary finding was completed for the Whisper Hill permit. The Coalfield Communications class was just completed for the state of AK office.

Arizona (Navajo): Absent

Arizona (Hopi): Hopi stated that they had recently completed two PFP's. They were in the process of constructing a new Office of Mining Mineral Resources building and research center.

Colorado: Present (though lost contact).

Montana: Absent

Montana (Crow): Absent

New Mexico: New Mexico stated that they had quite a few construction projects ongoing, though, the majority of them were hardrock mining sites.

North Dakota: Present (audio wasn't working).

Utah: Utah noted that the borehole camera was being used to evaluate the depths of shafts. They had numerous construction projects ongoing.

Wyoming: Business as usual.

Casper Field Office: Recent AML grants were being distributed to WY and the Crow tribe. Assistance was being provided to MT in regards to their submitting an AML reclamation award.

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

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: Absent

TIPS: The TIPS steering committee will be taking place May 11th-13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Santa Fe, NM. ASMR will be taking place in June. Colorado recently purchased a borehole camera.

**Next Call:  
Tentatively: May 17, 2010**