

WRTT Conference Call

August 24th, 2010

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>
- Check out the newly designed **OSMRE-WR** website at:
<http://www.wrcc.osmre.gov>
- Please review the *new* **WRTT** SharePoint site at:
<https://nttt.osmre.gov/TechTransfer/default.aspx>
- Upcoming events: <http://amd.osmre.gov/ttcalroot/TTCalendar.aspx>

Discussion Topic(s):

One of OSMRE’s initiatives is geomorphic reclamation:

(<http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov/NTTMainSite/Initiatives/Geomorph/geomorph.shtm>)

. This practice has been tried, experimentally, and, on a large scale, on surface mines across the country. Have any of you attempted this type of reclamation on a small scale (Example: Five acres or less/AML site)? If so, please discuss on today’s call. Also, explain why you think this type of reclamation may (or may not) be a viable way to reclaim AML sites.

NOTE: If you have attempted this type of reclamation, please post an example on our WRTT SharePoint site. If you have had troubles accessing the site, please let me know.

The state of Utah reclaimed the Sunnyside Mine (an underground mine with a fair amount of surface disturbance) using the geomorphic reclamation technique. A stream was returned to its sinuous state, the floodplain restored and the area reseeded to match original conditions. The state of UT likes the geomorphic approach and really likes the wildlife the reclaimed area has attracted (particularly, bighorn sheep).

The state of NM reclaimed the Yankee mine in Northern New Mexico (an underground mine with surface disturbance) using the geomorphic reclamation technique. The state says this is the only method they would use and would “shudder” at mention of any other

methods suggested. The Swastika mine and the stream channel associated with that property is the next site that will use a geomorphic reclamation approach.

The state of Alaska has used geomorphic reclamation on the Poker Flats mine and has noticed that this site has had much smaller erosion gullies versus much larger erosion gullies on reclaimed lands using a more traditional engineering approach.

OSMRE Casper noted that, from what they've observed, planning is the key to a successfully reclaimed site- not just basic engineering principles.

Overall, the group preferred the geomorphic reclamation approach on small, AML sites.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Wishbone Hill (a new permit) had a survey marker issue/blasting issue that caused law enforcement to become involved. The Two Bull Ridge mining permit has been renewed.

Arizona (Navajo): Not present.

Arizona (Hopi): Not present.

Colorado: Not present.

Montana: Not present.

Montana (Crow): Not present.

New Mexico: The season has been incredibly busy. There are currently 4-5 projects beginning with 2 involving the USFS. There does not seem to be a lack of AML projects in the state.

North Dakota: Not present.

Utah: 2 projects have just begun (non-coal). This will keep everyone busy until the end of the year.

Wyoming: Not present.

Casper Field Office: Oversight reports have taken up most of the staff's time. They will be attending the Crow quarterly meeting as well as meeting with the Absaloka mine team.

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

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: Not present

TIPS: The "I" in TIPS means "innovation"! Thus, two new pieces of OSMRE loaner equipment will be available. These are: 1. a handheld X-ray Fluorescence unit, and, 2. a gas detection meter.

Next Call: September 21st, 2010 (subject to change)