

WRTT Conference Call

July 20th, 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>
- **Additional Topic(s):** *Tentative* discussion on the status of the applied science program.

Discussion Topic(s):

Invasive species have been an ongoing problem on mine sites throughout the United States. Last year’s Western Region high priority topic concentrated on the invasive species cheatgrass. What other invasive species have you encountered and how are you handling this problem?

Dave Clark (and Sandy Brown) shared information learned about the ongoing cheatgrass study:

MT/CO/WY-States selected to be evaluated by the USDA Ag. Experimental Station in Miles City Montana (?? Is this the correct location?) A literature search documenting completed cheatgrass studies; and to evaluate existing data, will be conducted by USDA.

The USDA will contact the coal mines directly. The USDA is contacting the three States to notify them of the study. Julian Calabrese may have some more detail. Sandy Brown was not aware of anyone contacting Colorado.

We did not discuss other invasive species.

Title V topics suggested: (OSM-Applied Science or other venues):

Guy Welch suggested that “templates” using ESRI and ArcGIS be created that would incorporate the 11 approved ASTM standards for coal mining. Guy suggested this would provide some consistency for data gathering and reporting. This effort and the ASTM standards development effort should be incorporating the OSM Directive REG-8 measurement requirements for acreages, bond release categories, and the like. All agreed this would be a good idea.

Henry discussed a (ASMR 2011 Annual Meeting in Bismarck, ND) proposed bond release workshop. Brenda Schladweiler, Anna Waitkus, and Henry will work together to coordinate speakers and a panel discussion for this workshop. An effort will be made to secure State, Tribal, and Federal regulators, coal companies, consultants, citizens (and others) to present during a one day bond release workshop and/or participate on a panel discussion.

See individual States reporting below.

WRTT Member Reports/Information: July 20, 2010

Alaska: N/A

Arizona (Navajo): John Stucker

John indicated the Navajo Nation has attorneys reviewing their proposed Title V SMCRA requirements. The Navajo Nation will participate in the OSM Quarterly meeting the first week of August; and they will participate in OSM Grants training in San Antonio, TX.

Arizona (Hopi): Ralph Lamson

Ralph indicated the Hopi Tribe was conducting a legal review of the grants process; and that the Hopi would also participate in the OSM grants training in San Antonio, TX.

Colorado: Sandy Brown

Sandy indicated that CO has bond release inspections to conduct, and they are working with OSM / DFD on 2010 and 2011 Oversight reporting and Oversight Topics & inspection selections.

Montana: N/A

Montana (Crow): N/A

New Mexico: Dave Clark

Dave indicated they have several bond release inspections to conduct. NM hired a new engineer who is scheduled to take the P.E. exam October 2010. Lou Hamm reminded Dave that “new employees” have preference rights for OSM TIPS & NTTP Training.

North Dakota: Guy Welch & Steve Schroeder

Guy indicated ND had two new coal mine permits, and one large permit amendment; pending bond release,; and final testing of AutoCAD 2011 and ArcGIS 10 coming up in 2 to 3 weeks. Guy discussed “worst case” bonding, and suggested that most large surface mines in the West are bonded this way.

Utah: Jan Morse

Jan indicated that she and DOGM Title IV staff have recently participated in Title V bond release inspections.

Wyoming: N/A (*Henry spoke to Anna Waitkus after the call regarding the (ASMR 2011 Annual Meeting in Bismarck, ND) proposed bond release workshop. Brenda Schladweiler, Anna, and Henry will work together to coordinate speakers and a panel discussion for this one day bond release workshop. NOTE BELOW: Marcelo provided a discussion thread on the WRTT Sharepoint site for WRTT recommendations on the proposed bond release workshop.*)

Casper Field Office: Jeff Fleishman, Alan Boehms, and John Sieving

Casper staff indicated they are working with their States on 2010 and 2011 Oversight reporting and Oversight Topics & inspection selections.

Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office: N/A
Marcelo (PSD) discussed planning for the TIPS HEC-RAS modeling course development and indicated that Dave Bickell (ND) may provide assistance for this course.

Marcelo provided the WRTT members the Sharepoint link previously provided by Duane for team member's use. Sandy Brown & John Stucker indicated they had problems connecting to the WRTT Sharepoint. Marcelo also provided a discussion thread link to the Sharepoint site for the proposed 2011 ASMR bond release workshop.

Denver Field Division Elizabeth Shaeffer-DFD

Elizabeth indicated that DFD is working with their States on 2010 and 2011 Oversight reporting and Oversight Topics & inspection selections. DFD also has bond release inspections in CO and UT.

Olympia Area Office: N/A

TIPS: Lou Hamm; Henry Austin (WRTT)

Lou Hamm discussed the ArcPad licensing agreements with TIPS State partners. TIPS will provide the initial license for ArcPad, and the respective State and Tribes will provide subsequent updates for these licenses. Lou is trying to get the existing 200 OSM ArcPad licenses updates through ESRI.

Next Call: August 24th, 2010 (subject to change)