

WRTT Conference Call

March 16, 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>

Discussion Topic(s):

Applied Science Cooperative Agreements – selections and scoring process

WR selections will be presented during the first week of April. Four of the 22 proposals are from the West. These proposals involve cheat grass and brome grass invasive species; solar energy. The Regional Directors have the final decision on project selection. Projects will be selected until \$1M is used up.

Underground Mine Mapping Grants are a separate initiative. \$300,000 is available under the UGMM grant program.

Montana Customized Version – Colorado “Brasscap” application and demo on April 22nd
Colorado recently shared their code for the Colorado Permit System Application with Montana as part of a cross-state collaborative effort. The Application is a highly refined and robust database solution of which CO spent approx. \$500,000 to develop. MT has customized the Application to meet MT requirements for \$61,000 and launched their own version February 26th. The Application incorporates a back-end database, GIS capabilities, and an electronic Document Management System (DMS) into one seamless front-end application. MT has been able to return the favor, in small part, by developing a new Annual Reports tab and delivering that component to CO for free.

MT continues to work with CO in sharing design and development, and will be holding a summit in April 2010, in Denver, to discuss future collaborative opportunities, which include workflow, a bond calculation application, and new tabs for reclamation/bond

release tracking. Both states are willing to help other states benefit from the Application. The April 22nd presentation will describe MT's collaboration with CO, key strategies for success, issues and risks, and lessons learned. The MT version of the Application will be demonstrated, and the CO version will be available. The developer who designed the Permit System and Brasscap Application for CO and developed MT's Application will be on hand to answer any technical questions.

Title V – OSM enhanced oversight initiative

Brief discussion was held regarding OSM's Oversight Improvement Actions currently being implemented. These actions include more oversight inspections and the National Priority Review topics for the current evaluation year: calculation of performance bond amounts and approximate original contour. OSM staff is currently coordinating these topic reviews with state regulatory staff.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Title IV: AML project involves enhancing spoils area that was previously treated for fires; cleaned up damage from vandalism in campground area.

Arizona (Navajo):

Arizona (Hopi):

Colorado:

Montana:

Montana (Crow): Title IV: Initial planning to reclaim project in the Wolf Mountains and the Pryor railroad tunnel.

Title V: Meeting scheduled March 18th regarding final details to the Crow Mining and Reclamation Code before submittal to OSM for informal review.

New Mexico: Title IV: One AML construction project has been underway since the first of the year.

Title V: Cooperating with OSM on AOC field verifications in conjunction with AOC national priority oversight topic.

North Dakota: Title IV: Recently released specs for various grouting projects. The AML Program recently became aware of additional coal outcrop fires on Forest Service lands. RFP for a new borehole camera. AML Program staff will ground truth AML data obtained from GeoCommunicator website and Bureau of Mines to determine viability of the data.

Utah:

Wyoming:

Casper Field Office: Coordinating review of Westmoreland Resources Inc. Tract III West Amendment significant permit revision application. WRI seeks to amend 1,322 additional acres to the permit area of Absaloka Mine. CFO staff members are heavily involved in regulatory oversight evaluations in light of agency initiative to make oversight more effective. CFO

appreciates ND Regulatory Program's offering to share ArcPAD files of various GIS mining features.

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

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office:

TIPS: OSM Director is interested in the Geospatial Strategy initiative. Underground Mine Mapping course is coming up in Pittsburgh. TIPS needs new instructors for Mobile Computing courses as well as AutoCAD.

Next Call:
Tentatively: April 19, 2010