

WRTT Conference Call

April 26th, 2011

Tuesday 11:00 PM 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. ***Note: A new version of the TIPS website will be unveiled soon (TBA). Please check the site frequently.**
<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:

The technique of in-situ coal mining- also called in-situ coal gasification and/or underground coal gasification- has potential application in areas where conventional mining methods are not applicable. Much of the world’s coal reserves are deemed “unrecoverable” due to coal seams being too deep, too much overburden, transportation costs, and a multitude of other reasons. What are your thoughts (pros and cons) concerning this type of mining? What approach do regulatory agencies need to take concerning this type of mining?

UT began the discussion by stating that they understood this process would work best with deep coal seams. WY asked if we should actually be the regulatory personnel for this type of mining. MT stated that they already have rules that address coal gasification. The Navajo Nation stated that a major concern to address was the fact that burning the seam underground may be tough to control. TIPS stated that the permitted area for in-situ coal mine would be controlled naturally by a geological “unconformity”. UT suggested that we might want to invite a company (Australia) over to explain to our folks how they regulate their in-situ mining industry. They also suggested that we survey all of our coal mining operators and see just who is interested in pursuing this type of

technology. The Navajo Nation stated that the reason we haven't seen much of this type of technology in the US as of late is purely economics.

Overall, this discussion showed that most of the WRTT members only had a vague idea of what in-situ mining was, and that more information was needed before proceeding with a full blown discussion on this topic. The results of the discussion underscore the value of establishing a Working Group to explore the coal gasification technology as it relates to SMCRA and state rules. The Working Group will provide guidance to states and tribes on how to handle exploration and permit requests regarding the in-situ technology.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska: Not present.

Arizona (Navajo): Title V: The budget for their 2011 program was proposed. They need to hire three new people.
Title IV: Business as usual.

Arizona (Hopi): Not present.

Colorado: Not present.

Montana: Title IV: Nothing to report. Business as usual. Title V: They are waiting on decisions to be made by the state legislature before proceeding with much of their duties.

Montana (Crow): Not present.

New Mexico: Title V: Most personnel were at the Lee Ranch mine doing a bond release inspection. Dave Clark will be filling in for a retiring Jim O' Hara.

North Dakota: Not present.

Utah: Title V: They are continuing weekly inspections of the new Coal Hollow mine. They are having drainage control issues. Bond release inspections are continuing at the Deer Creek mine. No budget cut equals good news!

Wyoming: Not present.

Casper Field Office: An oversight visit to MT was just completed.

Program Support Division/Albuquerque Area Office/Farmington Area Office:
EIS/Stream Protection Rule is consuming the department. CHIA updates for Black Mesa/Kayenta were submitted and under review. A FONSI or EIS may take place for Black Mesa/Kayenta. A prime farmland issue was being addressed for the New Horizon Mine in CO.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office: No report.

TIPS: The steering committee meeting will take place in Denver May 24-26. Whoever wins the prize for the best success story will be allowed to present their results during the steering committee meeting.

Next Call: May 24th, 2011 (subject to change)