

WRTT Conference Call

Title IV and V

March 27th, 2012

Tuesday 11:00 AM Mountain Standard Time

Call: 1-877-612-4949 Passcode: 8870122

WRTT

TIPS, Technology Transfer, Training and General Information:

- Please check out the updated **NTTT** website for recent updates! These are located at: <http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov>
- Please check out the updated **TIPS** website for recent updates! These are located in the “What’s New?” section of the page **Please check the site frequently:** <http://www.tips.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>
- Sharefile: <https://osmtips.sharefile.com/>

Discussion Topic:

OSM’s geospatial strategy (GeoPlan) is a national effort that will expand and modernize the use of coal-mining and reclamation geospatial data and technologies to meet current and future SMCRA needs. The GeoMine is the initial implementation of the GeoPlan as a pilot project for both state and Federally-sourced data encompassing the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

A GIS transparently integrates multiple geospatial layers – GeoMine would create a single harmonized digital platform that is ideally capable of delivering GIS data through an Internet-accessible service. The major benefits of implementing the GeoMine would be:

- *Better decision-making* based on sound science and resulting in increased protection of the public and the environment,
- Greater *transparency*, more responsible stewardship, improved customer service, increased productivity, and greater efficiency,
- *Improved* quality, quantity, standardization, and availability of coal-mining and reclamation *data*,
- The provisioning of data and an infrastructure that would allow Federal agencies to readily *address significant issues* (e.g., mountaintop mining, oversight, climate change, and reforestation), and

- Alignment with the initiatives and goals of the DOI, USACE, and EPA geospatial strategies and the OMB “cloud-first” emphasis.

Special guests: Robert Welsh- OSMRE
 Chad Kopplin- Wyoming DEQ

The discussion began with Chad Kopplin introducing himself and stating that he is the WIEB representative on the Geomine team. He also described, in detail, what his duties would be as the WIEB representative for this team.

Robert Welsh, team lead of the Geomine team, continued the conversation with an in depth description of the Geomine team that consisted of: The history of the team, the current status of the team, and, future plans of the team.

Both individuals gave an excellent description of Geomine.

A few questions were brought up in regards to Geomine. These were:

- When will a version be available for us to interface with? Soon. We already have the location map on the TIPS website (also called OOGL).
- Will training be available for this application? Yes.
- Will this application be available via mobile computing applications? That is a tough question to answer at the moment. It may be a possibility in the near future. We are using the cloud for this application, and, this may translate into more mobile computing applicability.
- Will participation in this team be mandatory by all the states/tribes? No. It has always been voluntary (Including what types of data needs to be submitted).
- Will the team accept any kind of data from the states/tribes or will be have to be submitted in some sort of standardized format? The team will accept most types of data.
- Will Geomine be applicable to just Title V programs, or, will it be applicable to Title IV programs as well? It will be applicable to both programs. AMLIS data is being incorporated into Geomine.

Both Robert Welsh and Chad Kopplin answered these questions to everyone’s satisfaction. Any future questions on this topic should be forwarded to Duane Matt. He will get an answer for you.

WRTT Member Reports/Information

Alaska:

We received a renewal request for an exploration permit at Wishbone Hill Mine in Sutton Alaska, North of Anchorage.

We received an exploration permit request at Chickaloon Alaska, north of the Wishbone Hill Project Area.

We are working on the completeness review of both of these permits.

Arizona (Navajo):

We're working on:

the submittals for the Navajo Nation Code & Regulations to WRCC;

hiring three (3) Reclamation Specialists;

FY 2012 Budget;

FY 2013 Estimate;

Permit Renewal at PWCC was approved by WRCC and is being appealed;

Permit application for BNCC was approved by WRCC in March 2012;

Appeal by the CBD was denied by court;

We are curious how the BHP/PNM settlement at San Juan Mine will affect the NN.

Arizona (Hopi):

Colorado:

Montana:

Coal:

Subsidence of 80 acres in Sheridan and Fergus Counties;

Coal Seam fire on BLM Property adjacent to private land as part of an agreement with BLM to address multiple fires on abutting private and BLM property in Custer County;

Assist Sand Coulee, a small community in Cascade County, to develop a new/replace water supply because of historic coal mines in and around the community; and,

Investigate and mitigate subsidence in the town of Red Lodge, in Carbon County.

Hard Rock:

Finish work on Bald Butte in Lewis & Clark County, a multi-year project begun in 2009; and,

On-going work at the McLaren Tailings in Park County adjacent to Yellowstone National Park.

Montana (Crow):

New Mexico:

NM Coal Mine Reclamation Program has nothing new to report regarding our permitting efforts at this time.

Here is the AML report for March:

Work is beginning on both the Brilliant No. 2 Mine and Dutchman Canyon Mine which are located within Dillon Canyon near Raton, NM. NM AML has contracted Kiewit New Mexico to oversee the clean up and will move about 400,000 cubic yards of soil and mine waste material to create stable landforms to restore meanders in the Dillon Canyon Creek. The creek was straightened during mining operations to allow for railroad access to the mines. The main entry to the Brilliant No. 2 Mine will be sealed to prevent human entry while allowing for passage of bats that still use the mine as a habitat.

North Dakota:

Utah:

Crandall Canyon Mine - our State board of Oil, Gas and Mining made a decision on the issue of whether or not to perpetually bond the groundwater treatment system in place that is treating the elevated iron concentrations in the mine water discharge. The board decided that bond money in perpetuity was not necessary for the Division to insist on. The board relied heavily on the mine consultant's report that the iron concentrations were temporary and was expected to attenuate over time down to levels that were in compliance with state water quality standards. The board did however, recognize that there was a need for the company to put up additional bond money for the next three years in the amount of 720K, covering 3 years of treatment system operating costs. My limited understanding of OSM's reaction to the board's decision was that you guys were not pleased and are looking into possible courses of action that OSM can pursue.

Coal Hollow - Our "friends" at the Utah Sierra Club have been carefully monitoring our DOGM water quality database looking for any information that Coal Hollow is discharging water non-compliant with water quality standards. The company has had a few exceedances of their UPDES permit limits for their discharge water. We found out last week through Utah Dept. of Water Quality that the Sierra Club went to EPA Region 8 to lobby for Kanab Creek (the receiving water body for the mine's discharge) to be put on the 303-D list. EPA agreed and this could have serious repercussions for the mine's expansion plans since they will now have to limit their discharges to Kanab Creek. Apparently there was a court case year's back at Pinion Creek. That case went to the Supreme Court and ultimately prevented a permit holder from having multiple discharge locations along an impaired water body reach.

Utah's Title IV report:

Had a great field trip on February 16th when Duane & Henry brought the FLIR camera to look at our Maclean mine fire. We confirmed that the temperature was much lower than we have ever seen there, and that the extinguishing efforts were successful. Construction will finish up when weather allows. One small coal project is going to bid next week. Twelve projects have engineering work happening on the ground. Working on new database, electronic document mgmt., and health and safety plan issues.

Wyoming:
Casper Field Office:

Not present.

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

Not present.

Denver Field Division/ Olympia Area Office:

Not present.

TIPS:

Not present.

Additional questions/comments?

Next Call: April 17th, 2012 (Subject to change).