



**Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference  
February 6, 2012**

**Participants:**

John Carey, Maryland Bureau of Mines (MD BOM)  
David Clark, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (OH DNR)  
Paul Rothman, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DRN)  
Cheryl Socotch, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (OH DNR)  
Charles S. Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Resources (WV DEP)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Sheila Walton, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**Paul Rothman (KY):**

- A new Commissioner, Mr. Steve Hohmann, has recently been appointed to the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources. Steve has been the Director of the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands since 1995, and was Director of the Division of Field Services (now the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement) for several years before moving over to AML. He began working with the Department in 1985 as a reclamation inspector in our eastern Kentucky coal fields. Steve supports both our Technical Transfer initiative and our Reforestation Initiative.
- KY is currently conducting a field trip to an active eastern Kentucky surface mining operation for a number of the new permit reviewers in the Division of Mine Permits.
- Premier Elkhorn Coal Company will be hosting our 2012 ARRI Arbor Day event at their # 42 surface mining operations near Virgie, KY in Pike County.

**Sheila Walton (TN):**

- Knoxville Field Office (KFO) continues to prepare documents for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (NCWMA) petition.
- KFO has hired a contractor for editing services, proofreading and preparing the EIS for NCWMA for publishing.
- KFO continues to process the EIS for the "Stream Protection Rule."

**Cheryl Socotch (OH):**

- Due to increased issues developing with the increasing amount of oil and gas activities associated with the Utica and Marcellus shale gas formations here in the coal-bearing region of Ohio, we have established a formal Task Group that is comprised of President of the Ohio Coal Assoc (OCA), President of the O&G Assoc (OGA), Chief of Mineral Resources Management (Coal), Chief of the Division of Oil & Gas Mineral Resources, and the Deputy Director for ODNR. As part of this task force group will establish protocol for those sites with mining permits in conflict with O&G development.
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) had to withdraw recently proposed stream enforcement rules/regulations that would have limited impacts to headwater streams from mining and other construction/development activities or influences. The OEPA has been working on these rules for over 6 years and were forced to withdraw so that the rule package could go through the Governor (Kasich) Common Sense Initiative committee for review. The year-old initiative was set up so that all rules would go through this committee to ensure that review Ohio's regulatory system to eliminate excessive and duplicative rules that stand in the way of job creation.

**Charles Sturey (WV):** Used adobe sendnow to email presentation to OSM on Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) that was given to DEP executive managers on Feb 8, 2012. A similar presentation will be given to industry next month.

**John Carey (MD):**

- Maryland is in the process of completing our review of the Annual Progress Reports received each year from all permittees on each permitted site. The number of disturbed acres reported on each site will be plugged into the evaluation of the performance bond required on each site to determine if bonding is adequate or needs to be increased.
- The Appalachian Blasters Certification Delegation (ABCD) group hosted a half day inspector's workshop the afternoon before the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Blasting Seminar. The forum was open for participation, well attended, and resulted in valuable information being shared. Maryland hopes that the ARTT and ABCD groups can get together soon to start to putting together an agenda for a fall open forum workshop on blasting.

**David Lane (OSM):** Next month's teleconference will be held on March 5, 2012 at 1:30 PM.



**Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference  
April 2, 2012**

**Participants:**

David Lane, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Peter Michael, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Harve Mooney, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (VA DMME)  
Paul Rothman, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)  
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Resources (WV DEP)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Lois Uranowski, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

**PETER MICHAEL (OSM):**

A paper summarizing the OSM Technical Position Paper (TPP) on the prevention of impoundment-breakthroughs from Peter is attached as ICWS paper. The paper was presented at the International Conference of Solid Waste Technology and Management in Philadelphia on 3/13/12. The link to the TPP is available on page 3. Links to three other related documents by OSM are provided in the reference section on page 12.

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**PAUL ROTHMAN (KY):**

- KY DNR is hosting a meeting on April 6, 20-12 for the World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana on KY coal regulatory and mine safety programs for visiting dignitaries from Columbia, South American. Below listed is information on this event:

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

MINING SAFETY (COLOMBIA)  
A Project for Colombia

*These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their program is arranged by Cultural Vistas.*



Ms. Luisa Fernanda PALLARES WILCHES  
Engineer, Coordinator of the Quality Control, Security and Health and Safety  
at ICONTEC (The National Standardization body of Colombia)

Mr. Fedor PUMAREJO MUEGUES  
Mine Engineer, Mine Direction at the Ministry of Mines and Energy

- The Kentucky Department for Natural Resources has a new Commissioner - Mr. Steve Hohmann.
- Kentucky is hosting its 2012 ARRI Arbor Day Event on April 17, 2012 on a Premier Elkhorn (TECO) mining operation in Pike County.

**HARVE MOONEY (VA):** Nothing to report

**CHARLES STUREY (WV):**

- WV will hold its Arbor Day event at Black Castle Mine in Boone County on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Around 200 children from Madison Middle and Nellis Elementary Schools are expected to participate in tree planting and other activities scheduled from 10:00 AM until 1:30 PM.
- WV DEP is hosting AnaBat Training April 30 thru May 5, 2012. This training is provided by the US Fish and Wildlife, is open to the public and the recording device that is placed on bats can help determine species differentiation based on sound.
- WNS Map attachment (WV) shows the new high resolution LIDAR data taken into the "field". Using an ArcPAD extraction of the resolution LIDAR data, we found the LIDAR data to be accurate within a few feet. The attached file shows three geotagged picture locations taken with a Ricoh GPS camera draped on the LIDAR. Both camera and the LIDAR were accurate within a few feet. It should be pointed out that the AML mine opening we located were so subtle that they are easier to see in the LIDAR data than in the picture taken right on top of the mine opening. Finding these 120 year old mine openings from the long abandoned Kanawha City Coal Company in the Winifred coal seam would not have been possible without this technology. Attachment "Hillshade" shows a few screen captures showing recent use of WV DMR's LIDAR-based hillshade derived dataset to re-scale and re-orient old mine map data or scanned mine maps created and provided to WV DEP by the WV Geologic and Economic Survey.

**LOIS URANOWSKI (OSM):**

- Presented an update from John Craynon on the Appalachian Research Initiative for Environmental Sciences (AIRES). There is an attachment on this from the VA Center for Coal and Energy Research.
- The National Technical Transfer Team met last week in Pittsburgh and voted on 11 Applied Science proposals. The team focused on the potential outcome and potential value in consideration of these proposals.

**JEFF TRUMP (OSM):**

- Reviewed the tentative agenda for the Blasting Workshop to be held at the MSHA Academy September 5-6, 2012.
- Checking into an ARTT meeting to be scheduled for the September timeframe. The last week in September will not be considered as there is an AML event scheduled in that timeframe.

**DAVID LANE(OSM):** Next ARTT teleconference is scheduled for May 7, 2012 at 1:30PM.



## **Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference May 7, 2012**

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

John Carey, Maryland Bureau of Mines (MD BOM)  
Ken Eltschlager, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Harve Mooney, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (VA DMME)  
Paul Rothman, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)  
Cheryl Socotch, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (OH DNR)  
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Resources (WV DEP)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Lois Uranowski, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Sheila Walton, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

### **KEN ELTSCHLAGER (OSM)**

Ken gave an overall update of the agenda for the Blasting Workshop scheduled for the Mines, Safety, and Health Administration (MSHA) Academy located near Beckley, WV from September 5-6, 2012. This agenda was sent to team members and reviewed. Members discussed the tentative agenda and gave their assessment of the overall scheduled presentation. The agenda will be updated and sent to team members when further details are available.

### **TEAM REPORTS:**

#### **CHERYL SOCOTCH (OH):**

- Ohio Division of Mineral Resource Management (OH DMRM) just completed final design for their web-based electronic permitting program that will be used for all new permit applications, including amended permits, Incidental Boundary Revisions (IBR), Applications to Revise permits (ARP), and Adjacent Area permit applications. Internal MRM staff has been currently testing (beta) phase and final comments and corrections are now with the design consultants. Formal training is expected in June 2012 with hopes to have coal industry starting use in July 2012.

- The DMRM is partnering with Ohio State University (OSU), the Ohio Coal Development Office (OCDO) and the Ohio Coal Association (OCA) with two field trials that will help maximize coal extraction in Ohio. The two trials will incorporate the use of Coal Combustion Products (CCP) grouts. The first trial will be carried out in a coal region that has been sterilized due to past auger mining practices but has potential for additional coal recovery using a highwall miner if the auger holes can be cost-effectively stabilized with grout. It will include a CCP grout mix to be injected into a bank of 5 to 10 exposed past auger mine areas in order to provide stability and integrity to these previously affected areas. The increased stability will allow the highwall miner to safely pass through these impacted areas and access the coal reserves that lie behind the previously affected auger mined areas. As part of the second trial, the research team will determine the feasibility of grouting active virgin (not previously disturbed) highwall miner audits with a flowable fill of CCP grout mix. This would provide stability for a highwall miner to mine the adjacent coal support pillars which would increase existing highwall miner extraction ratios significantly. It is hopeful that through development of this technology will result in an increase in secondary coal extraction at legacy mine sites and an increase in coal recovery in active virgin highwall mining sites. This opens up additional coal reserves that are currently not economical or feasible to mine.

#### **CHARLES STUREY (WV):**

- Charlie sent a powerpoint slide show to team members that shows the latest LIDAR data for the WV Mining Programs that is to be presented by Larry Evans to the TIPS Steering Committee on May 8, 2012.
- An anabat class was held April 30-May 5, 2012. This event was administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife and sponsored by the WV DEP.

#### **PAUL ROTHMAN (KY):**

- The Kentucky Energy & Environment Cabinet filed emergency administrative regulations on May 4, 2012 which will result in significantly higher reclamation bonds on SMCRA coal mining sites. The emergency regulations took effect immediately upon filing and the Cabinet has already filed "ordinary" regulations which will be subjected to the regular legislative protocols.
- We held our Kentucky ARRI Arbor Day event on April 17, 2012 on TECO's Premier Elkhorn Coal Company located near the community of Virgie in Pike County. The theme of this year's Arbor Day event was "Kids, Trees and Bees - Planting for the Future!" which highlights the environmental benefits of forests throughout the Appalachians. We planted native hardwood seedlings that included American chestnut, northern red oak, hickory, and chestnut oak. There were more than one hundred 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from some of the local schools involved in the tree planting activities. They also were able to

visit a newly established bee yard on the mine site that provides forest-based pollinator habitat for honey bees and other pollinators.

### **HARVE MOONEY (VA):**

- The 2012 ARRI Reforestation Conference will be held in Big Stone Gap at MECC May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- DMLR hosted the annual Arbor Day event this year at the Buchanan County Industrial Park on April 27, 2012 through private donations. Approximately 400 school children participated as well as many noted dignitaries.
- Virginia received a notice of intent to sue from the Appalachian Mountain Advocates toward Paramount Coal Company Virginia for their alleged diminution of the water supply of a citizen. The suit alleges that since all information was not considered in the complaint, the complaint should be re-visited.
- Virginia received a notice of intent to sue from the Appalachian Mountain Advocates toward Penn Virginia (land Owner) for their discharge of Selenium. The suit alleges that since selenium is not listed in the NPDES permit, the amount allowed to discharge is zero.
- Phase 2 of the DMME online forms systems are in place as of April 16, 2012. The bulk of our data systems are available through the web-based online application. Information is available through a registration form obtained by registering on the DMME website. As of July 1, 2012 all certifications and anniversary reports must be submitted online.

### **SHEILA WALTON (TN)**

- The Knoxville Field Office celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, May 4, 2012
  - The celebration was held at the mine site of Dalco Of Tennessee, LLC. 600 hardwood trees were planted on 1.5 acres on the site. 100 students from Lack City Middle School and Norwood Middle School participated in the tree planting ceremony.
  - The event leaders and planners were: Christopher Miller, KFO Reclamation Specialist and Barry Thacker, Representative Coal Creek Watershed
- KFO continues to work on evaluations for the lands unsuitable petition for the North Cumberland Wildlife Manage Area and the Emory River Tracts Conservation Easement in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

### **JOHN CAREY (MD)**

- Maryland's Arbor Day was April 11 this year, with two buses of middle school children. We planted about 1200 trees on a recently reclaimed AML site.
- The Bureau of Mines/Mining Program is working with the state's Dept. of Natural Resources on an MOU to speed up the review process that DNR does to identify any environmental concerns they may have on new mining permit applications.

- The Bureau is in the process of reviewing the performance bond on each permitted site to determine if additional bond is necessary. This is the second phase of a three phased process to achieve full-cost bonding.

### **JEFF TRUMP (OSM)**

- Presented overview of numbers for the Blasting Conference as follows: Number of attendees requested to date:  
  
OH (4)  
WV (14)  
KY (12)  
TN  
MD (5)  
VA (5)  
PA (\*currently-we have no ARTT Team member from PA)  
OSM (4)
- We are looking at having an ARTT Team meeting at Pipestem, WV September 12-13, 2012. Arrangement information and agenda will be forthcoming as further details develop.



**Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference  
July 9, 2012**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

John Carey, Maryland Bureau of Mines (MD BOM)  
David Lane, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Harve Mooney, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (VA DMME)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Lois Uranowski, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**JOHN CAREY (MD):** Nothing to report

**HARVE MOONEY (VA):** Nothing to report

**LOIS URANOWSKI (OSM):**

Reviewed the proposed OSM website Redesign Evaluation and is sending this out to the ARTT team members for review and response. Response is due back to Lois not later than July 18, 2012.

**JEFF TRUMP (OSM):**

Reviewed the latest blasting workshop agenda, and updated figures for perspective attendees. The next scheduled teleconference is set for August 6, 2012 at 1:30PM.



**Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference  
August 6, 2012**

**Participants:**

Harve Mooney, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (VA DMME)  
Paul Rothman, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)  
Cheryl Socotch, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (OH DNR)  
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Resources (WV DEP)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Lois Uranowski, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**PAUL ROTHMAN (KY):**

- Kentucky is currently developing 2 short sessions - One for our "Inspection Senior Staff" (Managers, Supervisors & Engineers) and the other for our Inspection Staff. We will hold the first session with the senior staff the week of August 27, 2012.
- Kentucky continues to work on making changes to our bonding program. We filed emergency regulation (405 KAR 10:015E) and the ordinary administrative regulation (405 KAR10:015), which will replace the emergency regulation, on May 4<sup>th</sup> with the Legislative Research Commission.

**CHERYL SOCOTCH (OH):**

- Murray Energy, one of the largest private coal companies in America and the highest producing coal operator in Ohio, announced last week that they were closing their Ohio American Energy subsidiary, which operates several surface mine operations in Jefferson County, Oh, and eliminating 59 employees at these locations. It is expected a number of the affected employees will be relocated to Murray's underground long wall operations in Belmont County.
- Another coal operator, Valley Mining, located in Dennison, Ohio, who is responsible for at least 10 surface mine operations has had all their leased equipment confiscated. Ohio DNR is working with company representatives to ensure reclamation continues to avoid the potential for forfeitures.
- The Ohio Coal Association recently appealed the Ohio EPA re-issuance of the state 401 water quality certification permits (Nationwide).

**HARVE MOONEY (WV):**

- Virginia received a notice of intent to sue from the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards toward Penn Virginia Operating Company for discharges from pre-law gob piles into various tributaries of the Powell River. There are at least 14 unpermitted discharges from old gob piles containing iron, manganese, toluenes and other metals associated with gob piles.
- The state of Virginia ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$129 million dollars. Final disposition of the surplus has yet to be determined.
- The State did not issue a single permit in the second quarter of 2012.
- The Virginia Dept of Mines Minerals and Energy is modifying the Department website. Hopefully the site will be easier to peruse for information. The modifications will bring the department more in line with the state standards.
- We are still attempting to fill empty staff positions. We are still currently down 13 persons.

**CHARLES STUREY (WV):**

Separate articles pertaining to an Amicus brief of WV highlands and on WVU LIDAR was sent to ARTT Team members.

**JEFF TRUMP:**

An update on the upcoming Blasting Workshop was presented to team members on the teleconference. The next scheduled teleconference will be held on September 10, 2012 at 1:30PM. This is due to the Labor Day holiday on September 3.

**LOIS URANOWSKI:**

Lois gave a brief update on the upcoming National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) event to be held September 30-October 3, 2012 being held at Glade Springs Resort, Glade, WV.



**Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference  
September 10, 2012**

**Participants:**

John Carey, Maryland Bureau of Mines (MD BOM)  
Michele Hanlin, Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)  
Harve Mooney, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (VA DMME)  
Paul Rothman, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)  
Cheryl Socotch, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (OH DNR)  
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Resources (WV DEP)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Sheila Walton, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**CHARLES STUREY (WV):**

Attached is a report from WV DEP dated August 10, 2012 to characterize and document air quality in the Clear Fork, West Virginia community while surface coal mine blasting operations were being conducted nearby. A range of sampling and analysis methods were used over a two-week field period in February 2012 to determine gaseous air pollutant concentrations and the mass, particle size distribution, and chemical composition of airborne particles.

**PAUL ROTHMAN (KY):**

DNR continues to revamp the bonding program. Revisions to bonding regulations (405 Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) 10:1015) were filed on May 4, 2012 and became effective August 14, 2012. This process also included revisions of other regulations that supplement bonding protocols and filed as part of this package (405 KAR 10:011, 405 KAR 10:030, and 405 16:020).

**HARVE MOONEY (VA):** Nothing reportable.

**CHERYL SOCOTCH (OH):** Nothing reportable.

**JOHN CAREY (MD):**

- Acknowledged the total complete success of the ARTT Blasting Conference held last week. John talked with many of the people who attended and every comment he heard about the event was very positive. The overwhelming consensus was that such a conference should be held every other year to give other field personnel an opportunity to participate.
- If OSM should, in the future, be unable to continue funding the ARTT meetings twice each year then I would suggest that the states consider an alternative ad hoc organization and call it the SARTT ("States"ARTT???) meeting once per year to be held at the MSHA Academy and maintain a safety component in the agenda, which is very realistic, to justify the academy usage. States could take turns taking the lead in preparing an agenda (based on consensus) and leading the meetings. These meetings are very informative and too valuable to cut back on especially if there is an alternative and I think there is. MD would like a few minutes for all the states to discuss this at our next meeting to see if there is agreement.

**SHEILA WALTON (TN):** Nothing reportable.

**MICHELE HAMLIN (PA):** Nothing reportable.

**JEFF TRUMP (OSM):**

- Reviewed blasting workshop figures and a brief synopsis of that event held at the MSHA Academy September 5-6, 2012. We are showing a 95% approval of this event. Most attendees voted in favor of having this event every two years.
- We are looking at the feasibility of an ARTT meeting at the MSHA Academy in the November/December timeframe.



**Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference  
October 1, 2012**

**Participants:**

David Lane, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Michele Hamlin, Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)  
Harve Mooney, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (VA DMME)  
Paul Rothman, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)  
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Resources (WV DEP)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Lois Uranowski, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**PAUL ROTHMAN (KY):** Nothing reportable.

**MICHELE HAMLIN (PA):**

PA DEP's Bureau of Mining Program is updating mining permit applications to include a checklist of permit application requirements which cite the regulations on which the requirement is based. This is an effort to meet the requirements of the draft version of the new Policy for Implementing the Department of Environmental Protection Permit Review Process and Permit Decision Guarantee that is currently in the comment/response phase of implementation.

**HARVE MOONEY (VA):** Nothing reportable.

**CHARLES STUREY (WV):** Nothing reportable.

**JEFF TRUMP (OSM):**

We are looking at the possibility of an ARTT meeting at the MSHA Academy in the Jan/Feb/Mar timeframe.



**Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference  
November 5, 2012**

**Participants:**

Michele Hamlin, Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)  
Harve Mooney, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (VA DMME)  
Paul Rothman, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)  
Cheryl Socotch, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (OH DNR)  
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Resources (WV DEP)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Lois Uranowski, Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Sheila Walton, Office of Surface Mining Knoxville Field Office (KFO)

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**SHEILA WALTON (KFO):**

The Knoxville Field Office has two tasks that are significant action items on hold pending Headquarters review, comments or changes.

- First, is the Stream Protection Rule. The rule is on hold pending further instructions from Headquarters.
- The second item is the Tennessee Lands Unsuitable for Mining (TN LUM) . The evaluation for the EIS for the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area LUM is also in a holding pattern pending Headquarters review and acceptance of the "Alternatives." Headquarters is proposing to make changes to the Alternatives. The Knoxville Field Office (KFO) has not received those changes.

Other action items:

- The Cost Recovery Initiative: The purpose of this Initiative is to recoup a portion of the monies spent by the federal government to process coal mining permit applications. This initiative is actively being designed to consider the cost for all aspects of the permitting process. When completed, new permitting fees will be set for processing coal mining permit applications under the federal program.
- KFO had planned a site visit for the Assistant Secretary Marcilynn Burke to come to Knoxville on October 15, 2012. The purpose for the trip was to visit the North Cumberland LUM area and to be briefed by the LUM team on any

key issues surrounding the petition area. Unfortunately, the trip had to be canceled because she was in an accident that caused injuries such that she could not travel. The trip is planned to be rescheduled in the future.

**MICHELE HAMLIN (PA):** Nothing reportable this month.

**HARVE MOONEY (VA):** Nothing reportable this month.

**CHERYL SOCOTCH (OH):**

- Ohio ePermitting: Ohio has completed beta testing and training of Division staff and coal industry of new electronic coal permitting program. Industry will begin utilizing ePermitting for small permitting processes, including Incidental Boundary Revisions (IBR) and Applications or Revise Permits (ARP) starting 11/15/2012 and hopes to accept entire permit applications following the first of 2013.
- Ohio MRM and Ohio's Oil & Gas program have established an AMD Frac Team to review the potential to use mine water for oil and gas fracking operations. The team of representatives will work together to develop proper protocol/process/procedure for the potential use in well development

**CHARLES STUREY (WV):** A lot of retirements are looming as the calendar year end comes to a close.

**PAUL ROTHMAN (KY):**

- DNR continues to revamp the bonding program. Revisions to our bonding regulations (405 KAR 10:1015) were filed on May 4, 2012 and they became effective on August 14, 2012. This process also included revisions other regulations that supplement our bonding protocols and were filed as part of this package (405 KAR 10:011, 405 KAR 10:030, and 405 KAR 16:020). We are currently preparing a regulation package for the upcoming Legislative session.
- KY has been working with OSM ARRI team members (Scott Eggerud) to schedule training sessions for the five (5) Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (DMRE) regional field office inspection personnel.'

**LOIS URANOWSKI (OSM):**

- Gave an update on a presentation that she made at the 2012 West Virginia University Water Conference on October 31, 2012. This talk was on geomorphic reclamation in mined lands.
- Lois also reported that our ARTT representative from MD, John Carey, would be having heart valve replacement surgery. The Team will keep John in thoughts and prayers as he has surgery and in recovery mode after.

- Also an announcement was made to the Team regarding the retirement of Mike Robinson, OSM (ARO).

**JEFF TRUMP (OSM):** The dates for the ARTT face-to-face meeting will be held at the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Academy on January 23-24, 2013. A request for waiver of lodging and fees will be sent forward to the MSHA Academy due to States and Federal funding constraints.