



## **Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference August 1, 2016**

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Michele Hamlin, Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (PA DNR)  
Daniel Kestner, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (VA DMME)  
Michael Richmond, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

### **DISCUSSION:** Mike Richmond led the discussion on the following:

- Discussion was held on the NTTT Applied Science projects proposals. Mike is sending out the top Applied Science Projects Proposal information and rankings as discussed and voted on by the National Technical Transfer Team.
- The team discussed the fall meeting to be scheduled for October 24-27, 2016. This would be a 2 ½ day meeting. The meeting will probably be held at Pipestem, WV. An agenda will be discussed on the next call. The MSHA Academy has no open dates until the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November.

### **TEAM REPORTS:**

#### **DANIEL KESTNER (VA):**

- Emergence of Alpha Natural Resources from Chapter 11 bankruptcy and anticipating the transfer of all associated permits.
- There was a drone platform test flight on mined land in Wise County, VA on previously mined land.

#### **CHARLES STUREY (WV):** Nothing reportable this month.

### **MICHELE HAMLIN (PA)**

- PADEP is on schedule in restructuring its Bituminous Surface Mine Permit Application for e-permitting purposes which will be ready for use by the end of 2016. Additional e-permitting of other mining permit applications will follow its release.
- Requirements for operators to electronically submit Discharge Monitoring Reports continued to be worked out. Electronic submission of Hydrologic Monitoring Report will follow.
- PA has announced the AML projects that are being funded through the AML Pilot Program. The projects - which will reclaim abandoned surface mines; treat or eliminate AMD, erosion and sedimentation; replace water supplies to homes and businesses; remediate coal refuse piles, dangerous highwalls and an underground mine fire - were selected based on economic benefits they will provide in coal communities. The projects are expected to improve water supplies and stream water quality, restore fisheries, enhance/create recreational opportunities, reforest mine land and re-establish American Chestnut trees, provide reclaimed mine land for industrial and commercial development, drive job growth and tourism, support of local tax base and community revitalization, and provide for geothermal energy sources. Site specific project information is available at <https://www.governor.pa.gov/governor-wolf-announces-30-million-for-abandoned-mine-reclamation-projects/>

**RICHARD WAHRER (KY):** Although Richard was not on the teleconference call, these are the notes he has submitted:

- Kentucky (KY) permitting remains slow, majority of actions are transfers and revisions that would facilitate reclamation and phased bond release. KY currently has about 30 new applications in technical review.
- KY is tracking specific companies such as Revelation, Alpha Natural Resources, Liberty, Manalapan, Quest and the Justice properties which all have substantial reclamation bond liabilities. We are encouraging backfilling open wall and closing impoundments and determining if partial or incremental bond releases can be achieved to reduce that liability.
- KY is waiting on the (finalization of) the SPR and ready to discuss in a somewhat aggressive and factual manner.
- Commissioner, Directors of Permitting, Enforcement and AML and myself will be attending the OSM/States mtg in Morgantown later this month.

- KY is finishing up REG-8 tables for Lexington OSM for their annual report.
- KY is presently gathering data for OSM oversight study on CHIA (after 3 yrs. of postponement)

**JEFF TRUMP (OSM):** The next scheduled teleconference call will be held on September 6 2016 at 1:30PM.