



Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference July 18, 2016

PARTICIPANTS:

John Carey, Maryland Bureau of Mines (MD BOM)
Daniel Kestner, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (VA DMME)
Ben McCament, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (OH DNR)
Michael Richmond, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)
Paul Rothman, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP)
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)
Richard Wahrer, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)

DISCUSSION:

- Discussion was held on the Mine Map Repository studies from Josh Rockwell. The team reviewed the spreadsheet from the AR initiative FY16 and the funding of projects was reviewed with the ARTT Team.
- The team had discussed having an ARTT Team Fall meeting in the first or last week in October.

TEAM REPORTS:

PAUL ROTHMAN (KY):

Paul is retiring after 40 years with the State of Kentucky. Congratulations, Paul and enjoy your retirement. Paul is one of the “Founding Fathers” of the ARTT Team and its charter. Thanks, again from all of us for your years of service. Richard Wahrer will be Paul’s replacement on the ARTT as well as the NTTT. Welcome to the Team, Richard!

BEN MCCAMENT (OH):

- The OH AG office is working with WV on their litigation for the SPR.

- Coal production is down 60% from 2011 to the present.
- Funding has been approved and OH is breaking ground on a Mine Safety Gas and Oil building. OSMRE has also contributed funds for this project.

CHARLES STUREY (WV):

- WVDEP and Alpha Natural Resources finalize \$325 million agreement to fund mine reclamation.
- EPA updated its 17-year-old water quality standard for selenium. The new criterion - which is not a direct regulation but does factor into how states set their own water quality standards - expands the previous guidelines for selenium.
- Layoffs for Walker Machinery include 78 employees across nine Walker Machinery locations in West Virginia, as well as 87 employees at the 16 Whayne Supply locations in Kentucky and southern Indiana.
- BOONE COUNTY, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- Hundreds of people attended the Boone County Board of Education meeting on Monday as the board approved a balanced budget. Boone County is facing a nearly \$8M budget gap. Last week the West Virginia State Board of Education voted to take over the school system unless the school system passed a balanced budget by 11:59 p.m. Monday night. During Monday's meeting, the board discussed all of its options and took time to hear from the community. The superintendent also made several recommendations on how to save the county money, but they didn't include job cuts. He says the recommendations were given to the county by the state board of education because they couldn't find any other alternative. Superintendent Jeffrey Huffman told the group the school system is in a financial crisis. He says over the years money has been spent building renovations, new technology equipment and updates and classroom additions. However, according to Huffman, 86-percent of budget is the cost of personnel.

JOHN CAREY (MD)

- Coal production has not gone down significantly in the State of MD.
- The price of coal has gone down in MD.

DANIEL KESTENER (VA):

- There are an increasing number of operators applying for bond release/reduction.
- Alpha Natural Resources has split into two separate companies through the bankruptcy process. Virginia will be seeing applications for transfer of current permits to these new companies.

- Legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives to accelerate the distribution of AML funds for economic recovery. (RECLAIM Act). This year \$30 million has been provided in a pilot project to Kentucky, WV, and PA. These funds are intended to be used to reclaim abandoned mined land features in such a way as to foster economic development. Virginia, along with other states may soon see an increase in AML funding as a result of this legislation.

MIKE RICHMOND (OSM):

- Meeting for final ranking (NTTT) of the Applied Science Projects was postponed–The SPR took precedence and meeting will be rescheduled at a later date to be determined. The timing is important as this meeting –needs to rescheduled before the next executive council meeting. Mike Richmond spoke to the team about the NTTT team having a meeting via gotomeeting on the Applied Science Proposals. The newest member to join this team is Kristin Brown. Sterling Rideout is the Acting RD for the MCR.

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