



**Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference  
June 6, 2016**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

John Carey, Maryland Bureau of Mines (MD BOM)  
Michele Hamlin, Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP)  
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 for Natural Resources (KY DNR)  
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)  
Bill Winters, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**DANIEL KESTNER (VA):** VA has published a press release about self-bonding. The General Assembly has proposed change –and approval from OSMRE.

**BILL WINTERS (TN)** Working on the Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) comments. Work continues on the SPR.

**BEN MCCAMENT (OH):** Nothing reportable this month.

**MICHELE HAMLIN (PA)** PA DEP is working toward electronic permitting for mining and plans to be able to accept discharge monitoring data electronically by December.

**JOHN CAREY (MD)**

- Maryland continues to deal with the Arch Coal/Vindex Energy permits. Two have been transferred to another active company with the possibility of two more to be transferred. The remaining permits are in full reclamation mode.
- As a continuous process we continue to review the bonding for each company and are making progress on each to increase bonding or reduce the reclamation liability.

- One company with three permits that we suspected would go to bond forfeiture are being reclaimed even though the company is not actively mining.
- Maryland is still awaiting a response from Director Pizarchik and Assistant Secretary Schneider on two letters from MDE Secretary Grumbles requesting information on the development of the proposed Stream Protection Rule. The last letter was dated March 31 and we have not received a response to date.

**PAUL ROTHMAN (KY):**

- The Kentucky Coal Industry is at low that hasn't been experienced for 3 quarters of a century. Thousands of miners have been displaced, and there is some concern regarding the outstanding reclamation liability. Companies like Alpha, Arch, Patriot have or are on the verge filing for bankruptcy.
- KY does NOT have self-bonding provisions so KY is in better shape than some. The DNR's focus at this juncture encourages the industry to reduce their reclamation liabilities wherever possible, and apply for bond release as soon as their sites have been properly reclaimed.
- KY DNR is moving into a new building at the end of the month. We have been scanning and purging files. The new office building will house the entire Energy and Environment Cabinet and has the capability to hold 1400-1500 employees.

**MIKE RICHMOND (OSM):**

Meeting for final ranking (NTTT) 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 be rescheduled before the next executive council meeting. The NTTT meeting will be held within the next two months.

**JEFF TRUMP (OSM):** The next scheduled teleconference call will be held on July 5, 2016 at 1:30PM.