



Appalachian Region Technology Team Teleconference November 7, 2016

PARTICIPANTS:

John Carey, Maryland Bureau of Mines (MD BOM)
Michele Hamlin, Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (PA DNR)
Nicole Iannacchione, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)
Daniel Kestner, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (VA DMME)
Ben McCament, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (OH DNR)
Jeff Ream, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Region (OSM ARO)
Mike Richmond, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)
Charles Sturey, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WV DEP)
Jeff Ream, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)
Jeff Trump, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)
Richard Wahrer, Kentucky Department of Natural Resources (KY DNR)
Bill Winters, Office of Surface Mining, Appalachian Regional Office (OSM ARO)

DISCUSSION:

Mike Richmond began the meeting with introductions

BILL WINTERS (TN): TN is ready to publish the Lands Unsuitable for Mining (LUM) in the Federal Registry. Tennessee is currently working on the Stream Protection Rule.

RICHARD WAHRER (KY):

- Wildfire meetings with state fish and wildlife enforcement (use of arson dogs) meetings postponed to 2:30 today. There are 20 wildfires currently burning (mostly due to arson). There are approximately 7,500 acres burning at Pine Mountain Ridge.
- An IMCC conference call will be occurring soon to discuss MSHA ruling to bar States persons from entering a mine. Kentucky mine rescue teams are currently debating with MSHA about access.

BEN MCCAMENT (OH):

- OH will reduce 10 FTE positions over the next two years, to adjust to declining coal severance.
- The OH AML is meeting with Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) concerned about bats and the impacts AML projects have on the bats. The OH AML program completed a Draft Biological Assessment (BA) for impacts to endangered and threatened bats. Will submit to USFWS in next week or so for review and development of a 10 year programmatic Biological Opinion (BO). OH AML concluded that about 0.06% of bats are affected within a mile radius of a project. Ben will send out a summary to everyone. For the most part it is roosting trees that are affected. Ben will submit draft BA to USFWS for review. The goal of the assessment is to reduce time spent getting approval and clearance. Currently, Ohio AML has to work with Fish and Wildlife for all endangered species. OH AML is trying to develop a standard from this assessment so that constant consultation with USFWS is not necessary. Ben suggested adding this topic to the meeting agenda in November.

MICHELE HAMLIN (PA):

- Updated remining regulations for Surface Mining of Coal (Chapter 87); Anthracite Coal (Chapter 88) ; and Coal Refuse Disposal (Chapter 90) were published on October 22 in the PA Bulletin: <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol46/46-43/1848.html>
- Mining program is beginning to consider options to effectively implement Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing.
- Mining program has not been successful in sharing electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (eDMR) data with the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS).
- Request for information on drone/UAS FAA certification and software availability to process data. Michele inquired as to what the other States were doing. Team discussion was held and information was shared from WV, MD, and VA.

DANIEL KESTNER (VA):

- During discussion on the use of drones, the question was asked whether small drones have all the capability needed in mining applications. Virginia believes drones 55lb or less can accomplish most tasks being targeted. One possible exception could be a LIDAR system on a drone platform. One issue with the current drone rule is that the operator must keep drone in line-of-sight, which may pose a problem on steep uneven terrain. A strategy being used is to post visual observers to keep track of the drone and communicate with the operator via radio. A question was raised regarding utilization of Title IV & V Grant money for the purchase of drones.
- Agisoft photoscan and Pix4D are two drone software programs that OSMRE will check into as well as utilizing grant money to purchase drones.
- VA is being asked to present information regarding the pumped-storage hydro (PSH) proposal at the face to face meeting at the end of this month.
- Dan will send out information on downstream strategies (reclaim) on Appalachian Voices (sent 08NOV16)

CHARLES STUREY (WV):

- For the NPDES presentation at the face-to-face meeting, he will be initiating and facilitating a group discussion, instead of making a formal presentation.
- Discussion was held throughout the teleconference call about the use of drones. Charlie mentioned that it is important to note that the usefulness of the data by drones is limited by the quality of its photos particularly when there is not enough overlap on edge of photos.
- Mike Richmond said we are looking into the possibility of maintaining drones with higher quality (and more expensive payload packages) at OSMRE and take the burden of cost of these higher level units off the states. Mike asked if OSMRE provided this as technical assistance - would that be useful. Mike would also like to discuss concerns at face-to-face meeting with the States and discuss possibly leasing of the drone and its software. We will discuss these issues at the face-to-face meeting regarding the use of drones at OSMRE providing state technical assistance.

JOHN CAREY (MD)

MD currently rents a helicopter, spending thousands of dollars a year. He is therefore; very excited about the prospect of drones and thinks it will save time and money in the long run. John mentioned drones could also be used for calculating bonds, but must it be reliable data. Again, discussion was held regarding - is any issue with fill and emptying of mines. VA says Virginia Tech Mining Engineering is taking the lead on that study.

MIKE RICHMOND:

Mike mentioned that Arielle (Avishai) is keeping track of Applied Science projects now, but Nicole (Iannacchione) will be helping as well. The group discussed reorganizing the DRAFT meeting agenda, and will send out new draft of agenda. The face to face meeting will be held November 29-December 1, 2016 at the MSHA Academy. We look forward to our discussions there.