

**MEETING SUMMARY  
MCR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TEAM  
STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL**

DATE: **March 26, 2009**  
TIME: 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM CST

ATTENDEES:

Alabama AML:

Alabama Surface Mining: **Randall Johnson**

Arkansas Mining Division: **Greg Melton, Wayne Van Buren**

Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals:

Illinois AML:

Indiana Division of Reclamation:

Indiana AML:

Iowa Mining and Minerals Bureau:

Kansas Surface Mining Section: **Marlene Spence**

Louisiana Injection and Mining Division:

Mississippi Mining and Reclamation Division:

Missouri Land Reclamation Program:

Oklahoma AML:

Oklahoma Department of Mines:

Texas Mining and Reclamation Division: **Mark Schlimgen**

OSM MCR: **Kimery Vories, Len Meier**

OSM BFO:

OSM TFO:

OSM IFO:

*Significant updates in bold italics*

**Wayne Van Buren** reported that the NAAMLPL is still looking for papers for the upcoming annual meeting in Rogers AR September 28-30, 2009 as **they only have 6 to date**. Online registration should be available in early June. A pre-event float trip and mining tour is being planned. Contact Wayne or Tim Wilson for more details.

**Larry Lewis** submitted a report for the AMD Workshop for April 2010 in Indiana. They are working on two possible locations. Contact Larry at (217) 524-6513 if you want to be involved in the planning of this event.

Randall Johnson reported that EPA issued a statement that it is not placing a hold or moratorium on mining permits as suggested by the media. (Please see separate e-mail on this issue.)

Len Meier reported that there will be a MCR States meeting the first week of June in St. Louis. Please let your State representative know of any tech transfer issues that need to be addressed during this meeting. Len will try to get an agenda out soon so that travel requests can be prepared.

Randall Johnson asked about existing State regulations on leachate limits for CCB placement at SMCRA mines. Kim suggested he contact Greg Conrad as IMCC collected State program

requirements as part of their efforts about 3 years ago. Len Meier will see if we can get approval to send out the OSM proposed CCB rule which addresses our thinking on leachate characteristics.

## **ONGOING EFFORTS**

1. **OSM CCB Rulemaking** OMB has returned the proposed rule to OSM with the instructions that it must be resubmitted for publication during the next administration. **The Rahall bill (HR 493) to require Interior/OSM to amend SMCRA to regulate all coal ash impoundments including those 1400 operated by electric utilities has been withdrawn after the commitment by EPA to submit a proposed rule by the end of 2009.**
2. 2009 AML Conference will be September 24-30, 2009 in Rogers, AR
3. Applied Science Solicitation. The top ranked proposals are being scored by technical experts from the entire National TT team. Marlene Spence reported that 19 of the 42 proposal reviews have been completed. The National TT team will conduct a consensus scoring April 8-9, 2009. Final awards should be announced in July, 2009.
4. **Indiana Bat Coordination Meetings** –This effort concerns improving consistency and effectiveness of protection and enhancement plans for Indiana Bats on SMCRA mine sites under the 1996 Biological Opinion. OSM members on the Working Group are Ian Dye and Craig Walker. State members are Tim Taylor from Indiana, Richard Wahrer from Kentucky and Bob Fala from West Virginia. The group was provided a final plan for committee review during December. They plan to go public early in 2009.
5. **Indiana Bat and Coal Mining Forum.** The steering committee is planning for a forum to be held the summer of 2010 in Charleston, WV with a full day field trip and a two day forum.
6. White Nose Syndrome. According to an article in MSNBC today, the white nose syndrome in bats is spreading to at least 6 NE states. A recent report has documented at least one cave in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. This issue is of great concern to USFWS as it has proved devastating to bat populations in caves that have become infected with the white fungus. It has the potential to effect T & E issues like the Indiana Bat in coal states.
7. **CCB Placement after new OSM CCB Rule Forum.** The steering committee is planning for a forum to be held during the last half of July 2010 in Morgantown, WV with a full day field trip and two day forum following publication of a proposed rule.
8. **Geomorphic Reclamation Forum.** The steering committee is continuing planning for a forum to be held April 28-30, 2009 in Bristol, VA with a full day field trip and two day forum. On line registration is now available at <ps://www.dce.siu.edu/index.php/Conferences/Geomorphic-Reclamation-and-Natural-Stream-Design-at-Coal-Mines> **There are 131 registered and the field trip is full.**
9. **Ohio State University CCB Research** – MCR has been working with the OSM CCB regional team at the request of OSU to begin cooperating on an Ohio CCB research initiative to conduct case studies on the use of FGD in mine reclamation. OSM is currently drafting and MOU for this effort.
10. **American Society of Mining and Reclamation (ASMR) Annual Meeting** – WR staff are actively involved in assisting the planning for the meeting June 2009 in Billings Montana. The AR staff will be the hosts in Pittsburgh, PA in 2010.
11. The new OSM **Technology Transfer Website** is a work in progress and can be accessed at [www.techtransfer.osmre.gov](http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov). or by going to the MCR website at [www.mcrc.osmre.gov](http://www.mcrc.osmre.gov)

12. and under the Links list clicking on “NT<sup>3</sup> OSM Technology Transfer.” **Please visit the applied science page to view final reports for past projects.**
13. **Next Conference Call** will be scheduled for May 27, 2009 at 10 AM CST.