

NAAMLPLP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAMS

Newsletter Fall 2004 Vol. 26 No. 2

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

IMCC Mid-Year Meeting

November 16-17, 2004
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NAAMLPLP Winter Business Meeting

March 2-4, 2005
Anchorage, Alaska

2005 NAAMLPLP Annual Conference

September 18-21, 2005
Bristol, Virginia

MISSION STATEMENT

1. To provide a forum to address current issues, discuss common problems and share new technologies regarding abandoned mine land reclamation;
2. To foster positive and productive relationships between the states and tribes represented by the Association and the federal government;
3. To serve as an effective, unified voice when presenting the states'/tribes' common viewpoints; and
4. To coordinate, cooperate and communicate with the Interstate Compact Commission, Western Interstate Energy Board and all other organizations dedicated to wise use and restoration of our natural resources.

Officers President:

Steve Hohmann, KY

Vice-president:

Mark Mesch, UT

Secretary/Treasurer:

Loretta Pineda, CO

President's Message

Hello everyone! Another year is closing fast and although AML reauthorization has yet to be resolved, I believe we have made significant progress on the issue and there is much reason to be encouraged.

Currently, the Congress has extended AML fee collections until November 20, via a concurrent resolution. After that date, the fee could be extended in a number of ways, or Congress could let it expire. However, it seems most likely that the fee will continue on a temporary basis until a new Congress convenes in January and AML reauthorization is taken up in earnest with specific legislation containing targeted adjustments to the AML program.

The Association must be prepared to articulate a position on several key issues that are likely to emerge. The issues include retention of the state share, overhaul of the AML priority system, return of state share balances, and state collection of AML fees. Preparation will allow the Association to react quickly to ever-changing proposals and enable us to remain engaged as the AML debate evolves, proposals alter, and compromises are offered.

At the recent business meeting in Flagstaff, the Association delegates expressed a willingness to explore the potential for finding common ground on several issues. I believe this is the best course of action to prepare us for the discussions ahead. Ultimately, if the Association membership remains prepared, informed, and cooperative, then our thoughts, opinions, and positions will be more widely sought and accepted by key decision makers in Washington, and we will maintain our integral role in the development of AML reauthorization legislation.

In other Association news, the recent Annual Conference hosted by the Navajo Nation in Flagstaff was a resounding success. Our sincere thanks goes to the Navajo AML/UMTRA Department for their tireless efforts that made this conference a wonderful experience. The Association also thanks the Hopi and Crow Tribes and the conference sponsors for their

generous contributions to the event. The Association is deeply indebted to all who assisted in the Flagstaff program. A post conference wrap-up article is included elsewhere in this newsletter providing more details about the conference.

This is the first issue of the newsletter since the Kentucky AML program assumed publication. Kentucky inherited the responsibility from the Oklahoma AML program that published the newsletter for the past many years. Remember that this is your newsletter. Kentucky wants to ensure that the newsletter provides you with the information that Association members want. Please take time to read the entire newsletter and send us your comments and suggestions for improvement.

As discussed at the Flagstaff business meeting, Kentucky will be publishing and mailing only half the number of newsletters as before. However, electronic copies of the newsletter will be emailed to everyone on the mailing list. We hope that this will be an effective and inexpensive method to disseminate the newsletter, and ultimately reach an even larger audience.

I thank the Association for the opportunity to continue as President for another year and congratulate Mark Mesch of Utah and Loretta Pineda of Colorado for being elected Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer respectively. The upcoming year promises to be challenging, and I am confident that the Association will play a lead role in advancing the AML program nationwide. I look forward to working with the Executive staff and all Association members to further the goals of the organization.

President Steve Hohmann



NAAMLPL 26th Annual Conference

The Navajo Nation AML Reclamation Program within the Division of Natural Resources hosted the “26th Annual National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAMLPL) Conference” in Flagstaff, Arizona, at the Little America Hotel & Resort on September 26-29, 2004. There were 300 NAAMLPL’s States, Tribes, representatives of Canada and South Africa attending this historical event.

The conference kicked off with a three day Pre-Conference “Discover Navajoland Tour” starting on Friday, September 24th. A total of 49 participants registered for the tour with transportation provided by Navajo Nation Transit System. The tour commenced in Page, Arizona, with a tour of the newly unveiled Navajo AML Public Facility Project (PFP) “Antelope Point Canyon Access Turn-out Lane” that was constructed to eliminate road hazards for more than 100,000 annual visitors to the park. At the conclusion of the PFP presentation, the group was treated to a tour of the Antelope Canyon Tribal Park.

As the group slowly entered the red sandstone narrow opening of the Canyon, one can experience the breathtaking and tranquility of Mother Earth. The gently swirling sandstone was carved over the course of countless millennia revealing the sun’s rays from above canyon walls. One has to visit the park to experience the tranquility.

After touring the Antelope Canyon, the group continued onto Black Mesa, Arizona. While in route, a representative of Salt River Project (SRP) provided a presentation on the nearby Navajo Generating Station that supplies electricity to the southwestern United States including the City of Phoenix. After an hour and half, the group arrived at that Peabody Western Coal Mine Company, one of the largest operating coal mines in the State of Arizona. Peabody Western Coal Mine Company produces 12.5 million tons of coal annually to the local Navajo Generating Station in Page, Arizona, and also transports coal through underground pipe slurries to Mohave Generating Station in Laughlin, Nevada, about 260 miles away. Upon concluding the Peabody Western Coal Mining tour, the group witnessed the award winning reclamation work on site.

On the second day, a tour of the Oljato Senior Citizens



Madeline Roanhorse, Navajo AML Manager at the opening ceremony, with Harlan Charley, Navajo AML.

Center (PFP) in Oljato, Utah was provided. The 2,500 square foot facility serves hot meals for the disabled elderly and seniors within a 100-mile radius, providing health care as well as educational programs to more than 250 seniors. Many of the seniors do not have the luxury of running water or electricity in their homes. After touring the PFP facility, our next destination was Monument Valley Tribal Park with the majestic sandstone masterpieces that have towering heights of 1000 feet. The park is the most photographed landscape in the world which also includes the many Hollywood filmed movies and commercials captured in these scenic backdrops.

On the third day, the group toured the Canyon de Chelly in Chinle, Arizona, about 130 miles north of Monument Valley. The 26-mile canyon cliffs range from 30 to more than 1000 feet and are home to ancient Anasazi ruins and many Navajos who farm in the valley floor. The tour ended with a site visit of Chinle Valley School (PFP). The three group home facilities are designed to house over 50 physically challenged individuals who were either abandoned by their families or need a facility to accommodate their special physical and medical needs. Most of these clients are from the past uranium mining impacted communities. There is no facility of its kind within a 400-mile radius.

The Sunday evening welcome reception officially open the 26th Annual NAAMLPL Conference. The highlight of the evening was the serving of marinated buffalo prime rib and top sirloin. The bison was donated by the Crow Tribe AML Program as a co-sponsor to the conference. Entertainment was provided by the Twilight Teaching Singing group from Navajo Preparatory School, Farmington, NM.

Monday morning the conference officially commenced with an Open Ceremony and consisted of presentation of the colors by the Tuba City High School Marine Corps JROTC. Mr. Steve Hohmann, President of NAAMLPL, provided a welcome address and enlightened the audience on the status of the reauthori-



Conference Cookout

zation. Mr. Arvin Trujillo, Executive Director of the Division Natural Resources, Navajo Nation, provided a keynote address on behalf of the Navajo Nation. After the opening ceremony, technical sessions began as well as the AML field trips and spouse/guest tours.

More than 50 presenters provided pertinent information on the reclamation related efforts and shared information to find new solutions to improve reclamation. The presenters provided excellent technical sessions and workshops in the following categories: 1) Administration; 2) GIS; 3) NEPA; 4) New Technology; 5) Open Topics; 6) Partnership; 7) Posters; 8) Round table discussions; 9) Reclamation; and 10) Safety. Information on the technical papers is available on the Navajo AML website (www.navajoaml.osmre.gov) and on CD's.

Our Monday evening Cultural Outing Entertainment was provided by the Navajo and Hopi AML Program staffs under the full moon on the hotel lawn. Dressed in their full native traditional regalia, they performed the Hopi buffalo dance, Navajo corn grinding and the Navajo ribbon dances. The evening was closed with a Navajo social dance with the participation of the audience.

At the banquet on Tuesday night, Mr. Danny Lytton, OSM Chief of Reclamation Support, recognized AML Program achievements and outstanding reclamation performances: 1) West Virginia won the award for the Appalachian Region; 2) Indiana claimed the award for the Mid-Continent Region; 3) New Mexico won the award for the Western Region; 4) Wyoming received the "People's Choice Award"; 5) West Virginia won the overall national award for reclamation. Lastly, the Stan Barnard Memorial Award recipient was presented to Ms. Maxine Weaver of Wyoming for her career accomplishments and contributions to the AML program.

Overall, the 26th Annual NAAML P Conference was a success. We are proud of our program, reclamation endeavors, and community projects that appropriately reflect our beliefs and practices in respect for our Mother Earth and Her environment. We continue to eliminate the scars of past mining and restore the impacted community through PFP's to improve the livelihood of the Navajo people who have suffered too long from the detriment of the past and current mining activities. Many thanks to our exhibitors, sponsors and helpers from Crow Tribe, Hopi Tribe, private, state, federal agencies, and OSM for their volunteered service in making this event enjoyable.

Article by: Harlan Charley, Navajo AML



Conference staff. From left: Melvin Yazzie, Shiprock AML; Oliver Spotted Horse, Crow AML; Laura Pretty Weasel; Crow AML; Rose Grey, Shiprock AML; John Plummer, Navajo EPA; Ophelia Cook, Window AML; and Carl Holiday, Shiprock AML.

Stan Barnard Memorial Award



Maxine Weaver (second from right) receives Stan Barnard Award. Past recipients (from left) are Loretta Pineda, Charlotte Steiber, and Luci Malin

for outstanding dedication, commitment, and hard work toward the advancement of the Association.

In 1992, Maxine began work as a staff attorney for the Wyoming AML program. During her tenure she accumulated broad and detailed knowledge of SMCRA, OSM requirements, and Wyoming procurement procedures, and stays abreast of both federal and state laws and regulations that affect the AML Program. Maxine pioneered the partnering process for Wyoming AML, coordination and communication mechanism that has resulted in improved

The Association bestowed its highest award on Ms. Maxine Weaver of the Wyoming Attorney General's Office at the Conference Awards Banquet. Maxine was presented with the 2004 Stan Barnard Memorial Award given

working relationships among AML project officers, contract design/CM engineers, and project contractors.

Seldom in the spotlight and never seeking personal recognition for her hard work, she has represented the AML administrator at NAAML P functions and has been a trusted and reliable advisor to the three Wyoming AML Administrators on issues affecting the Association and the interests of state and tribal programs. She prepares, reviews, and/or edits position papers on reauthorization, letters to elected officials, and maintains her own contacts within NAAML P and in the local and national political arena to facilitate support for state and tribal AML programs. She has assisted other state programs, notably Oklahoma, with legal issues. She is the Administrator's alternate to the Reauthorization and Finance Committees of NAAML P, and regularly attends meetings of these committees. She is also a regular attendee and contributor at winter business meetings and the annual conference. Maxine assisted in coordinating the NAAML P Conference sponsored by Wyoming in Jackson Hole, and provided legal advice as the Association worked to achieve non-profit status.

Luci Malin of the Utah AML program, and last year's Stan Barnard Award winner, presented the Award to Maxine and showcased Maxine's accomplishments with in a video presentation to the banquet assembly. The Association proudly congratulates Maxine on her achievement.

OSM Presents 2004 AML Reclamation Awards

The Office of Surface Mining presented the regional and national AML reclamation awards during the Awards Banquet at the Flagstaff Conference. Danny Lytton, OSM Chief of Reclamation Support, and Brent Wahlquist, OSM Appalachian Regional Director, recognized four states for outstanding reclamation projects. West Virginia received the Appalachian Regional Award; the Mid-Continent Regional Award went to Indiana; New Mexico received the Western Regional Award; and Wyoming claimed the

People's Choice Award. The overall National Award for outstanding AML reclamation went to West Virginia for the Ned's Branch Impoundment Project.

Congratulations to all the award winners and thanks to OSM for sponsoring the AML reclamation awards program. Detailed articles describing each of the award winning projects are in the newsletter articles that follow.

Snake River Gravel Pit (Wyoming) - People's Choice Award



Located within the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and approximately two (2) miles south of the Yellowstone National Park south entrance, PHC-REC was contracted by the State of Wyoming, Abandoned Mine Land Division (AML) to evaluate and eliminate the public safety hazards and environmental degradation associated with sixty-five (65) acres of lands previously disturbed by gravel mining activities within the Snake River floodplain.

The proposed actions to reclaim the site and restore wetlands were necessary to improve habitat values and to comply with Nation Park Service (NPS) policies, the Clean Water Act in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality standards and directives. A combined \$1.3 million was received from a partnership between the Federal Highways Administration (Western Federal Lands Highway Division) and the AML in order to complete the investigation, design and reclamation of this project.

In addition to being located within the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Recovery Area, the project site was home to seven (7) different mammal, bird or reptile species that are either listed or are being considered under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act. This included the whooping crane, bald eagle, grizzly bear, the Ute ladies'-tresses, the gray wolf, mountain plover and the western boreal toad.

Under the direction of a cooperative effort between PHC-REC, NPS and AML personnel, earthwork activities were conducted by a grading contractor between July and October 2002. Approximately 350,000 cubic yards of mine reject material and topsoil was reshaped for re-establishment of sedge meadows, willow flats, stream channels, oxbow ponds and upland features. In 2002 and



2003, an agronomic contractor collected five (5) different species of wetland plants and willow cuttings with live buds, all native to the Snake River floodplain, and stored, germinated and grew the wetland seedlings in an off-site plant nursery. From mid-June through early July 2002, a total of 602,000 herbaceous plants and 35,000 willow cuttings were planted within the project site limits.

After a decade since mining activities ceased, the damage to the wetland and riparian ecosystem has been reclaimed in accordance with NPS management policies and legislative mandates.

For excellence in engineering design and construction management services, PHC-REC was the recipient of the coveted 2004 People's Choice Award for best national reclamation project presented by the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining.

Article by: Chris Walla, P.E., PHC Reclamation, Inc.



*From left: Bill Locke, WYO AML, Chris Walla, PHC Reclamation, Ernie Robb, WYO AML, Brent Walquist OSM
Evan Green, Wyoming AML*

Neds Branch Impoundment (West Virginia) National Award/Appalachian Award



On February 16, 2003, after heavy, sustained rainfall in the southern portions of West Virginia, a twelve acre abandoned coal refuse slurry dam, located in a hollow in Mingo County, failed releasing thousands of cubic yards of slurry, coal refuse and debris. This material entered the Right Fork of Neds Branch, blocking the stream channel and then buried Neds Branch Road, which provided the only access into the hollow. Consequently, nearly 50 residents were now either trapped in the hollow or unable to return to their homes.

Quickly restoring access into the hollow was deemed a top priority of the emergency response effort. Some of the hollow's residents had serious health problems, which required the regular attention and care of skilled emergency medical services personnel as well as the opportunity for immediate response should a severe, life-threatening situation occur. Medical personnel also made routine visits to a few of the families to deliver food and medicine. With access impeded, school age children were likewise unable to get to their bus stops to ride the bus to school. AML&R officials were quite cognizant of each of these concerns and in response worked feverishly to speedily re-establish access, particularly for the benefit of those residents with life threatening health problems.

Reclamation at the Neds Branch Impoundment site was completed in two phases. Phase 1 work started immediately and consisted of swiftly removing coal refuse, slurry and debris out of the hollow and roadway to reestablish access to the homes, as well as to restore proper stream flow within the main channel of Neds Branch. Temporary measures were also undertaken to prevent

additional coal slurry releases from occurring at the head of the hollow until a permanent abatement plan could be initiated. Phase 1 work primarily consisted of constructing several thousand feet of temporary roadway, excavating several thousand cubic yards of refuse material and debris, reestablishing the stream channel, and installing temporary diversion channels around the failed impoundment to prevent further slurry movement.

Within five days, a temporary access road was in service and residents as well as emergency service vehicles were again able to travel in and out of the hollow. As work on the first phase proceeded, a design consultant quickly developed a final site reclamation plan to permanently stabilize the remaining impoundment. For a period of twenty-five days, construction crews and AML&R personnel worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week. On March 12, 2003, Phase 1 work ended with the reclamation cost totaling \$675,225.

Phase 2 work commenced the following day, on March 13, 2003. During this stage, activities basically involved completely



reconstructing and stabilizing the slurry embankment, establishing proper drainage control and site regrading, and permanently replacing the original access road. By the time the project ended, more than one-half million cubic yards of refuse and rock had been excavated, 6,000 linear feet of drainage control channels and piping were built, four deep mine portals had been sealed, 2,400 linear feet of county roadway was reconstructed and paved, and a total of 43 acres were revegetated. Most of the excavated rock was used to construct the large rock-toe buttress and provide the select embankment fill to stabilize the breached slurry impoundment.



Pat Park (WVA AML), Mike Fiorante (GAI Consultants), Dick Darnell, Joe Reppy, Mike Richardson (WV AML), Brent Wahlquist (OSM), Charlie Miller, Mark Snyder (WVA AML)

Cerrillos South Mine Safeguard Project (New Mexico) - Western Award



The first Americans knew these hills and the area well. By 700-900 A.D. and probably much earlier, these early residents mined turquoise from these hills. The turquoise probably played a major role in establishing early trade routes reaching westward to the Pacific and southward to the interior of Mexico. The mining activity was augmented in early 1300's when lead was being extracted from mines here and used in the making of Rio Grande glazeware pottery. The Cerrillos Hills are thought to be the site of the oldest known mine in the United States.

The Cerrillos Hills area is also the first European mining area or the "Oldest Mining District in the United States". It was being prospected in 1581 and with a number of mines active almost a decade before the first English Colonist landed at Jamestown. The Los Cerrillos miners probably deserve recognition as the founders of Santa Fe. The mining camp they founded in 1600 or 1601 was probably the first post colonization community at what we now call Santa Fe.



Mike Thompson, John Kretzmann, Lloyd Moiola, Randall Armijo, and Bob Evetts, New Mexico AML

large number of avoidance areas identified for preservation of cultural and biological resources. Mine features were safeguarded by methods which would maximize the preservation of the historical mining landscape within the park. Interpretive signing and closure methods which allow the observation of mine features for educational purposes were also incorporated within the project design. Seeding was limited to only areas disturbed due to anticipated limited vegetative success and to minimize surface disturbance.

The project consisted of safeguarding 67 shafts, 17 pits,

one adit, two trenches and two highwalls, all of which were dangerous to the public at large. Thirty-five shafts, 16 pits and one adit were successfully backfilled using mine waste and other imported backfill. Welded wire fences were utilized to safeguard 1 pit and 2 shafts, open trenches and highwalls, while 16 other shafts were safeguarded by installing polyurethane foam (PUF) plugs and cast iron grates. Three shafts were safeguarded by metal picket fences. Eight shafts were closed utilizing high-tensile steel wire mesh coverings anchored with rock anchors while steel bat cupolas were installed at three additional shafts. The reclamation minimized certain hazards to the visiting public and added stability to the interpretative trails system managed by the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. Visitation to the Park is restricted to various trail systems which were constructed by volunteers and friends of the Park. Many of the existing roads to the area have been closed off to motorized vehicular traffic and the roadbeds have been narrowed to trails which will accommodate walking, jogging, bicycling, and equestrian traffic. This work was also accomplished through volunteers and friends of the park. The AML Project accomplished its three main objectives: Minimized hazards to the visiting public, added stability to the interpretative trails system managed by the park and preserved more than 1,300 years of historic mining landscape.



The Development of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park as public open space is a prime example of a successful cooperative partnering effort between the public and private sectors: the community of Cerrillos, the Cerrillos Historic Park Coalition, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Parks Service, the County of Santa Fe, the New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Bureau, , federal and state agencies, local businesses, and numerous other individuals. The Park was opened to the public May 24, 2003.

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Article by: Bob Evetts, New Mexico AML



Coles Creek (Indiana) - Mid-Continent Award



AML Site 901 (Coles Creek) near Scalesville, Warrick County, Indiana utilized a combination of Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative and Abandoned Mine Lands funds. Although the Indiana Division of Reclamation performed the work, it is considered a successful partnering endeavor with the Patoka South Fork Watershed Steering Committee. Mining operations at this site occurred from 1950 to 1966 by an unknown operator. Foertsch Construction Company, Inc. began reclamation work on March 1, 2002 and finished the project on September 19, 2002 at a total cost of \$837,532.74.

Reclamation consisted primarily of the consolidation and burial of coal refuse in a designated area and the establishment of passive water treatment wetlands. All acidic impoundments on site were treated to meet NPDES standards prior to being discharged. Also the aesthetic value of the area was greatly improved and a valuable wildlife habitat was created. The wildlife that now exists there is quite impressive: deer, turkey, rabbits, waterfowl, numerous other birds and amphibians. There was even a sighting of the State endangered Bobcat. At several of the common entrances to this site, "tanks traps" were installed to prevent the unauthorized access by off-road vehicles. Once detrimental to adjacent agricultural lands and fish and wildlife resources, including a State Fish and Wildlife Area, this project area is now a complement to those areas. This privately owned land that was once a moonscape of barren gob roads and acidic impoundments, is now a series of well-vegetated corridors and small isolated ponds with good water quality, a virtual wildlife paradise.

Article by: Steve Herbert, Indiana AML



Paul Ehret, Indiana DNR accepts award from Brent Wahlquist, OSM

This project addressed Acid Mine Drainage affecting both on-site impoundments and off-site drainages. The pH was in the 3 to 4 range and also contained elevated metals concentrations. The adverse conditions were primarily the result of the widespread use of gob as a

base for haul road construction during the mining operations and the coal that was left exposed in numerous un-reclaimed pit bottoms. Because of the long, linear nature of the gob haul roads, this ninety-five acre site was spread out over a much larger area, complicating the reclamation activities. Another very serious problem at this site was the extensive use of these gob haul roads for unauthorized off-road vehicle activities. One could travel at great speeds down these long straight haul roads, increasing the chance for personal injury.



Association Honors Mike Kastl



President Steve Hohmann presents award to Mike Kastl, Oklahoma AML

The Association took the opportunity at the Flagstaff Conference awards banquet to recognize the contributions of a long-time delegate and AML program administrator. Association President Steve Hohmann presented an award of special recognition to Mike

Kastl, AML program administrator for Oklahoma, for a career devoted to AML reclamation.

Kastl has been with the Oklahoma AML program since 1975 and has been at its helm since 1982. He was one of the founding members of the NAAMLPL and is the only founder still heading a state or tribal AML program.

Hohmann presented Kastl with a plaque with an inscription and an embedded clock. Upon presentation, Hohmann thanked Kastl for his innumerable contributions to the AML program nationwide and "...for setting a high standard of excellence for all AML programs to achieve."

Kastl was accompanied to the Conference by his wife, Theresa, and several Oklahoma AML staff members.

Article by: Steve Hohmann, Kentucky AML

National Geospatial Conference - Georgia

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM), National Association of Abandoned Mined Land Programs (NAAMLPL), Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) and Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) will jointly sponsor a national geospatial conference in December 2004 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Conference provides an opportunity for practitioners of advanced geospatial technology to discuss and exchange ideas on the application of this technology to SMCRA related issues. This nationwide conference will also provide a vehicle for State and Federal Regulatory agencies to exchange ideas with coal industry personnel that work on geospatial projects included as part of everyday permitting activities.

Technical sessions will include: Mobile Computing in Mining and Reclamation, Mine Permitting and GIS, GIS Design, Implementation and Management, Geospatial Technology and Bonding, AML Site Assessment, Design and Construction Management, GIS and Abandoned Underground Mines, GIS and GPS in Blasting Activities, Serving and Delivering Geospatial Data. The conference will also include poster sessions, vendor exhibits and a vendor project demonstration.

The conference originated from ideas presented at the TIPS Steering Committee meeting held September 9-11, 2003, in Breckenridge, Colorado. Several presentations were made to the Committee demonstrating the utility of geospatial technology through SMCRA project examples. The committee asked the TIPS team to investigate the feasibility of sharing this technology with the TIPS customer community in general, with the hope of technology transfer, and to educate more potential users in the capabilities available to them. This conference is a result of that effort.

The conference will facilitate an exchange of geospatial solutions between users of advanced geospatial techniques on SMCRA related applications. The conference will include topical sessions related to GIS, GPS, Remote Sensing, Electronic Permitting, and Mobile Computing as applied to mining and reclamation issues. A bilateral approach is anticipated whereby high level demonstration projects solving SMCRA issues will be presented by end users. The second function involves incorporation of our main vendors (ESRI, AutoDesk, Trimble, ERDAS, Carlson) to demonstrate/discuss the latest trends affecting the geospatial community as applied to mining and reclamation.

Ideally, the conference would have 175 – 200 attendees including presenters, representing the full spectrum of geospatial users. It is the goal of this conference to share advanced geospatial technology with the SMCRA community. With the knowledge gained, it is hoped participants will return to their offices and inform others of the available technology and solutions.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Renaissance – Waverly hotel in Atlanta, Georgia for the conference. All potential presenters and attendees should contact their respective TIPS Training Contact for conference registration and further details. Current conference information can be found at: <http://www.tips.osmre.gov/GeoSpatial/GeospatialConference2004.htm>. All non governmental individuals should contact Karen Pierson at (303) 844 – 1400 ext 1487 for registration details. Please direct any questions or comments to Bill Winters, (412) 937 – 2105, or email: bwinters@osmre.gov.

Article by: Bill Winters, Office of Surface Mining

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SPECIFICATIONS

400 - 500 words. Articles subject to editing. Submit in e-mail or hard copy. 2 photo limit. Include author's name, title of article, captions for photos. Submit photos in TIF (preferred) or JPG format, 300 DPI, and original photo size. E-mail photos as individual files, not embedded.

Deadline for the Spring edition is April 15, 2005.

Email articles to steve.hohmann@ky.gov or mail articles to:

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