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Governor

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ALAN R. COYNER
Administrator

ACTIVITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT FOR MARCH, 2005

ADMINISTRATION

- Administrator presented the Division's budget to the Senate-Assembly Joint Finance Committee.
- Administrator traveled to Washington D.C. for congressional staff briefings on the AML program.
- Administrator attended the dedication of the Sarah Winnemucca statue in the Capitol rotunda.
- Administrator gave a presentation entitled "Mine Reclamation Bonding in Nevada: Issues and Solutions" to the American Association of Professional Landmen annual meeting in Reno.
- Administrator and staff attended Ormat's Galena Geothermal Power Plant ground breaking ceremonies.
- Administrator responded to the Department of Personnel inquiry concerning the unclassified salaries tier survey.
- Administrator assisted Tom Gardner, an explorationist from Minnesota, with an inquiry concerning uranium and property rights.
- Administrator met, by conference call, with members of the Human Resources Committee of the CMR to discuss the unclassified staff salaries.
- Administrator represented the CMR and the division at the Intercollegiate Mining Competition in Reno and read a proclamation from Governor Guinn at the awards ceremony.
- Administrator requested an informal AG opinion from Janet Hess, deputy attorney general, concerning the taxation by the county of federal oil and gas leases.

MINING

- Staff reviewed, commented and supported the Clearinghouse documents regarding Cortez Gold Mine's Pipeline Expansion Project, and the Barrick Ruby Hill Expansion.
- Staff sent CD's and thank you notes to those who provided material for the Excellence in Mine Reclamation Award Program talk given at the "Natives Impacted by Mining" conference.

- Staff attended and participated in the Nevada Miners and Prospectors' meeting in Reno.
- Staff answered questions regarding Desert Minerals, Recon Mining and Nevada Lapis.
- Staff helped lead workshop field trips to ISN Aggregates and McCaw School of Mines, Cashman Equipment and Valley of Fire State Park, and the Quadra Robinson Mine in Ely.
- Staff worked on the 2004 mineral production reports.
- Staff worked on a presentation on Nevada mining history for Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society.
- Staff attended the Intercollegiate Mining Competition at Rancho San Rafael and handed out AML information.

RECLAMATION BOND POOL

- Staff called BLM regarding the status of the Reclamation Bond Pool's statewide bond application.
- Staff prepared a reclamation bond for AuEx Inc. and issued the bond in the amount of \$443,295.
- Staff continued the review of Nevada Rae Gold's reclamation bond application.
- Staff sent an updated bond pool participant status list to NDEP.

ABANDONED MINE LAND (AML)

- Staff participated in a conference call regarding the distribution of SNPLMA funds for bat gates.
- Staff conducted a site recon for an Eagle Scout project at Goodsprings.
- Staff logged one AML hazardous site in Esmeralda County and conducted land status research.
- Staff made final edits for the 2004 AML Report and sent it to state printing.
- Staff responded to a call from a concerned citizen regarding LY-612. This person thought the hazard might be re-opened but after investigating the site, staff found it to be an erosion issue.
- Staff met with Colin Redden, Bill Dixson, and Ron Naftal to discuss mining claims and AML issues.
- Staff sent AML information on CL-1296 and CL-1302 to Ann Mink of the law firm Laxalt & Nomura, regarding the Argentina Consolidated Mine.
- Staff interviewed 14 candidates for the Summer Intern positions and began the evaluation process, gave recommendations to the administrator, and subsequently made six employment offers.
- Staff spoke with filmmaker, Norm Bosworth, regarding potential AML PSA's.
- Staff fenced an AML hazardous site near Rhyolite that had been previously backfilled by industry, but had subsequently collapsed and re-opened.
- Staff spoke with Regan Gubler, president of the Southern Nevada Off Road Enthusiasts (SNORE) regarding an AML PSA.
- Staff worked with a Carson City High School senior to complete his Senior Project on AML. His work consisted of securing three hazardous sites in Lyon and Storey counties and meeting with the BLM to distribute AML brochures to off-road race organizers.

OIL AND GAS

- Staff met with John Menghini, BLM-NSO, to review Isern Oil well applications and Noramex geothermal well applications.
- Staff spoke to Del Fortner and Steve Salzman, BLM-NSO, on coordination issues for the oil, gas, and geothermal programs.
- Staff prepared a draft drilling permit checklist, to be finalized in cooperation with the BLM to provide applicants with a list of information needed for oil, gas and geothermal well drilling permits.
- Staff registered for the Baker Hughes Basic Petroleum training course in Dallas, Texas.
- Staff spoke with John Stout regarding a lost circulation issue with the Geyser Rig on Federal 1 at 1750’.
- Staff monitored three oil drilling locations in Railroad Valley: Makoil was issued a sundry to set bridge plug at 1150’; Geyser Petroleum is drilling the Pipeline Canyon well; VF Neuhaus spudded the Little Giant 36-1 well on March 28.
- Staff met with Bud Duffield regarding the drilling at Gabbs. Discussed clearance for geophysical testing from the BLM Carson City FO and gave some guidance on preparing drilling applications.

GEOHERMAL

- Staff contacted Noramex and requested further information on the deepening of the Deep Blue #12 well.
- Staff met with Stu Johnson and Greg Davidson, Ormat, for information regarding current permitting applications at Steamboat. Reviewed CD of information regarding the blowout at Steamboat in May, 2003.
- Staff worked with Caithness on the status of an injection well at Beowawe.
- Staff advised Roger Johnson on geothermal leases in Pumpnickle Valley.
- Staff reviewed and prepared conditions of approval on four Steamboat Hills drilling permit applications.
- Staff provided a well location map to Stillwater US Fish and Wildlife office for Stillwater Project Area permit.
- Staff received Beowawe’s sundry notice for bringing an additional injection well on line. Waiting for information from NDEP regarding testing.
- Staff spoke with BLM Battle Mountain and Tonopah to help facilitate an exploration permit for Nevada Geothermal Specialists’ Hot Creek exploration plan for ten to nineteen temperature gradient holes.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Staff gave a 2 hour presentation to 20 Fallon teachers (in-service class) on Wonder & Fairview districts, modern mining and AML, and a presentation to the Churchill County Museum’s lecture series on modern mining and AML.
- Staff made a rock / mineral / AML presentation to 25 1st – 4th graders and 4 adults at Bethlehem Lutheran Elementary Science Club in Carson City.
- Staff and the administrator worked at the Las Vegas Teachers’ Conference, including teaching 6 sessions for 19 4th and 5th grade teachers; 1 session for high school teachers; and the workshop registration and PDE credit.
- Staff attended and manned the agency booth at Dayton Elementary School’s Family Night. Handed out AML information to approximately 250 students K-5th and parents.