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Governor

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ALAN R. COYNER
Administrator

ACTIVITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS APRIL 2007

ADMINISTRATION

1. Attended the LV Teachers Workshop and taught one session in grade 9-12.
2. Attended field trip to Round Mountain Gold mine near Tonopah.
3. Participated in the CMR Budget Committee meeting in Reno.
4. Discussed the TG Power Tuscarora situation with the Governor's office.
5. Met with Eric Williams of Gallatin Group concerning the USFS Forest Plan revision.
6. Discussed the MacArthur project with Gene Spierling of Quaterra Minerals.
7. Meet with Jodi Stephens of the Governor's office and Mark Cowan, USACE and Monique Ostermann, USACE to discuss Washington DC support for the RAMS program.
8. Attended, with Commissioners Bryan, Mudge, and Parratt, the Mackay EAB meeting.
9. Participated in the CMR meeting and field trip to Virginia City.
10. Attended the NMPA meeting in Reno.
11. Discussed the Manhattan Placer project with Ray Willcox of A.U. Mines.
12. The division's budget was closed by the joint money committee without any issues.
13. 2006 production press release was prepared and approved by Governor's office.

RECLAMATION BOND POOL

1. Four bids for the MacArthur reclamation project were received by State Purchasing. Copies of the bids (without any dollar amounts) have been distributed to the review committee. The review committee will meet April 26th to open the dollar amounts and select a contractor (if bid amount is low enough).
2. Prepared a history of the Art Wilson Company's payments to the Bond Pool for the tailings impoundment at Silverpeak. Met with Gary Johnson, Craig Smith, (BLM Reno), Alan and Art Wilson about Art's reclamation schedule at the 16 to 1 tailings impoundment near Silverpeak.
3. Spoke with U.S. Gold about the notice level bonds held by White Knight.
4. Released 5 notice level bonds for Agnico-Eagle.
5. Issued a notice level bond for Quaterra Alaska, Inc.

MINING, LAND & OTHER ISSUES

1. Worked on aggregate production figures.
2. Met with mining claimant Dave Early about any claim filing changes in the legislature.
3. Created flow chart for contract procedures for internal controls.
4. Prepared a contract for the USFS planning liaison and submitted it to the budget office.
5. Attended the CMR meeting in Reno, and gave an update on the exploration survey, 2006 production, and the bond pool. Toured the 4th Ward School in Virginia City to see the proposed Stay Out and Stay Alive exhibit.

6. Participated in a conference call with BLM-NSO and NDOM-LV about the round 6 SNLPMA funding for Clark County AML inventories.
7. Worked on 2006 mineral production figures. Prepared draft press release. The press release was reviewed by Alan and the Governor's office and released.
8. Participated in a conference call with BLM-NSO, BLM-Tonopah, NDEP, and Art Wilson about Art's reclamation work at the 16 to 1 tailings impoundment near Silver Peak. A private landowner, Robert Mori, is complicating Art's plans by not allowing any trespass or storage of equipment on his property. BLM-Tonopah will be flagging the property boundaries. Art can still proceed with the work, but it will be more difficult.

AML / PUBLIC AWARENESS – NORTH

1. Received a call from Stan Lau (NDOT) regarding open and unsecured abandoned mine hazards in the Painted Rock area, north of I-80. These hazards have been logged and are waiting for BLM approval for securing and should be secured within the next few months.
2. The Geotemps contractors completed 13 securings and several AML re-visits. Met with Scott Hall (Geotemps) regarding personnel requirements for the claim ownership research contract and spending updates on current securing contract. The Geotemps contractors completed their last week in the Tonopah region, logging 14 new hazards and locating 29 previously logged sites requiring re-acquisition and updated descriptions and photographs. They will complete their contract by working two days in Washoe County, securing approved hazards and logging new ones. The claim/property ownership research contractor job through Geotemps was offered to Mackay geological engineering student who decided against it, preferring a job with more in-the-field work.
3. Completed and sent Ruhenstroth backfill proposal data package to BLM-NSO and Carson City Field Offices. The backfill proposal consists of 12 hazards in the Monarch Mine/Ruhenstroth region east of Gardnerville. This brings to 36 the total number of northern Nevada orphan abandoned mine hazards proposed for backfilling this year.
4. Communicated with Nancy Army, BLM-Tonopah, about status of backfill proposal for sites in the Goldpoint/Lida region. 76 orphans will be evaluated for permanent closure.
5. A planning meeting was held at NvMA with Chris Ross and John Brown to discuss backfill plans for 2007, including timing and equipment and manpower requirements.
6. Communicated with Jason Williams, NDOW, regarding status of AML closure priority list to be discussed at the next multi-agency meeting.
7. Attended a Bats and AML (BAML) multi-agency meeting at NDOW in Reno. A master list of abandoned mine sites considered for permanent or semi-permanent closure was reviewed. The list also contains regions in Nevada needing additional inventory work. The attendees, including BLM, USFS, NDOW, and NDOM, worked to nominate and prioritize sites for pre-closure biological survey efforts over the next three years. A week-long "bat blitz" of external surveys is planned at Lida and Gold Point for the week of July 16th; as many as 79 sites may be surveyed. AML sites recommended and approved for backfill are planned for closure later this year; this is in addition to the 38 sites in Washoe and Douglas County considered for backfill in 2007.
8. Communicated with Jim Fitch (MSHA-Elko) and Doug McMurdo (Elko Daily Free Press) regarding joint AML and "Stay Out, Stay Alive" feature.
9. Met with Barbara Mackey, director 4th Ward School, and Doug Southerland, exhibit designer, to review and discuss design plans for modifications to the existing Mining Room at the school.
10. Provided a dozen "Warning – Unsafe Mine" signs from Melanie Peterson (BLM-Ely).

11. Communicated with Brian Jordan (ACOE) and Elaine Ezra (TerraSpectra) to review status of the AML/GIS project and discuss future work needs. A working meeting is planned for mid-June in Carson City.
12. Assorted “Stay Out, Stay Alive” promotional material was provided to John Peterson (Reno Gem and Mineral Society). They requested a “Stay Out, Stay Alive” booth at the Reno Gem and Mineral Society’s Jackpot of Gems 2007 Exhibit at the Reno Livestock Events Center May 12th and 13th. They expect more than 2,000 attendees.
13. The 2006 AML Report was completed and sent to State Printing with an order for 1,200 copies. An electronic version was posted on the NDOM webpage.
14. Informational packages relating to AML sites on BLM-managed lands in the Contact and Tuscarora mining districts was collected and sent to Deb McFarlane (BLM-Elko) in preparation for potential permanent closure work in 2008.
15. A list of 57 unsecured orphan hazards awaiting approval from the BLM was prepared and submitted to Chris Ross (BLM-NSO) for distribution to the respective Field Offices. Subsequent communication with the Battle Mountain, Ely and Tonopah Field Offices provided approval to secure notification on 38 of them. Steve Drummond (BLM-BM) gave verbal approval to secure by exclusion fence any orphans found on BLM-managed lands in the Battle Mountain district.
16. Attended quarterly CMR meeting at UNR and provided updates on northern NV AML and outreach activities.
17. Assisted Fallon teacher, Rene Corcoran, with contact information and road log for diatomite mines in the region.
18. Four Rock/Minerals/AML presentations were provided 92 4th-grade students at Spanish Springs Elementary School in Sparks (4 presentations – 92 people).
19. Staff attended Farm Days in Carson City giving AML & minerals and commodity presentations to 700 children and adults (10 presentations – 700 people).
20. Two Rocks/Minerals/AML presentations were provided to 50 4th grade students at Alice Smith Elementary School in Reno (two presentations – 50 people).
21. Collected and delivered decorative rock and mineral materials to NvMA for use at their Earth Day paving stone activity.
22. Provided classroom coordination and activities to the 9th -12th grade sessions at the 18th Annual Earth Science Teachers Workshop at Cheyenne High School in Las Vegas. Approximately 120 teachers attended the workshop. Acted as field trip leader for the Sloan Mine/Red Rock NCA tour provided to 28 teachers. Attended optional tour to Round Mountain Mine and answered mining-related questions. Photographs from the Las Vegas Teachers Workshop were edited and posted on a website for distribution and a photo CD was provided to NvMA for use in promotional newsletters and flyers.

AML / PUBLIC AWARENESS – SOUTH

1. Staff has prepared a spreadsheet for 60 “orphan” AML hazards in White Pine County that will be evaluated for permanent closure under a proposal for Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 8 funding. The proposal was submitted by the BLM Nevada State Office and the Ely BLM Field Office.
2. Conducted a site visit to nine SNPLMA Round 4 bat gate candidate sites in the Goodsprings area and Gypsum Cave near Frenchman Mountain with Bureau of Reclamation gate construction staff.
3. Participated in a conference call with NDOW, BLM, NNHP and NDOM-CC staff to prioritize bat survey work across Nevada for AML hazards proposed for permanent closure.
4. One non-hazard feature logged in Clark County.

5. Participated in a conference call with NDOM-CC and BLM-NSO regarding options for contracting work for the Clark County AML Inventory Completion project funded under SNPLMA Round 6.
6. Conference call with NvMA, BLM-NSO, and NDOM-CC staff prioritizing 2007 AML backfill projects.
7. Work is continuing on a land status map for the Mountain Vista Mines/Best Bet placer claim groups – West Warm Springs Road, Las Vegas – for presentation to the Clark County District Attorney’s office and Code Enforcement Unit.
8. Conducted a site reconnaissance visit to Girl Scout Gold Award candidate Jessica Shalita’s AML securing area. Her project will consist of re-securing four vandalized hazards near Searchlight and is scheduled for May 20.
9. Conducted a project site reconnaissance visit with Eagle Scout candidate D.J. Stanger (#82). Six vandalized hazards south of Henderson will be repaired. The project is scheduled for June 2, 2007.
10. Reviewed and signed off on Shane Palmer’s (#74) Eagle project proposal package. The project is scheduled for May 12, 2007.
11. Conducted a project site reconnaissance visit with Eagle Scout candidate Jared Cooper (#85). Five vandalized hazards south of Henderson will be repaired. The project is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2007.
12. Chris Chubb’s Eagle Scout AML project was completed. Work included re-securing four vandalized hazards south of Henderson.
13. The Las Vegas office staff participated in the 18th Annual Las Vegas Earth Science Education Workshop at Cheyenne High School. A total of 117 teachers attended. The Las Vegas office staff was responsible for organizing tours, arranging for credit through UNLV and Clark County School District, coordination of grade level 4-5 workshop sessions, assisted in set-up, logistics and tear-down. “Stay Out and Stay Alive” presentation made to 19 grade level 4-5 teachers at workshop (one presentation – 19 people).
14. Attended a memorial service for Daniel Green, an early McCaw Mine docent, member of the Gold Searchers of So. Nevada who participated in a number of AML securing trips, dedicated supporter of minerals education and a close friend of the Las Vegas office staff.
15. Attended the McCaw School of Mines Foundation Board meeting.
16. Assisted in training a group of Nevada State College students who will be tour guides at the McCaw School of Mines through April and early May.
17. The Las Vegas office has moved to its new location in the Greystone office complex at 2030 E. Flamingo Rd., Suite 220, Las Vegas, NV 89119.
18. Attended the Commission on Minerals Resources quarterly meeting at UNR.
19. Assisted Nevada Mining Association staff at the Summerlin Park Earth Fair with a concrete-making activity.

OIL & GAS

1. PXP drilling ahead on Pancake well. Approved change in program to defer setting intermediate casing.
2. Coordinating with NBMG and Eagle Exploration on missing cuttings for the Meteor #1 well.
3. Completed and submitted IOGCC annual survey
4. Provided information to Tri-Valley Corporation on possible conversion of their Midland Trail well to a water well.
5. Empire working on Cobble Cuesta well with Riley Page rig.
6. Provided information to Tri Valley Corp on possible conversion of the Midland Trail, RRV, oil well into a water supply well. Well reportedly capable of producing 2000 bbl/min H₂O.

7. PXP sundries of Plug and Abandonment of Pancake summit well approved. Program started. Sundry for increase in pad size at Pluto drill site approved.
8. Notice of continued “no activity” on the Geyser Santa Maria well.
9. Received organizational report for the new Blackburn Oil and Gas Company. Waiting for well transfer.
10. Empire re-entry into Cobble Cuesta well for completion. Empires Cobble Cuesta well testing complete. P&A program approved.
11. Received completion report and logs from Tri Valley Midland Trail well.
12. Received change of ownership forms for 8 Blackburn Field wells, new owner Blackburn Oil and Gas
13. PXP mobbing in Nabors 148 rig on Pluto well
14. Eagle Expl. Rio Blanco 2 well spudded, 4-27.
15. Letter received from Double D, applying for UIC for Bacon Flat 23-17. This well is under compliance order to plug or produce by June 07. Waiting for confirmation of application from NDEP.
16. Received a program for consolidating oil spill material at the Toano Draw 15-19, coordinating with BLM and Spill Control.
17. Second request from Nye County Emergency Planning re: GIS information on oil wells in the county. Provided update of program and personnel changes.
18. Received P&A program from Makoil for 14-24 Munson Ranch and a TA extension request for Munson Ranch 12-43. Waiting on BLM.

GEOHERMAL

1. Briefed DOE on NDOM compliance for TG Powers 65-8 well. Operator reported an oil spill left from the Black Gold rig. Clean up in process. Monitoring of sage grouse leks is ongoing.
2. Approved Ormat sundry for kick-off drilling of 15-12 well.
3. Coordinated with NDOW, NDEP and TG Power on Tuscarora project operations. Lags rig mobbing in.
4. Coordinating with NDOW and TG Power. Spoke with rig operators and road builders on procedures and disturbance. Spoke with NDEP re site visit. Spoke with DOE about letter stating grant funding has been pulled based on NDOW comments. Provided NDOMs requirements for well to completed or PA for public safety reasons.
5. Sundry for PA of Gerlach Green well approved.
6. Sundry for PA of Steamboat MTH 21-33 approved.
7. Coordinating with Truckee Geothermal on three APDs
8. Approved sundries for Hazen 4 TG hole PA.
9. Extension of Stillwater Project area permit for one year approved. Received organization reports for ENEL Stillwater and Salt Wells. Waiting for bond transfer. New project area permit submitted for Salt Wells, returned for revision.
10. Received shut in status for Grass Valley 67-16. Welaco rig moving to Buffalo Valley location.
11. New geothermal GIS information from NBMG forwarded to USFS for the Forest Plan revision process. Coordinating with GIS Land Services and USFS on integration meeting.
12. Coordinating with USGS and NBMG on transferring GIS files for use in the Renewable Energy Task force mapping initiative.
13. Truckee Geothermal project area permit approved for Big Smokey Valley power plant. Three drilling applications reviewed and returned for revisions.
14. Ormat spud 4/24 Buffalo Valley 66-35 TG well, submitted an 11th TG application for this area, approved. Sundry change in location for BV-4 approved.
15. Ormat PA of MTH observation well approved and completed, report received.

16. Ormat change in drilling program on SBH 83B-6 production well, new directional program. Approved. DHS rig mobbing on site.
17. Lags rig operational on TG Power 65-8 well.
18. Meeting with representatives of Vulcan Power, Carson Lakes project, substantial revision of drilling plans received and in review.
19. Sundry notice of change in testing program from Nevada Geothermal Power for production well 38-14. Waiting on NDOM form. Will start drilling in mid May.
20. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe commence redrill of exploration well. Provided information on drilling contracts.