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**ALAN R. COYNER**  
Administrator

## ACTIVITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

September 2008

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### ADMINISTRATION (ALAN)

1. Attended the Nevada Mining Association annual convention at Stateline. Gave a presentation "Production and Exploration Update for Nevada" with state geologist Jon Price. Facilitated, with Commissioner Bryan, the Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation awards.
2. Attended the IFC meeting – NDOM's work program passed.
3. Met with Robert Kilroy of the AG's office concerning ongoing AG issues while Janet Hess is on extended leave.
4. Commissioner Bryan gave a presentation on the aggregate industry at the SME local chapter monthly meeting.
5. Met with Ron Wenker, BLM State Director, and Commissioners Kozlowski and Snow, to discuss oil and gas issues, permitting of rights-of-way, and geothermal issues.
6. Met with Atanda Clark, BLM Lease Adjudication, to discuss the excessive numbers of oil and gas lease nominations and the impact on workload for the BLM.
7. Discussed AML issues with Mike Capps of Mojave Underground.
8. Interviewed the two finalists for the O, G, and G program manager position. Lowell Price has accepted the job offer and will report to work on October 13.
9. Presented the agency budget summary to the Budget office and representatives from the Governor's office and LCB.
10. Attended a meeting of the RETAAC II committee.
11. Responded to questions from the budget analyst concerning statutory authority for the CMR to transfer funds to UNR for the education of students.

### RECLAMATION BOND POOL (DOUG)

1. Issued notice level bonds for Centerra Gold (US) Inc., Global Uranium Corporation, and Paradigm Minerals USA Corporation.
2. Processed a partial bond release for Greencastle USA Ltd.
3. Spoke with Brent Johnson, an IRS agent, about Nevada Rae Gold's bond. Apparently, Nevada Rae Gold owes the IRS some money. Mr. Johnson wanted to tap into the bond pool, but I told him the bond was to guarantee reclamation and nothing more.
4. Initiated a partial release for one of Golden Odyssey's notice level bonds.

### MINING, LAND AND OTHER ISSUES (DOUG)

1. Finalized the text portion of Major Mines.
2. Prepared the contract amendments for Geotemps, Inc. to continue with AML inventory and securing. The amendments total \$50,000. One amendment is for \$9,999 which can be approved by the Board of Examiner (BOE) Clerk. The other amendment is for \$40,001 which will require BOE approval, anticipated to be October 14, 2008. This will allow us to have better field weather.

3. Spoke with Alan Buehler of the Tonopah BLM about state AML fencing laws. This is in regard to the audit done by the Office of Inspector General of The Department of Interior's AML work.
4. The Exploration Survey was finished and mailed out.
5. Met with Alan and Robert Kilroy, who will be our temporary AG, during the absence of Janet Hess.
6. Visited the Bureau of Air Quality to try to get aggregate production figures. BAQ's data consists of throughput for each component of an operation. The data is of minimal use for our purposes.
7. The steel bid for bat gates for the Ward declines was awarded to Western States Enterprises out of Ely. NDOW is constructing the gates. State Purchasing did the bid requests. BLM will ultimately pay for the steel. NDOM is a facilitator.
8. Worked on the work program for a spring contract for Geotemps.
9. Attended the NvMA Convention awards luncheon at Harveys, South Lake Tahoe.
10. Attended the Nevada Miners & Prospectors Association meeting in Reno.
11. Traveled to Las Vegas for the 2008 MinExpo. Helped man the agency booth.

#### **AML / PUBLIC AWARENESS - NORTH (MIKE)**

1. Communicated with Dan Erbes, Susan McCabe and Liz Lane (BLM-CC) regarding necessary NEPA documentation for the upcoming backfills in Washoe County. Pending the receipt of a few biological pre-closure surveys, everything is in place for the needed categorical exclusions (CX) and approval to backfill.
2. Jenni Jeffers (NDOW-Fallon) conducted nighttime bat surveys at two Painted Rock hazards. Enough bats exited one site to warrant another visit and the use of an Anabat to record bat calls and determine species use. If the species utilizing it are different than those found using four other sites, as determined by Dr. Sherwin earlier this year and proposed for bat-gates, then it may also be proposed for bat-gating.
3. Sent Jenni Jeffers (NDOW-Fallon) a spreadsheet of AML sites proposed for backfill in 2009 at Ft. Churchill and Wabuska in Lyon County. She will work to perform the necessary pre-closure surveys this fall.
4. Ted Weasma (NPS-Mojave National Preserve) called to request various AML closure cost estimates. Cost data for barbed wire fencing, bat-gating, and wire mesh closures were forwarded. He also asked whether we've had AML incidents occur at previously secured sites; turns out we've had at least five.
5. Attended the Grand Opening of the "Stay Out, Stay Alive" hologram exhibit at the Fourth Ward School in Virginia City. While the exhibit took longer to complete than everyone expected, it appears well worth the wait, and opened to rave reviews. There is still some minor tweaking to be done in the next week and some minor set changes will be made this winter. The "Stay Out, Stay Alive" posters and interactive displays in the mining room were completed several months ago and, from personal and anecdotal accounts, are having the exact public safety effect we wanted.
6. Continued working on the AML Report in hopes of having it completed in time for distribution at MINExpo.
7. Received a request from Vic Sherer at the Virginia City Visitor's Center for AML information and brochures. 200 AML brochures were delivered and placed in their display racks. Magnets and stickers were also left for them to distribute.
8. Organized and renamed AML photos taken by the Geotemps contractors from fall-winter of 2007 in White Pine, Eureka and Esmeralda counties.

9. Spoke with Dustin Coan (Coan Equipment, Sparks) regarding availability and pricing of dozers for use if needed for backfills at Lemmon Valley and Cold Springs, scheduled for the end of September. A D-6 is available if NvMA is not able to assist. Communicated with Dustin Coan regarding the single-day rental of a D5 dozer for next week's seven backfills in north Reno. He'll arrange for transport to and from the sites.
10. Claimant Rick Westphal called after receiving a notification letter regarding hazards on his private property in Lyon County. Our database did not reflect the securing work he says he did in 1998. He lives on the property and has maintained the fences and even backfilled the sole shaft. He has requested that we visit the property, document his work and provide recommendations for any additional work that may be needed.
11. Attended the Eagle Court of Honor for Boy Scout Dean Wilhite. Dean completed his Eagle Service project fencing four abandoned mine hazards in Washoe County this past May. The AML Program and Dean's accomplishments were discussed and Dean was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his work. (1 presentation – approximately 60 people)
12. Spoke with George Stone (BLM-National Office) regarding speakers and agenda items at the upcoming FAST! Meeting to be held at MINExpo. The short 1 hour meeting will largely be an open discussion with industry representatives to discuss the BLM's FAST! Campaign, a partnership initiative to mitigate AML features on public lands. Communicated with Commissioner Mudge about the meeting and he indicated that he'd like to attend and participate in the discussion.
13. The bid for bat gate steel was awarded by State Purchasing and the material is expected to arrive at the NDOW Ely yard next week. The steel will be used by NDOW contractors to construct bat gates on some particularly dangerous adits at Ward. A BLM grant to DOM is being used for the cost of this steel.
14. Completed first draft of 2007 AML Report, made a few copies for distribution at MINExpo. The final version will be sent to State Printing following review by staff and subsequent edits and changes.
15. Attended MINExpo in Las Vegas, assisted staff with Division booth duty. Provided information to a variety of attendees.
16. Attended a FAST! Meeting at MINExpo and provided a PowerPoint presentation on Nevada AML activities to those in attendance, largely industry representatives and BLM-DC employees. Discussion at the meeting centered on how other western states can emulate Nevada's approach to physical safety/AML issues.
17. Communicated with Liz Lane and Chris Ross (BLM) regarding backfill plans and logistics.
18. Provided information to Jenni Jeffers (NDOW) regarding known AML sites in and adjacent to proposed wind farm west of Virginia City, from Geiger Summit south to McClellan Peak.
19. Created photographic handouts of 2008 Summer Intern program for Administrator to present at the budget meeting.
20. Ken Maas (USFS) called to say he has a pallet of polyurethane foam (PUF) for AML use he'd like to use up before winter. Several known sites on Peavine Mountain will be visited next week and assessed for possible PUF application. Ken also provided photos and documentation of bat gating work completed this year at Ward Mountain, Ruby Hill, Troy Canyon, and Irwin Canyon.
21. Created two new posters for use at MINExpo, one on the '08 intern program and another with updates to oil production in Nevada.

22. Received a call, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, from concerned citizen Nicole Davenport about the disappearance of her dog. Her husband was hunting the previous night with a friend and the family black lab in the Jumbo Grade area, west of Virginia City. The dog disappeared and they presumed that it fell down the nearby abandoned mine shaft WA-61. Unable to see the bottom of the ~100' shaft and unable to hear the dog, they assumed it to be dead. A call was placed to Washoe County Search and Rescue for clarification on procedures. They would only consider risking personnel for the rescue of live animals not those presumed dead. A site visit was made and a video camera was held over the shaft. Numerous attempts revealed no visible animal at the bottom other than pigeons. A conversation later that day with a father and son shooting pigeons at the same shaft revealed information, gained by private use of a down-hole camera, that a drift exists at or near the bottom. The dog's owners insist that the dog must have crawled off into the drift and died. Until definitive proof is obtained, the validity of the incident is still in question. The shaft is located on private property but is not posted as such and the exclusion fence is constantly in some state of disrepair due to frequent visitation and vandalism. The fence was repaired by staff and new signage posted. The property is held by a family trust with only a P.O. Box. Research by Washoe County Risk Management provided the name of the attorney representing the trust who will be notified of the reported incident.
23. Attended NvMA Education Committee meeting. Met new education coordinator, Joe Riney, and reviewed budget and expenses. Discussed results of Tonopah Workshop and potential changes to session schedule for summer 2009, allowing teachers to choose their three afternoon sessions and provide more variety for those teachers repeating the workshop.
24. Received a request for Rocks and Minerals presentation at Bernice Matthews Elementary School, Sparks.
25. Taught "Paste With A Taste" activity to 19 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and two adults at Miguel Sepulveda Elementary School in Sparks. (1 presentation – 21 people)
26. Staff provided an AML presentation to 100 people at Dayton Valley Days. (1 presentation – 100 people)
27. Fulfilled request for geologic maps of Frenchman Mountain for Clark County high school geology teacher Stephanie Henderson. 16 maps were plotted and sent to her.
28. Received another request for "Paste with a Taste" activity at Miguel Sepulveda Elementary School, Sparks.

#### **AML / GIS (PAUL)**

1. Used ArcGis to research and correct some errors found on hazard ID sheets before filing them into their proper county folders.
2. Updated Hazard ID sheets and worked on database.
3. Called Terry Howard to see if he had received the files I had sent to him in an e-mail and left a disc with maps and image files on it for him at NDOM CC desk.
4. Worked on Statewide AML map using ArcGIS to display in the NDOM booth at the Las Vegas MineXpo.
5. Met with Eric Warmath, the GIS Coordinator with NDOT, to get updated GIS files from him for our GIS system at NDOM. Transferred the GIS files received from NDOT to the H drive on our GIS computer and updated the system.
6. Updated and filed hazard ID sheets for Humboldt, Esmeralda, and Clark Counties.

7. Responded to a letter received from Charles Golden of Spring Creek, NV. Mr. Golden was inquiring about local locations for rock and mineral specimen hunting for his lapidary hobby. We sent Mr. Golden a map and some web addresses where he could find books on the subject of rocks and minerals in Nevada.
8. Researched the area in the Pah Rah Mountains proposed for windmills to generate electricity and assessed the AML situation in the proposed area. We found that there did not seem to be many abandoned mines in the immediate area of the proposed wind farm.
9. Outfitted the 2007 Dodge pickup with fencing supplies for field work.
10. Put together some rocks and minerals kits to give to Kathy Freeman at the next Education Committee meeting. Kathy was approached by a teacher requesting rocks and minerals to use for teaching her classes.
11. Worked on a list of safety precautions for tours at the teachers' workshops to present to the Education Committee. At the last meeting Dana Sue Kimble, Chris Ross, and I were appointed to outline a list of safety materials and procedures.
12. Attended the monthly Education Committee meeting at NvMA office in Reno.
13. Traveled to Las Vegas and attended the MineXpo. Manned the NDOM booth along with George Bishop, Mike Visher, Doug Driesner, Bill Durbin, and Debbie Selig.
14. Attended the BLM F.A.S.T meeting while at the MineXpo in Las Vegas. Progress in AML work on BLM lands was discussed and the BLM announced that it intended to send out letters to claim holders on BLM land requesting their cooperation in securing hazards on their respective claims.
15. Received a call from Eli Bagley concerning his Eagle Scout AML fencing project. Firmed up dates and times to meet with Eli and his crew of volunteers to complete the fencing project. Eli decided that the morning of Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> worked best for him and his group of volunteers.

#### **AML / PUBLIC AWARENESS - SOUTH (BILL)**

1. Continued on-going Clark County AML land research.
2. Made travel arrangements to attend the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Program conference in Durango, CO. – October 26-29.
3. Conducted a reconnaissance visit to Austin Whitaker's Eagle Scout project area west of Nelson.
4. Prepared project packets for Eagle Scout candidates Brennan Marshall (#104) and Myles Putnam (#111).
5. Conducted a reconnaissance visit to Mark Boggess' Eagle Scout project area west of Nelson – Clark County.
6. Reported AML information (1 hazard and 11 non-hazards) logged by the Nevada Conservation Corps crew in Mohave County, Arizona to the Arizona State Mine Inspector's office.
7. Conducted claim research at the Lincoln County courthouse to update land status of the 110 proposed SNPLMA Round 7 AML closure sites.
8. Las Vegas office staff attended a Nevada Mining Association Education Committee meeting in Reno.
9. Las Vegas office staff worked on various portions of the 2007 AML report – work is nearing completion.
10. Met with McCaw School of Mines Foundation Board members Bill Snyder and Gerri Schroder to discuss development of promotional packets that will be used for community-wide fund-raising.

11. Assisted in setup the Division display at the International Mine Expo 2008 in Las Vegas. Attended and manned the Division display, assisted with tear-down and move-out.
12. Participated with the Carson City AML staff in a BLM FAST discussion session at Mine Expo
13. Gave a tour of the McCaw School of Mines for a group of Women in Mining visitors.
14. Prepared materials for the annual McCaw School of Mines teacher in-service to be held on Saturday, September 27. The in-service is required for all teachers planning to bring their students on a tour.

### **GEOHERMAL (ALAN)**

1. Permitted Ormat's Buffalo Valley 72-23 observation well.
2. Talked to Donna Stammers regarding USG's 68-9 well – rigged up mud pump – getting ready to spud.
3. Talked to Connie at Hawthorne Army Depot regarding the drilling of an observation well. Gave her NDOM's web site and forwarded her questions to Alan. Provided information to the Hawthorne Army base concerning permitting for geothermal wells.
4. Vulcan spudded the 56A-14 well on 9/9/08.
5. Signed sundry notices for Enel Salt Wells to install pumps on 4 wells.
6. Sent out Legal Notice for Sierra Geothermal's project area application at Silver Peak.
7. Approved sundry for Ormat Steamboat Hills Injection Well 64A-32 Clean Out.
8. Met with Gary Johnson, BLM-NSO, and discussed a shared geothermal field inspector.
9. Submitted a comment letter to the Bureau of Reclamation concerning a proposed transfer of geothermal discharge water into the Walker River from the Wabuska geothermal power plant.
10. Ormat spudded the 84-31 well on 9/15/08 at Carson Lake.
11. USG spudded well on 9/15/08 with Trinity Drilling Rig 1 at Empire.
12. Wells drilling: Ormat's Grass Valley 47-15, Jersey Valley 14-27, Carson Lake 84-31; USG Nevada drilling San Emidio 68-9; Vulcan moved the rig off the Carson Lake 56A-14 well; NGP Blue Mountain drilling the 13-11 well.
13. Processed NGP Blue Mountain's 7 injection wells and 1 production well.
14. Received the ok from John Menghini to process 17 TG wells for Sierra Geothermal.
15. Approved 10 sundry notices for NGP. All sundries and permits had been technically reviewed by John Menghini of the BLM- NSO.

### **OIL AND GAS (ALAN)**

1. Permitted EOG's Sugarloaf 1-17 oil well in White Pine County.
2. Worked with Makoil concerning BLM permitting delays on three proposed oil wells in Railroad Valley.
3. Talked to Desiree at Richardson Operating regarding the APD for RR Valley Federal #1 oil well. They received the BLM permit but not the NDOM permit. Received the APD for well and processed.
4. Processed Makoil's Cabin Spring 18-44 oil permit.
5. Continued to work with Jamie Drayton of Makoil to resolve permitting issues for Railroad Valley wells.
6. Approved sundries for Meritage Energy, Blackburn, Makoil, and Richardson Operations.