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**ALAN R. COYNER**  
Administrator

## ACTIVITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS AUGUST 2009

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### ADMINISTRATION (ALAN)

1. Discussed stimulus funding with the new Deputy Chief of Staff, Lynn Hettrick, in the Governor's office. Lynn will be our point of contact for natural resource issues.
2. Provided paperwork to the BLM concerning \$25,000 in funds coming to NDOM to pay for a contract landman to do AML courthouse research.
3. Agreed to give an AML presentation at the Natives Impacted by Mining conference set for September 22 to 24, 2009 in Reno.
4. Met with Barbara Mackay of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward School to discuss the modern mining interactive exhibit. Met with Barbara and representatives from Noble Studio to review the storyboard for the CMR funded modern mining exhibit.
5. Made final decisions concerning the 2009 Nevada Excellence in Mine Reclamation awards.
6. Received initial responses from the NWMA area reporters. Most responded tight state budgets would not allow attendance at the meeting.
7. Attended the quarterly BLM/industry coordination meeting for geothermal.
8. Discussed a proposed geothermal well at the VA Hospital in Reno with Lowell and Commissioner Snow.
9. Requested and received data from the USGS on Walker River/Walker Lake to assist in the Homestretch Geothermal issue at Wabuska.
10. Attended the GSN Symposium 2010 monthly meeting.
11. Attended the annual meeting of the NBMG advisory board in Reno.
12. Attended the dedication of the GBSSL building at DRI.
13. Designated Paul Buffington to be the NDOM Pandemic Flu coordinator.

### RECLAMATION BOND POOL (DOUG)

1. Issued 4 notice level bonds, one each for Steve Bowers, AuEx, Inc., Universal Uranium, and Bravo Alaska
2. Issued a plan bond for Talon Gold Nevada which replaces the one for Redstar Gold USA.
3. Processed 5 notice level bond releases.
4. Processed 2 notice level bond reductions.
5. Called Dennis Anderson to check on the current status at Plum Mining.

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

1. Provided information about mine employment to Robert Sabo at the Northern Nevada Business Weekly.
2. Sent the paperwork for the \$25,000 in federal money to Susan Kaller at the BLM-NSO concerning the landman contract needed prior to the next round of AML backfilling.
3. Provided information about underground mines to a vendor of bio-diesel.
4. Provided possible leads to Mike George at the USGS about mine tours.

5. Met with Barbara Mackay, Mike and Paul about the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward School mine display.
6. Provided a breakdown of gold produced from public and private lands in Nevada to Christian Crowley of the BLM Washington DC office.
7. Spoke with Adella Harding of the Elko Free Press about mine production in Elko County.
8. Prepared 4 Eagle Scout certificates for scouts that completed projects with Paul.
9. Ordered reclamation award plaques.
10. Approved 2 work programs, one for forwarding the bond pool budget to FY-10, and one for closing the Division's budget for FY-09.
11. Sent geothermal production information to John Dobra.
12. Approved 34 geothermal permits (25 were thermal gradient holes).
13. Approved 11 sundries for NGP, a sundry for deepening The Rock Investment Group's well, approved 5 other geothermal sundries, one oil sundry, and one temporary relief from an oil well plugging.

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

1. Lined out interns for 9-day work period to Winnemucca, Orovada, Denio and Sheldon Wildlife Refuge. This will be the first weekend worked by the interns and will be their last trip to the field. Their last day of work will be August 19<sup>th</sup>. Emailed Brian Day (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) regarding interns plans and possible AML hazard securing work at the refuge. He provided location information for two needing fence work and offered space on their informational kiosk for posting our sign and brochure.
2. A review of unsecured high hazards located proximal to the proposed "Vegas to Reno" OHV race revealed four requiring immediate attention. Two high hazard shafts in Esmeralda County, near Gilbert, recently became orphans. Paul and I secured these two, plus three other hazards, the day before the race on that section. In addition, our revisit program contractor Environmental Protection Services barricaded two non-orphan high hazards along the route near Como in Lyon County.
3. The summer interns successfully and safely concluded their work program. Their final numbers are quite impressive: over 6,000 mine features investigated, nearly 500 new hazards identified and approximately 274 secured, plus over 200 revisited and/or repaired while working in 14 counties.
4. Contractor Brian Breiter (EPS) reviewed his AML re-visit program work for the month of July and submitted his invoice for \$4,861. Recent work included many repairs to fences in Storey County and improvements to coordinates and descriptions of hazards.
5. Ken Maas called to discuss the SHPO's findings after reviewing our 2008 Forest Service report. They had several comments and suggestions for improving the report and one concern regarding securing fences crossing, rather than encircling, archaeological resource sites when immediately adjacent to AML hazards.
6. Drove to NBMG's Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library and purchased several USGS topo maps we didn't have which were needed for planning and field work in NW Nevada next week by the interns.
7. Completed hazard inventory sheets for five hazards identified by Katie Miller (NDOW) in Lander County.
8. Intern Jason Henderson discovered that the pro-underground abandoned mine exploration/anti-backfill group Mojave Underground has a new website [www.adoptamine.org](http://www.adoptamine.org) to promote their position and refute federal/state/local governmental agency "Stay Out, Stay Alive" messages.

9. Communicated with Casey Strickland (BLM-Battle Mountain) regarding status of their field investigations of AML hazards within the local Battle Mountain District polygon being proposed for hard closure. They'll be renewing their field checks and submitting their findings within the next month. We will provide them with new sites that were inventoried by the interns this summer.
10. Attended mine tour, arranged by Paul, at Turquoise Ridge Joint Venture with the summer interns. Mining Trainer Ernie Fortmann provided the requisite safety training, geologist Keith Wood gave a thorough geological summary and UG geologist Zack Jones provided a nice review and walking tour of the operations.
11. 400 sets of "Stay Out, Stay Alive" stickers, brochures and magnets were assembled and sent to "Best In the Desert", the organizers of the upcoming Vegas to Reno off-road race, for inclusion in their participant packets.
12. Answered questions from Rob Sabo (Northern Nevada Business Weekly) about copper exploration, historic production and related trends in the Yerington area.
13. Researched and answered historic Comstock production questions from Ed Tomany (Mine Inspector's Office).
14. Provided Nevada magnesite occurrences and production information to Ray Gibson.
15. Sorted through and submitted various mining photographs to Jennifer Mauldin (NBMG) for possible inclusion in 2008 Major Mines publication.
16. Updated and archived AML photographic database.
17. Provided Chris Ross (BLM-NSO) with an estimate he requested of AML NDOM's inventory and fence work on BLM-managed lands during FFY09 (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009).
18. Completed travel arrangements for attending the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) conference in Rogers, Arkansas at the end of September.
19. The Nevada Mining Association has a pre-paid exhibit space at the State Fair which they will not be able to use/staff. The space was offered to UNR/Mackay and NDOM with display allowances for any interested NvMA members. The Fair is from 8/26 – 8/30 which coincides with the first week of school so it may be difficult for Mackay to use/staff it. I've offered to set-up NvMA's booth, display our "Stay Out, Stay Alive" images and brochures, and work with their members/volunteers to staff it as much as practical during the exhibition's open hours.
20. Coordinated with NvMA, NBMG, UNR-Mackay and Granite Construction Supply to supply and staff a booth in the main indoor arena for five days at the Nevada State Fair in Reno. With an estimated 70,000 attendees to the Fair, there was a fairly steady stream of visitors to our booth from Wednesday through Sunday night. Topics displayed and promoted included: rock and mineral uses; rock-hounding trips; earthquake safety; careers in the geosciences; the mining exhibits at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward School; modern mining; and our "Stay Out, Stay Alive" campaign. More than 600 bagged and tagged samples of silver ore, copper ore, selenite, limestone, feldspar and rhyolite were given away. It's safe to say we were the second most popular booth; the talking video fish took top honors, of course. Many thanks to DD LaPointe (NBMG), Liz Ball (UNR-Mackay), George Bishop, Joe Riney (NvMA), Alicia Roman (and family) and Jacob Gomez (Granite Construction Supply) and Mackay students Liz Baker, Kyle Leigh, Jason Henderson and Megan Hanke for their time and assistance in making this a very successful outreach event.

21. Met with Barbara Mackey to review work plans and needs for the mining room interactive exhibit being designed and built by Noble Studios (Carson City). She requested a list of items/topics to populate “then” and “now” lists for exploration, mining, and processing discussions in the current storyboard. Students and staff brainstormed on the issues and several lists were emailed to Barbara for consideration.
22. Work continues on the 2008 AML Report.

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

1. Worked with the summer interns to get them ready for the field. Helped load pickups with fencing supplies and assisted the interns with vehicle issues. Helped the summer interns inventory and clean the NDOM trucks.
2. Collected paperwork and maps from the summer interns on their return to the Carson City. The totals for week twelve of their summer internship were 33 hazards secured, 46 hazards logged, 146 non-hazards logged, and 24 revisits.
3. Printed maps of the Sheldon Antelope Range area for the interns.
4. Collected paperwork and maps from the summer interns after their last hitch in the field for the summer. The interns logged 43 hazards, 1082 non-hazards, secured 29 hazards, and did 16 revisits in and around the Charles Sheldon Antelope Refuge.
5. Helped Mike Visher jump start the 2002 Dodge truck in Winnemucca. It was having either battery or alternator issues. Left the truck at the Dodge dealership to be fixed.
6. Traveled with Mike Visher to Winnemucca, NV to accompany the summer interns on an underground tour at Turquoise Ridge Joint Venture. Ernie Fortmann, an instructor in the mining training program ant TRJV, did the site specific safety training for our group and equipped us with underground safety equipment. Zach Jones and Tom Huebner, from the geology department at TRJV, led the group on the underground tour. Zach discussed the geology at TRJV and showed the group some mining in progress. After the underground tour, Keith Wood gave a geologic presentation explaining the geology of the mine and the theories behind how it was formed.
7. Used ArcGIS to query and find hazards that rank high in the NDOM database that fell within 0.25 miles of the proposed Vegas to Reno off road race route provided to us earlier this year. Four high hazards were found that needed attention before the race.
8. Used ArcGIS to print a color orthomap with a semi transparent topographic map overlay of the Devils Gate Quadrangle.
9. Traveled with Mike Visher to the Devils Gate quadrangle, near Gilbert, west of Tonopah Nevada. Assisted Mike in logging one hazard and securing five hazards along the Vegas to Reno race route.
10. Worked on preparations for Eagle Scout projects for Lance Thompson and Jacob Carver. Scheduled to do the final phase of the two projects on August 8 in Winnemucca, NV. Traveled to Winnemucca, NV to meet with and finish the Eagle Scout projects for Lance Thompson and Jacob Carver. A total of fifteen volunteers helped to secure ten AML hazards on the Little Poverty and Hot Springs Summit topo quad areas.
11. Finished paperwork and updating database on Eagle Scout Projects just completed in Winnemucca, NV.
12. Communicated with Rodger Bryan to coordinate a time and place to meet to do the recon part of Dillon Bryan’s Eagle Scout project. I will travel to Winnemucca, NV and meet with Rodger and Dillon on Tuesday August 25<sup>th</sup>.
13. Called Debbie Selig in the Las Vegas NDOM office to discuss an email from Dave Brickey with Terra Spectra concerning our GIS computers and the Dell service contract.

14. Used ArcGIS to clip the NDOM database for work done inside the Inyo National Forest boundaries. The clipped data was emailed to Lynn Oliver, geology program manager, Inyo National Forest, and Kelly Hokanson, GeoCorps America, Inyo National Forest.
15. Picked up the Elko County AML slides that state archives finished scanning and dropped off a new folder of slides to be scanned.
16. Backed up the NDOM photo database located on the AML computer to CDs and put the CDs in appropriate folder in Mike Visher's office.
17. Participated in the monthly Education Committee meeting via teleconference call.
18. Assisted Mike Visher in breaking up mineral samples to be given away at the NDOM booth during the Nevada State Fair.

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

1. Conducted AML field investigations with the summer intern crew in White Pine County. Assisted in securing four hazards.
2. Conducted AML claim research at the White Pine County courthouse. Updating hazard inventory sheets with land status research information.
3. Preparing hazard inventory sheets and location maps for submission to Ely BLM for 209 White Pine County AML hazards proposed for permanent closure under SNPLMA Round 8.
4. Participated in the monthly AML closure project conference calls for SNPLMA Rounds 6, 7 and 8. A spreadsheet with 209 hazards has been completed and submitted for the Round 8 White Pine project.
5. Site visit with NDEP staff to the Nelson area to observe and identify a large quantity of palletized, bagged material an ATV tour leader called cyanide. A tourist on this individual's tour reported the material to Region 9 EPA. The report was forwarded to the hazardous waste team at NDEP-LV. The bagged material has been identified as lime. There were also many bags of Portland cement – now solid blocks. The material has evidently been there for many years. GPS coordinates were compiled and the site was photographed by DOM.
6. Handled logistics for repairs needed for 2008 Dodge Ram field vehicle in Ely.
7. Attended meeting of master science teachers working on upgrading tour curriculum for McCaw School of Mines.
8. Worked on Mine building swamp coolers and displays at McCaw School of Mines. Clean-up and prep for teacher in-service workshops to be held August 15, 17, and 18. Teachers who have signed up for McCaw field trips must attend a workshop.
9. Assisted with three McCaw School of Mines teacher in-service workshops. "Stay Out and Stay Alive" handouts were provided (3 presentations – 75 people).
10. Participated in a press tour at McCaw School of Mines attended by TV Channels 3 and 8 and a reporter from the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The tour coincided with the annual "State of the School District" press conference conducted by the Superintendent of the Clark County School district held this year at Gordon McCaw Elementary School.
11. Worked with McCaw School of Mines staff to re-build panning tables damaged by vandals and work continued on new fluorescent mineral and fossil displays.
12. Preparation of posters and materials for McCaw School of Mines fluorescent mineral and fossil displays. Obtained parts needed to complete repair work on the Mine building swamp coolers.
13. Attended the "Festival in the Pines" event at the Kyle Canyon Ski and Snowboard Resort, Clark County. Manned AML information display. (1 presentation - 100 people).

14. PowerPoint presentation on Nevada mining and AML made to the Nye Gold Seekers prospector club in Pahrump (one presentation – 40 people).
15. Attended NvMA Education Committee meeting in Reno. Plans underway for the 2010 teacher workshops: March 30-April 1, at Faith Lutheran High School in Las Vegas; tentatively June 28-30 at Manogue High School in Reno.

### **GEOHERMAL (LOWELL)**

1. Witnessed 13.375 inch BOPE tests for the Enel North America Stillwater 53A-30 production well.
2. Discussed BLM time frame for approvals of various geothermal permit applications and sundry notices with John Menghini.
3. Reviewed Peppermill Casino's drilling program for their proposed Production Well #8. Drilling program provided by Ensign Drilling.
4. Reviewed the Department of Veteran Affairs permit application and drilling program for their Geothermal Test Well #1. Drilling program and application provided by Alares LLC, of Braintree, Massachusetts. Requested casing specifications from Alares.
5. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's sundry notice to replace the submersible pump in 78-29 production well.
6. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's sundry notice pertaining to the drilling of Blue Mountain 61-22, 61-22 ST1, and 61-22 ST1A injection well. Sundry notice submittal detailing the drilling of these holes was requested by the BLM as a condition of approval.
7. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's permit application and drilling program for the Pumpnickel Valley 58-33 observation well.
8. Reviewed Enel North America's sundry notice to move the Stillwater injection well from 33-7 to 88-1, as well as a change in the drilling program. Due to potential rig movement over the weekend, discussed move of well and change in drilling program with Alan. Alan gave a verbal approval to proceed.
9. Wells drilling week one: Ormat Nevada Jersey Valley 87-28 ST-1 (3,145'; set 9.625" liner; test well, rigging down); Ormat Nevada Grass Valley 47-15 (GeoDrill 2 plugged and abandoned this observation well; rigging down); Magma Energy Soda Lake 41B-33 (8,995'; waiting on arrival of 9.625" liner); Enel North America Stillwater 53A-30 (2,575'; logging open hole).
10. Reviewed the Peppermill #8 production well permit application and drilling program. Doug approved.
11. Reviewed HSS II's production well permit applications and drilling program for the proposed 18-5, 64-5, 35-17, 43-17, and 46-17 wells at Hot Sulphur Springs. All wells have same program, provided by Geothermex, and are estimated to be drilled to 6,000 ft. Doug approved.
12. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's sundry notice pertaining to the drilling of Blue Mountain 61-22, 61-22 ST1, and 61-22 ST1A injection well. Sundry notice submittal detailing the drilling of these holes was requested by the BLM through a condition of approval. Doug approved.
13. Reviewed the Department of Veteran Affairs casing program for their Geothermal Test Well #1, provided by Alares LLC, of Braintree, Massachusetts. Waiting on \$10,000 cash bond for the well.
14. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's permit applications and drilling programs for the Pumpnickel Valley 58-33 and 64-4 observation wells. Doug approved.

15. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's sundry notice requesting the Blue Mountain 58B-15 injection well be reclassified as a production well. Doug approved.
16. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's sundry notice to reclassify thirteen temperature gradient holes to observation wells in the Blue Mountain Project Area.
17. Reviewed Enel North America's sundry notice to perform a thirty day injection test on the Stillwater 25-31 observation well. Doug approved.
18. Reviewed Enel North America's sundry notice to remove a down hole pump in the Stillwater 53-30 production well. The pump will be installed in the recently drilled Stillwater 53A-30 production well. Doug approved.
19. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's twenty five temperature gradient hole permit applications for their McGinness Hills Project Area. All holes to be drilled to 500 feet. Doug approved.
20. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's twenty five temperature gradient hole permit applications for their Dead Horse prospect. All holes to be drilled to 1,000 feet. Waiting on the BLM to approve the drilling of these holes.
21. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's Jersey Valley 77A-28 production well permit application, proposed total depth of 3,500 feet. Doug approved.
22. Wells drilling week two: Ormat Nevada Jersey Valley 77A-28 production well (moving rig from 87-28 ST1 location); Ormat Nevada McGinness Hills 28-10 (514'; running 20 inch casing); Ormat Nevada McGinness Hills 67-22 observation well (74'; running 20 inch conductor pipe); Magma Energy Soda Lake 41B-33 (8,995'; well shut in); Enel North America Stillwater 53A-30 (2,575'; ran 9.625 inch liner; rigging down; preparing to move to Stillwater 88-1 injection well drilling location).
23. Reviewed Ormat Nevada Bunejug 11-32 production well permit application and drilling program. Waiting on BLM approval.
24. Reviewed Ormat Nevada sundry request to plug and abandon the Buffalo Valley 31-26 and 72-23 observation wells. Waiting on BLM approval.
25. Reviewed Ormat Nevada sundry request to plug and abandon the Rock Hill 22-35 and 75-2 observation wells. Waiting on BLM approval.
26. Reviewed Ormat Nevada sundry notice to repair/replace down hole pump in the Steamboat PW-3 production well.
27. Drafted letter to John Allen, Enel North America, clarifying that the Stillwater and Salt Wells Project Areas will remain in place as long as there is either exploration or production activity within these project areas.
28. Reviewed sundry notices from Nevada Geothermal Power requesting that the sumps associated with the nine wells in Sections 14 and 22 at Blue Mountain be allowed to remain open for future testing/workover operations. Waiting on BLM approval.
29. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's sundry notice to reclassify thirteen temperature gradient holes to observation wells in the Blue Mountain Project Area. Doug approved 11 of the holes to be reclassified. Waiting on BLM approval for remaining two holes.
30. Wells drilling week three: Ormat Nevada Jersey Valley 77A-28 production well (369', drilling); Ormat Nevada McGinness Hills 28-10 production well (1575', drilling); Ormat Nevada McGinness Hills TG 67-22 (494', 2-7/8-in tubing; rigged down, moved to TG 85-22); Ormat Nevada McGinness Hills TG 85-22 (498', 2-7/8-in tubing; rigged down, moved to TG 73-22); Ormat Nevada McGinness Hills TG 73-22 (250', picking up coring tools); Magma Energy Soda Lake 41B-33 production well (8,995'; well shut in); Enel North America Stillwater 88-1 injection well (440'; ran 20 inch casing; waiting on cement, then nipple up).

31. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power sundry notice to move Blue Mountain permitted location from 71-15 to 91-15. Also reviewed sundry notice to drop the 71-15 permitted location if the 91-15 move is approved. This permitted location was previously moved from 51-15 to 71-15. Determining how many times a permitted location can be moved versus having operator establish completely new permit.
32. Re-assessed fees for re-classifying the following Nevada Geothermal Power temperature gradient holes to observation wells. Increased fee from \$100 to \$300 (Pumpnickel Valley), less \$100 already paid for PVTG-1, PVTG-2, PVTG-3, and PVTG-4. Increased fee from \$100 to \$500 (Pumpnickel Valley), less \$100 already paid for PVTG-5, PVTG-7, and PVTG-9.
33. Reviewed Walker River Paiute Tribe letter to NDEP in response to public comments on permitting additional discharge at the Wabuska facility, where a portion of the geothermal fluid discharged by Homestretch Geothermal may be allowed to be transported to the Walker River.
34. Reviewed USGS report: Water Budgets of the Walker River Basin and Walker Lake, California and Nevada and Bureau of Reclamation report: Walker River Basin, Homestretch Geothermal Water Quality Report.
35. Witnessed 13.375 inch BOPE test for the Enel North America Stillwater 88-1 injection well.
36. Attended the BLM/Geothermal Operators quarterly meeting at the BLM State Office in Reno on August 17<sup>th</sup>
37. Wells drilling week four: Ormat Nevada Jersey Valley 77A-28 production well (557', drilling); Ormat Nevada McGinness Hills 28-10 production well (1,887', reaming); Ormat Nevada McGinness Hills TG 73-22 (500', ran tubing, rigged down); Magma Energy Soda Lake 41B-33 production well (8,995'; well shut in); Enel North America Stillwater 88-1 injection well (3,587'; bit trip).

#### **OIL AND GAS (LOWELL)**

1. Reviewed sundry detailing workover operations performed on the Blackburn #16 well.
2. Reviewed KBE's request to continue the temporary abandonment of the KBE 1 well in Humboldt County. Doug approved.
3. Reviewed sundry detailing workover operations performed on the Blackburn #16 well. Doug approved.
4. Reviewed Rock Investments sundry notice to allow the deepening of the Isaiah 16-1 from a permitted depth of 6200 feet to 8,000 feet. Coordinated approval process with Tom Schmidt, BLM Elko District. Alan approved. Attached COA requiring a Variable Density Log to be run over surface casing (surface to 800 feet).
5. Reviewed Rock Investments sundry notice to allow the deepening of the Isaiah 16-1 from a permitted depth of 8,500 feet to 9,000 feet. Coordinated approval process with Tom Schmidt, BLM Elko District, and John Menghini, BLM State Office. Alan approved. Attached COA requiring running intermediate casing, 7 inch, to total depth in the event Rock wants to drill deeper than 9,000 feet.
6. Sent letter to Michael Decker, Gasco Production Company, requesting Organization Report for Gasco Production Company, in order to complete the transfer of ownership of the Pluto 27-1 well (P&A in August 2007) from Plains Exploration & Production Company to Gasco.
7. Wells drilling: Rock Investment Group Isaiah #16-1 (5030' week one, 5,517' week two, 6,375' week three, 8,495' week four; currently drilling), Elko County.