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Governor

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**ALAN R. COYNER**  
Administrator

## **ACTIVITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **April 2011**

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#### **ADMINISTRATION (ALAN)**

1. Contacted several of the claimants receiving AML hazard notification letters and encouraged them to make the securing of the hazards a priority.
2. Added a meeting of the Comstock Historic Commission and received approval for the bat gate proposal on the Chollar Raise mine shaft.
3. Assisted TNT Ventures in securing an AML hazard near Yerington.
4. Completed the proposed pre-conference tour description for the 2011 NAAML P meeting. The tour visits Newmont's Twin Creeks mine and Barrick's Goldstrike mine. The third day of the field trip includes a scenic hike in Lamoille Canyon.
5. Approved several abstracts for the technical session at the NAAML P annual meeting in October, 2011 at Squaw Creek Resort.
6. Emailed Eagle Scout candidate Carson Mullins concerning a possible AML project near Hawthorne, west of Walker Lake. Travelled to Hawthorne to log AML hazards for an Eagle scout project. Met with Vicki Moyle of the Walker River Paiute Tribe concerning permission to cross reservation land to access AML hazards on public land and to conduct a cleanup of an old shack and dump for an Eagle scout project. Submitted proposed cleanup on public lands to BLM Carson City for permit approval.
7. Worked on the public safety brochure concerning hazards associated with unpermitted geothermal wells in the Stillwater area.
8. Discussed the Enel injection report for the Stillwater geothermal plant with Commissioner Snow.
9. Granted a waiver from reinjection for a portion of the geothermal fluid to be produced for the Patua geothermal plant near Hazen for cooling purposes.
10. Sent a letter of support concerning the NBMG budget cuts to the University Regents.
11. Attended the hearing of SB 491 which would delete the sunset provision for the additional mining claim fee.
12. Responded to a request from former Commissioner John McDonough concerning tungsten mines in Nevada.
13. Contacted a Lovelock teacher concerning job shadowing for two students at the Coeur Rochester mine.
14. Participated in the Las Vegas teacher's workshop. Taught two sessions and delivered the keynote address.
15. Attended the Mackay Executive Advisory Board meeting, and the Mackay Awards banquet.
16. Issued a check to Mackay for \$100,000 for the recruitment and retention program.
17. Facilitated quarterly CMR meeting.
18. All employees took a furlough day in March.

### **RECLAMATION BOND POOL (DOUG)**

1. Issued notice level bonds for JKR Gold Resources USA, Paradigm Minerals USA, Pilot Gold, Cordex, and Ashburton.
2. Received notice from the Treasurer's office that \$11,000 had been electronically sent. It turned out to be for a notice level bond, but all the paperwork was missing. The Treasurer was notified the money was for the bond pool.

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

1. Completed amendment 4 to the Geotemps contract and submitted it to the Budget division for BOE approval expected May 10<sup>th</sup>. This would add \$40,000 to the contract and extend the termination date to December, 2012.
2. Approved 16 geothermal permits, 12 geothermal sundries, and 2 oil permits.
3. Gave presentations at Pleasant Valley School on mineral commodities and AML (1 presentation - 130 students).
4. Listened in on testimony on SB 493.
5. The \$80,001 contract amendment for Environmental Protection Services was approved by BOE.
6. Helped Mike break rocks for the teacher's workshop.
7. Helped the Dept. of Taxation with production figures.
8. Worked the agency table top display at Farm Days with Linda and George. This was a 2 day event with approx. 1,200 kids and 500 adults (30 presentations – 1,700 people).
9. Worked on 2010 mineral production figures.
10. Spoke with Joe Kircher, a claimant who had received a notification letter, about AML responsibilities. Sent him some Attorney General opinions on the subject.
11. Provided a reference for a former Intern.
12. Attended quarterly CMR meeting.

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

1. Re-researched for the administrator the parcel number and ownership of shaft in Virginia City proposed for bat gating.
2. Review EPS work conducted in Esmeralda and work plans for next week. Acquired additional fencing equipment and PUF for use by EPS and for storage for future use.
3. Entered inventory and closure data provided by JBR for sites near Sulphur, in Pershing County.
4. Entered closure data for work performed by Bureau of Reclamation during last month in Elko and White Pine counties.
5. Prepared PowerPoint presentation on AML program for use at next week's Western Bat Working Group conference in Henderson.
6. Traveled to Henderson for Western Bat Working Group conference. Provided presentation on NDOM's AML program and data resources available for bat researchers and land managers to assist in habitat mitigation issues. Furthered relationships with regional land management agency personnel, academia and vendors. Provided all attendees with "Stay Out, Stay Alive" education and outreach swag (1 presentation – 100 people).
7. Conducted inventory and revisit work near Beatty and Tonopah.
8. Met with Stan Levers (BV Nevada) at the Gooseberry Mine, Storey County. Used downhole camera on loan from NDOW to assess upper 200' of production shaft

- openings. Performed revisits on known hazards and assessed region for additional hazard potential work for interns or contractors.
9. Supplied references and employment verification for past interns, Greg Stokes and Jamie Loyola.
  10. Forwarded new internship opportunities to Mackay students not chosen for NDOM summer intern program.
  11. Revisit and repair previously gated hazard on Peavine. Document vandalism and forward information to Ken Maas (FS).
  12. Field calls from various claimants requesting securing information and hazard inventory photos to assist with securing efforts.
  13. Updated database with new logging, securing and revisit info from claimants and EPS work south of Tonopah.
  14. Prep rock and mineral samples, create sponsor posters, and update informational posters for upcoming Earth Science Workshop for teachers. Pack up materials at NDOM and NvMA sheds for workshop.
  15. Spoke with Jeff Bixler (Mine Inspector's Office) about providing an underground refresher course for interested state and federal agency personnel working in abandoned mines.
  16. Drove to Las Vegas and worked at the Earth Science Teachers Workshop.
  17. Communicated with archaeologist Stephanie Livingston (GBI), biologist Jenni Jeffers (NDOW) and contractor Brian Breiter (EPS) to discuss closure plans and dates for final securing work at the Murphy Mine complex.
  18. Brian Breiter (EPS) completed logging AML features at the Cordero Mine complex near McDermitt. 17 hazards and 141 non-hazards were identified in the region. All data was captured using the Capturx digital pen.
  19. Communicated with Susan McCabe (BLM-CC) to provide the annual archaeological resource recognition class for our summer interns during their first week of employment.
  20. Used down-hole camera (on loan from NDOW) to evaluate subsurface ground conditions and shaft dimensions of ST-80; site proposed for construction of a bat cupola. Met with Shannon Gardner, Storey County Building Inspector, to discuss issues pertinent to the process.
  21. Logged 1 new hazard, 6 non-hazards, and 3 re-visits near Perry Canyon as part of reconnaissance for prospective scout projects.
  22. Offloaded materials from workshop at NDOM and NvMA sheds. Provided NBMG with additional rock and mineral kits for their outreach efforts.
  23. Christy McOmber (Borderwich-Bray ES, Carson) called and requested two activities from NDOM at their Nevada Celebration event in October.
  24. Attended quarterly CMR meeting.

#### **AML / GIS (RACHEL)**

1. Finished compiling notification letters: stuffed and sealed all envelopes and sent letters off to claimants regarding unsecured features on their claims.
2. Spoke with Brian Ellis of Fallon regarding unsecured hazards on claims he recently staked. Researched these features to discover that we had not been to the area, and the features on his claims had not been logged by us. He has put up temporary fences around the hazards and was requesting information on fence specifications. Sent him a map of the area and the securing information. States he will secure, photograph, and collect data on these features for our records.

3. Moved the digital pen data from the GIS computer to my computer and printed new hazard inventory forms for Brian Breiter for use in upcoming field work. Brian is continuing to test the Capturx hazard ID sheets for us in the field so that we can correct any issues with the pens and the form as soon as possible. Updated new data from Brian's previous week of field work using the digital pen – one new hazard was logged and the pen appeared to have collected all of the necessary data.
4. Compiled a new hazard rank monthly. Labeled new photos for addition to the AML photo archive for backup.
5. Spent the better part of the week addressing phone calls and e-mails from claimants who received the AML notification letter. Several phoned or e-mailed to inform us that they no longer had control over the claim. Updated records to reflect changes and double checked research and made changes where necessary.
6. Compiled maps and photos to send to claimants requesting additional information on securing hazardous features on their claims. Followed up on requests for signs and information on building fences and barricades.
7. Traveled to Pleasant Valley Elementary with Linda Carrion to conduct a presentation for Reading Rock Week at the school. Made metamorphic sandwiches with 170 first, second and third grade students. We discussed the different rock types and demonstrated how sedimentary rocks can change into metamorphic rocks under heat and pressure. Discussed the importance of mining in Nevada and all over the world and talked with them about the dangers of abandoned mines (1 presentation – 170 students).
8. Worked primarily on responding to emails and phone calls from claimants who have received notification letters from our office. The majority of the requests were to forward additional information including maps and photos while several other email and phone calls were made to inform the Division of Minerals of a change in ownership.
9. Made maps for several claimants who requested additional information on site locations of hazardous features on their property and sent them out.
10. Updated the database with new information regarding the status of unsecured hazards and made notes on when claimants responded to the letter and what their intention was.
11. Conducted land research using LR2000 on claims that either had changed ownership or were given up. Updated the database with this new information.
12. Put together the supplies needed for teaching "Mining in a Nutshell" at the Las Vegas Teachers Workshop.
13. Compiled maps and data points for field work at the Cordero Mine that will be conducted by EPS. Printed additional Non Hazard and Hazard ID forms for use with the Capturx pen.
14. Attended the Las Vegas Teachers Workshop hosted at Faith Lutheran High School. Taught the "Mining in a Nutshell" activity to sixteen 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and helped out in several different other classes providing geological information and answering questions.
15. Responded to e-mails regarding the hazard notification letters.
16. Addressed messages from the previous week regarding the hazard notification letters. Responded to several e-mails and phone messages requesting additional information and how best to go about securing a hazard. Received additional messages from George Bishop that were taken while in Las Vegas. Began responding to these claimants.
17. Worked further on organizing and narrowing down the list of areas for the summer interns to assess in the upcoming months.
18. Attended the May CMR meeting at the University of Nevada, Reno.

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

1. Investigated and ranked one new hazard in Clark County.
2. Geotemps contractor Kyle Cahill completed most of the work on the southern Nevada AML photograph database, completed the Clark County AML site re-visit data entry for work performed by Pete Herrera during January/February 2011, and started working on the Clark County re-visit data for March 2011 provided by Pete Herrera. He terminated his service on Tuesday, April 19 to return to Reno.
3. Picked up a load of “recycled” T-posts from the Bureau of Reclamation yard in Boulder City.
4. Received documentation on 24 permanent AML closures completed in Clark County by the BOR crew during March 2011.
5. Las Vegas staff fielded numerous calls and emails from claimants with requests for information regarding the recent AML notification letters. The office staff created several sets of maps which were sent along with site pictures, forms, and other securing information to claimants and property owners.
6. Received data from Pete Herrera for Clark County AML re-visit work conducted during March 2011.
7. Received 9 mine closure reports for work completed by the BOR crew in Clark County – late March-early April 2011.
8. The office was contacted by Dave Carlson of the Clark County Comprehensive Planning Department regarding the mine hazards at the Arden gypsum mine. The hill system on which these mines are located is the proposed location for a major recreational trails system for equestrian, hiking and mountain bike use. The “Mountain Vista” mines, as they are also known, have been under unpatented mining claims for many years and attempts to get the mines secured by the claimants have been futile, to date. In 2002, the land was transferred from BLM custody to Clark County ownership. Clark County is now ready to begin assessing the liability and closure options for the 31 hazards.
9. Received completion reports from the BOR crew for 7 hazards permanently closed in Clark County during April 2011.
10. Assisted BATFE and BLM in location and disposal of a cache of old blasting caps at the Bluebird prospect southeast of Gold Butte, Clark County. Attempts to reach a cache of old dynamite at the Windmill Mine a few miles to the south were futile due to washed out access roads.
11. Logged one non-hazard in Clark County.
12. Conducted reconnaissance site visit to Cameron Rose’s Eagle project area. Five hazards will be re-secured and one newly discovered hazard will be secured at the Accident Mine south of Goodsprings.
13. Made “Stay Out and Stay Alive” PowerPoint presentation for a Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada monthly meeting (1 presentation - 75 club members and guests).
14. Assisted with tours at the McCaw School of Mines for a representative of the John Kish Foundation - a possible grant donor and for John Park of Stonerose Publishing Company - who writes about museums and other venues nation-wide that showcase mining history.
15. Participated in an interview (not on camera) showcasing the McCaw School of Mines with Las Vegas Channel 13 KNTV (ABC affiliate).
16. Met with McCaw School of Mines staff and local board members – final planning and status of the April 15-16 fund-raiser golf tournament and Gala.
17. Assisted with set-up and attended McCaw School of Mines Foundation Gala fund-raiser.

18. Conducted a “dry run” of and completed the road log for the post-workshop field trip for the Las Vegas teacher workshop (Faith Lutheran School to Mercator Mineral Park Mine north of Kingman, Arizona). Mileages to various points of historic and geologic interest were determined for the field trip road log along with an assessment of road conditions, travel time and the location of the Mineral Park turnoff.
19. Prep materials for Las Vegas teacher workshop.
20. Set-up at Faith Lutheran School for 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southern Nevada Earth Science Education Workshop for teachers. Debbie Selig coordinated registration and PDE credit for teachers attending the workshop. Led the Las Vegas Rock/Red Rock NCA field trip and the post-workshop tour of the Mercator Mineral Park copper mine. Coordinated one “Minerals” and one “Rocks and Geology” session, “A Paste with a Taste”, “Cupcake Core Drilling”, “Birdseed Mining” and AML activity sessions at the teacher workshop (one presentation – 20 people).
21. Attended the Commission on Mineral Resources meeting in Reno. Gave a report on Las Vegas office/Southern Nevada activities.
22. Prepped materials for the first “Locate, Assess, Stabilize and Transport” (LAST) workshop at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park scheduled for April 29 – May 1. This event is a training workshop for Search and Rescue personnel, law enforcement and SWAT officers who are medically trained, fire rescue staff and emergency medical responders. There will be an emphasis on “Stay Out and Stay Alive” for the general public and Scouts.

#### **GEOHERMAL (LOWELL)**

1. Reviewed sundry notice from Nevada Geothermal Power for Blue Mountain. Discussed procedure with Russ Land, UIC. Doug approved.
2. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power’s permit application and drilling program for the North Valley 15-31 observation well. North Valley previously known as Black Warrior. Proposed total depth is 3,000 feet. Doug approved.
3. Reviewed four sundry notices from Ormat Nevada for Jersey Valley. Discussed with Russ Land, UIC, and John Menghini, BLM. Doug approved.
4. Reviewed TGP Development revised permit application and drilling program for the Coyote Canyon 34-32 observation well. Proposed total depth is 9,500 feet. Doug approved.
5. Reviewed TGP Development revised permit application and revised drilling program for the Coyote Canyon 58-22 observation well. Proposed total depth is 9,500 feet. Doug approved.
6. Wells drilling: Gradient Resources Patua 44-19; Gradient Resources Patua 16-29; Ormat Nevada Dead Horse 12-12 observation well.
7. Reviewed Chemetall Foote’s permit applications and drilling program for nine TG holes to be drilled on their mining property near Tonopah, Esmeralda County, located north of the Silver Peak area. All TG holes are located on BLM leases. BLM previously approved the drilling of these holes. All holes are proposed to be drilled to 1,000 feet. Doug approved.
8. Reviewed sundry notice from Magma Energy for Soda Lake. Doug approved.
9. Reviewed Gradient Resources Patua 2 Project Area application. Project area is located to the south of the Patua Project Area. Doug approved.

10. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's Blue Mountain 15-15, 84-21, and 57-23 observation well applications and drilling program. All wells are proposed to 3,000 feet, utilizing the same drilling program. Doug approved.
11. Wells drilling: Gradient Resources Patua 44-19; Gradient Resources Patua 16-29; Ormat Nevada Dead Horse 12-12 observation well.
12. Reviewed Gradient 89(18-20)-29 production well permit application and revised drilling program. Proposed total depth is 9,700 feet. Alan approved.
13. Reviewed two sundry notices from Magma Energy for Soda Lake. Alan approved.
14. Reviewed sundry notice from Ormat Nevada for Jersey Valley. Coordinated approval with Russ Land at UIC. Alan approved.
15. Wells drilling: Gradient Resources Patua 44-19; Gradient Resources Patua 16-29; Ormat Nevada Dead Horse 12-12 observation well.
16. Met with Russ land, UIC, Daren Daters, Robert Liptrap, both from Enel North America, at NDEP on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Discussed field maintenance for Stillwater.
17. Met with John Snow, Jon Price (NBMG), Lisa Shevenell (NBMG), Gary Johnson (BLM), Sheila Mallory (BLM), and Lorenzo Trimble (BLM) at the BLM Reno State Office on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussed possible TG hole locations on Federal lands NBMG would like to drill, utilizing a Department of Energy grant of \$250,000. Possible NEPA requirements, as well as possible bonding related to the drilling, were also discussed.
18. Reviewed Homestretch Geothermal's permit application and drilling program for the PW3 production well. Proposed total depth is 1,500 feet. Alan approved.
19. Reviewed sundry notice from Magma Energy for Soda Lake. Discussed with Russ Land at UIC. Alan approved.
20. Reviewed sundry notice from Ormat Nevada for Desert Peak. Alan approved.
21. Reviewed sundry notice from Terra-Gen for Dixie Valley. Doug approved.
22. Reviewed sundry notice from Enel North America for Salt Wells. Coordinated approval of proposed procedure with Russ Land at UIC. Doug approved.
23. Wells drilling: Gradient Resources Patua 88(18-20)-29 (rigging up); Gradient Resources Patua 16-29.
24. Reviewed two sundry notices from Ormat Nevada for Jersey Valley. Alan approved.
25. Reviewed sundry notice from Brady Power Partner's (Ormat Nevada) for Brady. Work is associated with the Department of Energy EGS program. Doug approved.
26. Reviewed sundry notice from Enel North America for Stillwater. Doug approved.
27. Reviewed Gradient Resources permit applications and drilling programs for three TG holes in the new Patua Phase 2 Project area. Proposed total depth is 1,000 feet for each hole. Alan approved.
28. Reviewed Gradient Resources permit application and drilling program for the Patua 24-29 production well. Proposed total depth is 11,000 feet. Alan approved.
29. Reviewed sundry notice from Nevada Geothermal Power for Blue Mountain. Discussed with John Menghini at the BLM. Alan approved.
30. Reviewed sundry notice from Nevada Geothermal Power for Blue Mountain. Discussed with John Menghini at the BLM. Doug approved.
31. Reviewed sundry notice from Nevada Geothermal Power for Blue Mountain. Alan approved.
32. Wells drilling: Gradient Resources Patua 88(18-20)-29; Gradient Resources Patua 16-29 (rigged down, preparing to move to the Patua 24-29 production well drilling location).

**OIL AND GAS (LOWELL)**

1. Reviewed HBF Exploration's Charity 1 and Charity 2 permit applications and drilling program. Both wells utilize the same drilling program and are proposed to be drilled to 11,000 feet. BLM previously approved. Doug approved.
2. Reviewed sundry notice from Grant Canyon for the Grant Canyon Field. Alan approved.
3. Drilling: Emergent Value FLT 1.

**OTHER (LOWELL)**

1. Participated in the 'Task Force' meeting related to BLM leasing reforms (IM 2010-117) for oil and gas on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.
2. Met with John Snow, Kim Niggemann (NGP), John Casteel (NGP), Anna Carter (NGP), Gary Johnson (BLM), John Menghini (BLM), Sheila Mallory (BLM), Marcie Purkey (BLM), Lorenzo Trimble (BLM), and Darrell Carter (BLM) concerning the operation of the Blue Mountain Field.
3. Attended the Commission on Mineral Resources quarterly meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.