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Governor

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**ALAN R. COYNER**  
Administrator

## ACTIVITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS JANUARY 2012

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### ADMINISTRATION (ALAN)

1. Debriefed the Deputy Administrator and wished him well in his retirement.
2. Participated in a phone conference with the IOGCC Steering Committee.
3. Reviewed the USFS geothermal lease proposal for the Governor's Office.
4. Responded to an inquiry concerning production reports for the Ashdown Mine. The person claimed to represent Chinese interests that never received moly concentrates after making payments to Win-Eldrich.
5. Attended the Sage Grouse informational meeting hosted by the Clearinghouse.
6. Discussed the proposed Storey County mining ordinance with Austin Osbourne of the County Planning Dept.
7. Met with Mike Visser and BLM representatives to discuss raising the Bond Pool statewide notice level bond. Agreement was reached to increase the bond to \$2.5 million. In the future NDOM will obtain concurrence from the BLM before issuing any plans of operation bonds on public lands.
8. Worked on the policies and procedures manual for the Bond Pool.
9. Resolved notice level refund for NV Gold Corporation.
10. Closed out the Art Wilson Adams Claim Mine reclamation bond and issued a refund to Art Wilson Company.
11. Resolved the Expedition Mining bond pool invoice.
12. Worked with Plum Mining to increase their reclamation bond.
13. Attended a meeting of the Western Regional Partnership concerning renewable energy.
14. Lucas Foletta of the Governor's Office indicated that agencies were not to respond to the Letters of Intent issued by the 2011 Legislature.
15. Responded to a letter from the Citizens for Smart Geothermal Growth.
16. Collected information concerning the UNR Marigold royalty.
17. Attended with Commissioner Snow the meeting hosted by NMEC concerning future funding of the NBMG.
18. Visited with former Deputy Administrator Driesner concerning the outcome of the Washoe Valley wildfire and property damage to his residence.
19. Reviewed the Mineral Industries 2010 for NBMG.
20. Distributed the job announcement for the Chief of Abandoned Mine Lands position.
21. Attended the monthly GSN meeting.

### RECLAMATION BOND POOL (MIKE)

1. Completed move of office furniture and paperwork into new office. Began organizing bond pool files and filing loose paperwork.

2. Attended meeting at BLM-NSO, along with Alan, to discuss details of bond pool and request to increase NDOM's statewide bond amount. BLM verbally agreed to allow an increase from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000. A formal written request was submitted to BLM-NSO later in the week.
3. Communicated with Lacy Trapp (BLM-NSO) regarding several open issues related to the Bond Pool. Researched and provided information requested.
4. Assisted Administrator with work on increase to Comstock Mining's bond and indemnity agreement. Communicated with Treasurer's Office to work through bank wire information and protocol. Provided necessary information to Comstock Mining.
5. Processed a reduction for Basin & Range.
6. Processed increase on bond for Summit Creek.
7. Processed bond release for Golden Odyssey.
8. Contacted NevGold about past due premiums, payment received later in the week.
9. Researched history of past due premium for Ironwood Gold. All old contacts no longer affiliated with company, but did provide email for current officer. Submitted email with invoice to company officer in England.
10. Prepared history of GL4311, revenue from Royalty of Medallion sales. Spreadsheet and summary provided to budget analyst.

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

1. Worked with Ken Schmick (Art Wilson Company) to resolve incorrect Adams Mine disturbance figures submitted for Annual Status and Production reports.
2. Attended Sage Grouse Stakeholder, NMEC and GSN meetings.
3. Assisted geologist Doug McGibbon with contact information for historic drill information at old FMC project in Lander County.
4. Completed mandatory Security Awareness online training and certification.

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

1. Communicated with Jason Corbett (BCI) regarding authority and availability to conduct bat surveys on BLM and BIA managed lands in Nevada to assist with hard closure decision making.
2. Conducted downhole camera survey of ST-90, Combination shaft, in Virginia City. Three runs were made with various accessories. A natural (?) rock and dirt bridge has formed at a depth of 120' from the collar. Two DVD's were generated and copies provided to NDOW and BLM for review. Temperatures ranged from 58°F at the collar to 37°F at the bottom. Representatives from the BLM-NSO, BLM-CC, NDOW, State Mine Inspector's office, Comstock Mining, Comstock Mineral Development (claimant) and Con-Virginia Mining came by at various times to view images from the camera and discuss history of the shaft and closure options.
3. Attended meeting at BLM-NSO to discuss hard closure options for Combination Shaft. Contractor Brian Breiter was prepared to provide detailed engineering plans and cost for gating the shaft, but the BLM has decided to handle the closure efforts internally and pay an out-of-state contractor to do the work.
4. Provided DVD copies of Combination shaft downhole camera surveys to Chris Ross (BLM-NSO) and archaeologist Stephanie Livingston.

5. Visited two potential bat habitat sites near Silver City with claimant Steven Saylor and Jenni Jeffers (NDOW).
6. Descriptions, ID sheets and photographs of AML hazards at the Shively mine in Humboldt County were provided to archaeologist Stephanie Livingston to assist with hard closure efforts.
7. Spoke with Leslie Nielson, Clark County Deputy District Attorney, regarding their renewed interest in mitigating the numerous currently unsecured Mountain Vista abandoned mine features. This is a long-standing and complicated issue involving a split estate. The county was deeded the surface rights, but the BLM retained the mineral rights and there is an active claimant who has done nothing to secure the numerous opening to old room and pillar gypsum mine. The county has been speaking with the BLM-NSO and would like to take the same approach regarding notifying the existing claimant about the county's intent to close or gate these features. A conference call will occur next week with NDOM (CC and LV) and various agencies from the county to review history and address next steps and plans of action.
8. Attended conference call with Clark County to discuss plans to mitigate Mountain Vista physical safety hazards. A site visit will be held next week with Bill Durbin, county representatives, and contractor Brian Breiter.
9. Geotemps contractor Dustin White doing AML inventory work and revisit/repair work in the Hawthorne area.
10. Contractor Brian Breiter completed inventory and securing work east of Reno.
11. Assisted Rory Lamp (NDOW) with processing of inventoried AML features he found in Elko County.
12. Continued work on 2011 USFS Report. Contractor Murya Dube assisted by collecting, copying and scanning all pertinent paperwork and organizing image files.
13. Completed report of 2011 AML work done by NDOM on lands managed by HTNF. A meeting to present and review the report will be held with Ken Maas next week.
14. Submitted report of 2011 NDOM AML work on FS-managed lands to Ken Maas (FS). Reviewed data and conducted preliminary review of 2012 plans and areas of specific interest to FS.
15. Provided location information and map to DD LaPointe as requested regarding natural arch found in the Pyramid mining district.
16. Processed updated Cost Sharing Agreement with USFS to receive reimbursement of AML related costs associated with work on the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest. We received \$30,670 in 2011 for work done in FY10/11.
17. Sent letter to the Federal Geographic Data Committee in support of Nevada Geographic Information Society (NGIS) grant application by Jennifer Mauldin (NBMG) for creation of Statewide Parcel Data and Enhanced Elevation Data. Both datasets would greatly benefit our AML program.
18. Reviewed summer intern recruitment as prepared by Valerie for posting on NVAPPS. Recruitment will be posted on Feb. 1 and close on Feb. 21, with interviews scheduled to be held at UNR on Feb. 8th and 9th.
19. Completed online work reference applications for two prior interns.
20. Worked with Valerie to get proper authorization for access to IFS, NEBS, and NEATS as needed for Deputy Administrator position. Signed up for all necessary state classes as needed.

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

1. Accompanied Dustin White to Silver City for training on logging new hazards, non-hazards and conducting revisits on previously secured hazards. Went over the protocol and what data need to be recorded when in the field. Addressed different situations and different examples of hazards and non-hazards for reference. Revisited several hazards, logged two new hazards and several non-hazards in the area.
2. Completed and printed maps for upcoming GeoTemps field work in the areas around the Walker River Paiute Reservation. Exported all shape files needed for the upcoming field work to GPS units for navigational purposes. Reviewed all information with contractor Dustin White so that he can accurately log and revisit hazards in the region.
3. Traveled to Schurz with Murya Dube and Dustin White in order to meet with Fawn Bolton on the WRPT Reservation. Continued work logging hazards and non-hazards in the Terrill Mountains north of Schurz. Spent time training Dustin White on how to properly use the digital pen, recording and plotting data, and ranking hazards found. He will be working with Fawn Bolton as time allows. During those times that he is not able to meet with her, Dustin will be conducting revisits on previously secured hazards in the surrounding areas as well as logging new hazards and non-hazards.
4. Received a few phone calls from claimants requesting additional information on securing AML features and the specific details of securing sites for liability reasons. Received photo documentation showing the securing work completed on sites in Mineral County. This information was added to the database and letters were sent out confirming the securing work completed.
5. Queried the database to determine how many sites were logged or secured on Forest Service land in 2011 by either NDOM or associated contractors. Completed spreadsheets separating all sites out by ranger district so that we can pull photos and organize the information by ranger district. Provided a list of sites to GeoTemps contractor Murya Dube to begin reviewing photos for the sites. Maps were compiled and printed showing the work completed on USFS land for the year-end report.
6. Received securing information from Round Mountain Gold for areas in and around Manhattan and North of Round Mountain. Murya Dube completed new hazard ID forms for those sites that were new loggings and updated the database to show that the sites they had originally been notified on were now secured. She added the labeled photos to the database and sent a thank you and confirmation letter to Round Mountain.
7. Murya Dube continued work assigning numbers to hazards logged by NDOW in the Goldfield region. She is currently working on labeling photos and entering the new information into our records.
8. Received securing information from a few claimants. Murya Dube cross referenced our records with the sites submitted and updated our records to reflect any changes. She scanned and labeled the photos and added them to our archive. Once all data was updated, she composed thank you letters/letters of compliance to the claimants.
9. Spoke with Jenni Jeffers with the Division of Wildlife regarding the list of hazards in the viewshed of the V & T Railroad. Land research is up to date for Lyon County and she will begin working towards surveying those sites on the list for bat habitat. Once this is complete, we can move forward on more permanent hazard mitigation.
10. A few weeks back a packet of securing information was received from Barrick Gold addressing securings completed in Humboldt, Lander and Eureka Counties. In addition to

securing known NDOM hazards, they also provided the information for two additional sites secured that they were not notified on. Murya Dube worked towards entering this information into our records and assigning new numbers to the sites that were not in our records. She scanned and labeled the photos provided and added them to our archive.

Once this was completed she composed a thank you letter to be sent to Barrick Gold.

11. Updated the list of unsecured orphans and unsecured moderate and high hazards for southern Nevada. This list will be provided to contractor Pete Herrera so that he may begin securing work in the region.
12. Received a request from Joan Dunn with Newmont regarding hazardous abandoned mine features on Newmont claim blocks. Joan Dunn sent over shapefiles showing the location of their claim blocks with the request that we send them all hazard information we have for that part of Nevada. This was completed a few months back and was updated by request at the end of January. They expect to begin work assessing the hazardous features and conducting surveys in the near future so they can move toward securing the sites. Periodic updates have been received from Joan Dunn regarding the status of the project. We are planning to work closely with one another to speed up this process and make it easier for everyone involved.
13. Compiled a list of topographic quadrangles for contractor Brian Breiter for use in field work along the I-80 corridor.
14. Reviewed all closure reports received during the past few months from the BOR and updated our database to show the sites that have been secured. The photos were labeled and added to the photo archive.
15. Spoke with Katia Albright at UNR regarding the status of the internship interviews that will be conducted in early February.
16. Began work on planning for the Summer Intern Program that will start in mid-May. Worked on assessing the topographic quadrangles throughout the state to determine how many additional features need to be investigated on each one. Worked through to determine if there were access limitations because of private land or new exploration projects. This is an ongoing process that will help to determine the best areas to send the interns so the maximum amount of work can be completed. Noted several areas that crews can be sent to complete new logging work on BLM and Forest Service land with the potential for new securings.
17. Attended the education committee meeting at the Nevada Mining Association in Reno. Discussed the upcoming workshop in Las Vegas and how we can better prepare for it and make sure the attendance is high. Discussed possible field trips for the workshop – potential locations include Mineral Park in Arizona and the Mountain Pass Mine in California.
18. Worked with Rachel Dolbier and Murya Dube on constructing a lesson plan for a new session that I will be teaching with the help of Rachel. The lesson will place an emphasis on reading road maps and topographic maps. There are a growing number of students that do not know how to read a road map, let alone a topographic map. The session will focus on becoming familiar with terrain and what to avoid while exploring Nevada's public lands. An emphasis will also be placed on Nevada AML and the Division's message to "Stay out and Stay Alive" and what to do if a mine is discovered while exploring public lands.

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

1. Recorded Clark County revisit information and logged in re-visit photos.
2. Investigated and ranked two new Clark County AML hazards.
3. Conducted claim research for group of 43 Clark County AML hazards proposed for permanent closure by BLM.
4. Logged in 60 photographs received from Ken Maas for permanent closure work completed by the USFS in the Spring Mountains in Clark and southern Nye Counties.
5. Bill, Debbie and Ryan (Geotemps) conducted re-visit of AML hazards at and adjacent to the Argenta Mine complex – Goodsprings. A number of site locations were confirmed and repairs were made and new warning signs added to 8 barricades.
6. Participated in the bi-monthly progress report conference calls for the BLM/ACOE/BOR AML closure projects – Northern Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties.
7. Completed land status research for a group of 43 Clark County AML hazards proposed for permanent closure by BLM. ID sheets and database updated with new land status research; information forwarded to BLM.
8. Met George Holcomb in Goldfield – contracted by Lode Star Gold to secure all AML hazards on their claims. Has fenced 50 of 65 known hazards and will berm and post warning signs along the high walls of an open cut and pit wall on their property. We will be provided coordinates and photographs on completion. These will be new loggings and unsolicited securings.
9. Met Brian Breiter (EPS) in Goldfield to construct a polyurethane foam plug in an old well or shaft (ES-2183) that opened in downtown Goldfield.
10. Participated in a conference call with staff of Clark County Real Property Management and legal staff regarding planning and proposals to permanently close abandoned mine openings at the Arden Mine on Gypsum Ridge on the west side of Las Vegas .
11. Conducted a site visit to the Arden gypsum mines with Clark County staff and Brian Breiter. All of the 35 unsecured hazards located on Clark County were visited and measured and a cost estimate for permanent closure of the mine openings will be prepared and submitted by Brian.
12. Added two new Eagle Scout candidates: Seth Stewart (#156) and Tyler Reed (#157) for projects in Clark County
13. Conducted Ross Tate’s Eagle Scout project reconnaissance visit – Goodsprings area, Clark County. Five previously secured hazards will be re-secured and a common fence around two newly logged hazards will be repaired.
14. Completed Corey Davis’ Eagle Scout project. 7 hazards were re-secured at the Hoodoo Mine near Sandy Valley, Clark County. This is the 125th completed Scout project.
15. AML PowerPoint presentation made to the Gold Searchers of Southern Nevada prospectors club – Henderson (one presentation - 80 members and guests).
16. Observed the State Clearinghouse meeting regarding possible ESA listing of Sage Grouse via video conference link.
17. Attended Nevada Mining Association Education Committee meeting – Reno.
18. Contacted Las Vegas Rock for April teacher workshop tour – verbal approval given.
19. Attended Day 1 of the Southern Nevada Science Teachers Association (SNSTA) annual conference – Las Vegas. Attended Day 2 of the Southern Nevada Science Teachers Association conference – Rancho High School – Las Vegas. Presented two hands-on

- activity sessions: “Paste with a Taste” and “Mining in a Nutshell” and minerals and commodities and AML for both sessions (two presentations – 30 people).
20. Presented minerals and commodities, “Birdseed Mining” and AML for K-1<sup>st</sup> grade students at Adelson Education private school – Henderson (1 presentation – 9 people).
  21. Attended McCaw School of Mines Foundation board meeting.

### **GEOHERMAL (LOWELL)**

1. Reviewed Brady Power Partners sundry notice for well work-over in the Brady 15-12 production well.
2. Drafted response to Citizens for Smart Geothermal Energy letter.
3. Went to the Magma Energy Soda Lake 41B-33 production well location to witness Magma’s attempt to pull the down hole submersible pump and 9 5/8” casing it is attached to.
4. Reviewed ORNI 47’s (Ormat Nevada) revised sundry notice for a longer term flow test of the Wild Rose 85-11 production well. Discussed the proposed test with Russ Land at UIC.
5. Reviewed US Geothermal’s sundry notice to run additional string of casing in the San Emidio OW-9 observation well. Alan approved.
6. Reviewed Enel Stillwater’s revised sundries for the Stillwater 17-31, 24-7, 24-7, and 54-7 injection wells, reflecting changes Russ Land, UIC, had requested to MIT testing procedures. Alan approved.
7. Reviewed Hot Pot Geothermal’s 15-1 observation well permit application and associated drilling program. Proposed total depth is 2,500 feet. Alan approved.
8. Reviewed Hot Pot Geothermal’s 11-1 observation well permit application and associated drilling program. Proposed total depth is 2,500 feet. Alan approved.
9. Reviewed Magma Energy’s sundry notice to pull the 2 7/8 inch tubing in the Soda Lake 25A-33 production well. Alan approved.
10. Reviewed Magma Energy’s sundry request to reclassify the 25A-33 production well to an injection well. Waiting on Russ Land’s, UIC, approval.
11. Reviewed Ormat Nevada’s sundry notice to pull and repair production pump in the Steamboat 44A-32 production well. Alan approved.
12. Reviewed ORNI 16 LLC’s (Ormat Nevada) Carson Lake 83-7 production well permit application and drilling program. Proposed total depth is 2,225 feet. Received BLM notification of approval. Alan approved.
13. Reviewed ORNI 16 LLC’s (Ormat Nevada) Carson Lake 11A-32 observation well permit application and drilling program. Proposed total depth is 3,000 feet. Received BLM notification of approval. Alan approved.
14. Reviewed Ormat Nevada’s Carson Lake 18-5 observation well permit application and drilling program. Proposed total depth is 3,000 feet. Received BLM notification of approval. Alan approved.
15. Reviewed ORNI 47 LLC’s (Ormat Nevada) sundry notice to flow test the Wild Rose 85-11 production well for up to 29 days. Produced geothermal fluids will be re-injected into reservoir through two neighboring production wells. Russ Land, UIC, reviewed and approved. Received BLM notification of approval. Alan approved.
16. Reviewed Enel Stillwater’s 15-8 production well permit application and drilling program. The proposed total depth is 8,000 feet. Alan approved.

17. Reviewed Enel Stillwater's 84-7 production well permit application and drilling program. The proposed total depth is 7,000 feet. Alan approved.
18. Reviewed Enel Stillwater's 67-31 injection well permit application and drilling program. Russ Land, UIC, reviewed and approved. The proposed total depth is 2,000 feet. Alan approved.
19. Reviewed US Geothermal's sundry notice to flow test the San Emidio OB 9 observation well. Geothermal fluids will be diverted to nearby basin. US Geothermal has a permit from NDEP to discharge into the basin. Alan approved.
20. Reviewed Gradient Resources' sundry notice to work-over the Patua 88(18-20)-19 production well. Received BLM approval. Alan approved.
21. Reviewed Nevada Geothermal Power's request to extend the expiration of the Pumpnickel 68-4 (Permit #1086) from 1/22/2012 to 1/22/2013. Alan approved.
22. Wells drilling: Gradient Resources Patua 85-19 ST1 production well; Ormat McGinness Hills 36-10 production well (rigged down – moved to 36A-10); Ormat McGinness Hills 36A-10 production well; US Geothermal San Emidio OW-9 observation well.

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

1. No permit or sundry activity.
2. Reviewed progress of the Blackburn 18 clean-up with Rod Prosceno, Grant Canyon LLC.
3. Reviewed G&H Energy's permit application for the Federal 33-44 well. This is proposed to be drilled approximately one township southwest of Grant Canyon Oil Field in Railroad Valley. The proposed total depth is 4,500 feet. Alan approved.
4. Reviewed Grant Canyon's sundry notice to clean out the Blackburn 18 production well (recently blew out during previous work-over) and reinstall production assembly. John Menghini, BLM, will review the BLM sundry notice when received.
5. Reviewed progress of the Blackburn 18 clean-up with Rod Prosceno, Grant Canyon LLC.
6. Reviewed Tetuan Resources' sundry notice to change the weight of the 13 3/8" surface casing from 54.5 ppf to 68 ppf. Alan approved.
7. Reviewed Grant Canyon LLC's informational sundry as to the daily events which occurred after discovering the Blackburn 18 blowout, and subsequent, and ongoing, cleanup efforts.
8. Reviewed Tetuan Resources' sundry notice related to change in cementing program. BLM approved with Condition of Approval. Alan approved with same Condition of Approval as the BLM – CBL log to be run after cementing the intermediate casing.
9. Drilling/Completion: Andromeda Oil Tomera Ranch #3; Tetuan Resources Marys River 34-26; HBF Exploration Charity #2.

#### **OTHER (LOWELL)**

1. Attended Nevada Petroleum Society meeting on Thursday, January 5. Jerry Walker discussed the Trap Spring Field.
2. Attended sage grouse status update presentation at the Nevada Legislature on Wednesday, January 18th.
3. Alan, John, and I met with Gradient Resources on Tuesday, January 17th. Discussed Citizens for Smart Geothermal Growth Letter and Patua activities.

4. Attended the BLM Geothermal Lease Sale in Reno at the BLM State Office on January 24, 2012. Eight of thirty-three parcels offered at the competitive lease sale were sold. The results of the sale are as follows:

Bureau of Land Management

Nevada State Office

Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale Results Summary

January 24, 2012

1. Total number of parcels offered: 33
2. Total acres offered: 94,829.168
3. Total number of parcels receiving bids: 8
4. Total acres receiving bids: 27,834.120
5. Total sum of bonus bids: \$55,670.00
6. Highest bid per parcel: \$10,216.00
7. Highest bid per acre: \$2.00
8. Total receipts: \$112,540.00
9. Were there any disruptions or unusual events during the sale? No
10. Total number of parcels protested: 0
11. Total number of protests received on the sale: 0
12. Total number of parcels withdrawn as a result of protests: 0
13. Total number of parcels withdrawn for other reasons: 1 (sage-grouse)
14. All monies due were received? To be determined

Ormat Nevada picked up five of the parcels, TGP New York Canyon LLC picked up two parcels, and Allied Nevada Gold Corporation picked up the remaining parcel.

Non-competitive sales (subsequent to competitive sales) have not been posted on the BLM web site.