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RICHARD PERRY
Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS NOVEMBER 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Statutory Programs:

- Industry Relations - Commission Staff participated in meetings of the Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission, Geological Society of Nevada, Mining Oversight and Accountability Commission (MOAC), and monthly meetings with the Governor's Chief of Staff.
- Minerals Education – Calendar year-to-date, staff has conducted 175 classes state-wide, which were attended by 15,243 students. The primary areas served were elementary schools in the Las Vegas-Henderson area, Earth Science Workshops for teachers in Reno and Las Vegas, and specific or annual requests for speakers by various organizations.
- Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) – 667 AML hazards have been logged year-to-date with 266 secured. 79.8% of all AML hazards logged to date have been secured. Planning is underway for the AML work program for summer, 2014.
- Reclamation Bond Pool - Notice-level bond pool activity for calendar year 2013, through November, included eight new bonds, six increases and 54 reductions. There are 128 bonds totaling \$1.66M. There are ten plan-level bond pool participants, with \$1.40M in bonds.
- Oil & Gas permitting and inspection - No new geothermal or oil & gas wells were permitted in November. With regards to annual inspections, 66 out of 435 geothermal wells have been inspected, or 15%. 97% of oil wells have been inspected, 114 out of 117 wells.

Financial, Personnel and Projects:

- At the end of November the Division was fully staffed with 11 full-time employees.
- YTD mining claim fees are tracking 9 percent below 2012 levels.
- Development of regulations for Hydraulic Fracturing (HF) for oil & gas drilling. This work was assigned to NDOM and NDEP at the 2013 legislative session through NRS 522.119 (SB390). Much work was completed by Staff and Commissioner Henderson during the month which included meetings with NDEP, BLM, industry and environmental community stakeholders. The following is a snapshot and tentative schedule:
 - First draft of proposed changes to NAC 522 to be reviewed by staff on December 20th. A final recommended draft will be sent to Commissioners as soon as possible for review.
 - CMR public meeting scheduled in Carson City on January 16th to review, take public comment and consider tentative approval for submission to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB).
 - Targeting submission to LCB by end of January, 2014.
 - Current version of proposed changes to NAC 522 included a one-mile radius map and detailed description in the application, sampling of wells within a one mile radius before and after HF occurs, additional casing and cement requirements, chemical disclosure on FracFocus and public disclosure of permits issued for oil & gas drilling on the Division's web site. These proposed changes would only apply to wells where HF is used in well completion.

The following are detailed reports from NDOM staff for November activities:

RECLAMATION BOND POOL (MIKE)

1. Updated Plan of Operations fee tracking spreadsheet and two new and three reminder (late) invoices were mailed out.
2. Completed draft version of 2012 Major Mines publication and delivered draft along with photo submissions to Jack Hursh (NBMG).
3. Executed new reclamation bond with Channel Gold.
4. Responded to audit requests for Bravo Alaska and Rio Fortuna Exploration.
5. Received request from NDEP and concerned investor for information regarding factual mining activity by AIVN and/or Aurum Exploration.
6. Prepped and received documents for new bond for Mineral Maxx.
7. Answered questions from property owner regarding various issues involving split mineral estates.
8. Provided project bond and premium amounts for NV Gold to their auditor as requested.
9. Researched and provided additional production information to Jack Hursh (NBMG) for the 2012 Major Mines publication.
10. Communicated with Comstock Mining regarding proposed presentation and field trip for attendees at next year's Interstate Mining Compact Commission annual meeting.

MINING, LAND AND OTHER ISSUES (MIKE)

1. Attended quarterly meeting of the Mining Oversight and Accountability Commission (MOAC) and presented an update on agency activities and FY14 revenues derived from mining, oil, and geothermal permits and fees.
2. Update incoming administrator Rich Perry on agency activities and upcoming meetings.
3. Review and sign final MOU between Noble, DRI, NDEP and NDOM.
4. Participated in Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) strategic planning meeting via conference call.
5. Responded to request from State's Certified Professional Manager Program to facilitate mine tour in Reno/Carson City region in December as part of an executive seminar.
6. Continued working with Lowell and Commissioner Henderson on HF program elements.
7. Governor Sandoval sent a letter to IOGCC appointing Lowell Price as Associate Representative at next week's annual meeting and Rich Perry as Official Representative for Nevada at future meetings.
8. Attended the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) annual meeting in Long Beach, California with Lowell and Commissioner Henderson.
9. Met with LCB auditors and reviewed their draft final findings. Suggested minor modifications which will be incorporated in the final findings report. Upon receipt of this report, a formal response from NDOM is required within ten days. The report and response will be presented at an upcoming LCB Audit Hearing, tentatively scheduled for mid-December.
10. Continued working on hydraulic fracturing program elements with Lowell and Commissioner Henderson.
11. Welcomed new administrator Rich Perry and provided him with updates on various agency projects.
12. Rich and I met with the LCB auditors to review their second draft of the final findings report and discuss the remainder of the audit process.
13. Provided the Governor's office with a letter from Commissioner Gibson recommending the appointment of Rich as representative for Nevada to the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC).
14. Worked on hydraulic fracturing program and presentation for next week's stakeholders meeting and finalized list of invited attendees.
15. Reviewed and proofread the minutes from the previous CMR meeting. Reviewed October weekly and monthly reports from staff for distribution to the CMR and public.

16. Completed the final draft of the 2012 Major Mines publication and delivered it to Jack Hursh (NBMG) for typesetting and graphics preparation.
17. NDOM staff met with representatives from NDEP and BLM to review proposed HF program and potential new regulations.
18. NDOM staff met with representatives from NDEP, DRI and Noble Energy to review and discuss aspects of DRI and Noble's AQUA program.
19. Held a stakeholders meeting to review the proposed HF program and solicit feedback. The meeting was attended by representatives from NDOM, NDEP, DWR, BLM, and included individuals, or their representatives, who submitted testimony on SB 390 during the legislative session.
20. Rich and I, along with Paul Comba and Shawn Gooch (NDEP) conducted a site visit to Dun Glen Mining's proposed placer operation in Pershing County as part of a review of their reclamation bond application submittal.
- 21 Assisted Dave Marlow (State Lands) with soliciting offers of mineral evaluation from three geologists knowledgeable of a state-owned patented parcel in Storey County.
21. Submitted the Division's written response to the LCB audit team's final findings letter.
22. Executed one new reclamation bond and processed two bond refunds.
23. Continued working with Lowell, Rich and Commissioner Henderson on the list of standardized conditions of approval for drilling operations which are proposed to include hydraulic fracturing.
24. Reviewed and approved final draft of 2012 Major Mines for publication.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES – CHIEF, ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROGRAM (ROB)

1. Finished the Chukar and Peavine hard closure projects. EPS built three bat grates.
2. Replied and updated the AML database with claimant's responses concerning the July 30th notifications.
3. Prepared and provided the BLM with both Nevada Quicksilver and Chukar hard closure reports.
4. Compiled all known unsecured hazard data for Comstock Mining, and provided the data to Comstock's new AML contact Olivia Amos. Set a date for a training exercise in the Virginia City area.
5. Attended the ESRI Southwest User Conference in Salt Lake City. Created contacts for possible future database designs; as well as, viewed Colorado's and Utah's AML SQL databases.
6. With Rachel, logged 10 new hazards, securing 5, and logged 31 non-hazards in Esmeralda County south of Coaldale Junction.
7. Contacted the Washoe Tribe concerning the closure of CC-68. Informed the tribe of the current closure situation and the possible plans of closing the hazard.
8. Started preparing paperwork for a BLM CX request on the Perry Canyon hard closure project and submitted a BLM CX request on the Wonder Mountain hard closure project.
9. With Mike and Rachel we compiled a response to the 2013 State of Nevada performance audit regarding the AML program notification process.
10. Performed two underground bat surveys at Wonder Mountain with Rachel, Jenni Jeffers, and George in Churchill County.
11. Finished researching land ownership on hazards logged in 2012 and 2013, with unknown land status in the database. Started to prepare for a December mail out for all new hazards.

AML Hazard Statistics

	<u>Logged</u>	<u>Secured</u>	<u>Securing %</u>
All Hazards to Date	17,807	14,221	79.8
2013 Calendar Year	667	266	39.9

AML / GIS (RACHEL)

1. Reviewed the AML tablet app and submitted suggestions and questions to Brian Breiter (EPS). Clarified some questions from his end and will wait to test the next version with upgrades included.

2. Assembled 38 bags of rocks and minerals for head start classroom presentations at Desert Heights Elementary in Stead. With Rob, presented on common rocks, minerals, and their uses to 2 classes of 17 3 and 4 year olds as well as 2 teachers. A total of 36 people were presented to. AML swag was handed out to both groups.
3. Traveled out to WA-116 north of Stead with Rob in order to revisit a hazard that was reported to have a compromised fence. Upon visiting the site, a new fence was constructed around the hazard and documented. Two new non-hazards were also logged in the area.
4. With Rob, met with a BLM archeologist at CC-68. Exclusion netting was placed over the shaft so that the hazard can be foamed closed once BLM approves.
5. Traveled to Virginia City to check on the status of a high ranked hazard that was reported by John to be unsecured. Assessed the extent and degree of the hazard with Rob. The property owner will be notified of the unsecured hazard on their claims.
6. Continued updating the database with new ownership information for sites logged within the past year. Completed routine QA/QC on the database and conducted end of month back-ups and archiving.
7. Traveled to Cottonwood Elementary in Fernley with Linda and Valerie. Conducted the "Pet Rock" activity and discussed geology with 5 classes of first graders for Cottonwood's Nevada Day Celebration. A total of 127 first graders made pet rocks and were given AML swag.
8. Sorted through several hazards submitted to NDOM by the BLM in Elko. New hazards were logged in the Ferber District in southeastern Elko County. Updated the database with this new information, corrected old information that was improperly added, labeled and added photos to the photo database, and completed hazard ID sheets for all of the sites.
9. Clipped the database to show known hazards on BLM land. Submitted the files to John Callan (new AML lead at the Reno BLM). Discussed different aspects of the database and our codes and documentation with him so that he can better understand and use our information.
10. Compiled maps, hazard ID sheets, and photographs in preparation for a site visit to the Desert Queen mine in Churchill County. Traveled to the Desert Queen area with Jenni Jeffers (NDOW) in order to assess abandoned mines in the area and match them up with bat surveys that had been previously completed. Will work towards determining which sites need bat compatible closures and which ones can be filled. The area is being frequented by people and several of the openings are in poor condition. Overall, the fences in the area were in good condition.
11. Received several new logged and secured hazards from Pilot Gold in far eastern Lincoln County. Created new hazard numbers for the sites and updated the database with this information and photographs documenting securing work completed. Sent Pilot Gold thank you letters confirming the securing work completed.
12. Continued land research for sites logged during the past year.
13. Traveled with Rob to Reno in order to meet Ken Maas (USFS) and Brian Breiter (EPS) to construct bat gates on two hazards (WA-421 and WA-422) located in the foothills of Peavine Mountain in northwest Reno. Documented the securing work completed and updated the database with this information.
14. Received photographs documenting secured hazards on Hugh Roy Marshall claims and associated properties. Updated the database with securing information and added photos to the archive.
15. Received a request for AML hazard information inside the Barrick Bullfrog property in southern Nevada. Created a shapefile and sent the information to JBR so that Barrick can begin securing work in the area.
16. Continued work researching unsecured hazards logged in 2013. Updated the database with new information found and completed routine QA/QC of the AML database.
17. Traveled to Salt Lake City to attend the ESRI Southwest Users Conference with Rob. Attended several different training seminars and explored ways to move our database and data collecting methods forward.
18. Compiled an outline of things to discuss during the week of November 9th when Debbie is up. Explored different options for IT solutions within the division and contacted EITS to see about costs associated with their IT assistance and setting up a meeting to discuss moving forward.

- 19 Finished researching unsecured hazards logged in 2013. We will work towards moving forward on upcoming AML notifications.
- 20 Discovered several hazards with incorrect information entered in the database. Went through these records and corrected the information.
- 21 Traveled to the Coaldale area in Esmeralda County with Rob in order to log and secure hazards in the area. Logged a total of 11 new AML hazards and secured 5 hazards. Investigated all AML features on the topographic maps in the four sections we were visiting.
- 22 Added new hazard and non-hazard information to the database. Received new information from Ken Maas regarding a hazard in Elko County – added the new information to our records.
17. Drafted a response to the audit regarding notification of claimants and counties of abandoned mine features.
18. Set up a meeting with Tim Lewis at EITS in order to discuss options of hosting a server with EITS
19. Added photos of securing and logging work completed in Esmeralda County to the photo staging folder.
20. Traveled to the Wonder Mountain area with Rob, Jenni Jeffers (NDOW), and George Baumgardner (State of Nevada) in order to conduct revisits and underground surveys to determine bat habitat and closure type.
Spoke with a few claimants regarding closure methods and timing for hazards on their claims.

AML / GIS (JOHN)

1. Prepared photos and hazard data sheets for this weeks' AML field work.
2. Added photos, re-visit, securing, and new logging info to the database from AML work performed in Storey, and Lyon Counties.
3. AML field work was performed in Storey and Lyon Counties. 11 re-visits were performed in Storey County and 2 re-visits in Lyon County. On 11 of the 13 revisited sites repairs were conducted. Also, there were 4 new hazards logged in Storey County.
4. Prepared and mailed a Thank You Notification Letter to a claimant who completed the securing of 2 hazards in Nye County.
5. Distributed "Stay out and Stay Alive" stickers and tattoos to 65 Trick-or-Treaters on Halloween.
6. Entered securing data and photos into database from claimant securings in response to the NDOM Notice to Secure mail-out.
7. Prepared and mailed 2 Thank You Notification Letters to claimants who completed securing work in response to the NDOM Notice to Secure mail-out. In Nye County claimants secured 10 hazards, and in Eureka County claimants secured 9 hazards.
8. Prepared photos and hazard data sheets for this weeks' AML field work.
9. Added photos, re-visit, securing, and new logging info to the database from AML work performed in Storey, and Lyon Counties.
10. AML field work was performed in Storey and Lyon Counties. 17 re-visits were performed in Storey County and 6 re-visits in Lyon County. On 7 of the revisited sites repairs were conducted.
11. Prepared photos and hazard data sheets for this weeks' AML field work.
12. Added photos, re-visit, securing, and new logging info to the database from AML work performed in Storey, and Lyon Counties.
13. Delivered a flash drive containing Abandoned Mines information (maps, hazard sheets, photos, etc...) to Comstock Mining regarding hazards located on their property.
14. AML field work was performed in Storey and Lyon Counties. Re-visits were performed on 18 hazards in Storey County and 6 re-visits were performed on hazards in Lyon County. Repairs were conducted on 9 of these 24 revisited sites. In Lyon County 2 new hazards were logged. In Lyon County 1 hazard was secured, and in Storey County 1 hazard was also secured.
15. Attended the GSN November monthly meeting in Reno.

AML / PUBLIC AWARENESS - SOUTH (BILL)

1. Claim research conducted for AML hazards in Clark County recommended for permanent closure by BLM.

2. Conducted revisits to AML sites and investigated and ranked one new hazard on the Fourth of July Mountain quadrangle east of Searchlight, Clark County.
3. Participated in a geologic and ecologic field trip to the Spring Mountains with teacher Mary Shane and 37 junior and senior honors science students from Advanced Technologies Academy High School – Las Vegas. “Arm-waved” geologic points of interest between Las Vegas and the Kyle Canyon area. Discussed AML and provided “Stay Out and Stay Alive” handouts.
4. Meeting and AML site visits planned for Wednesday, November 6 with John Callan (BLM AML program lead), Lorri Dee Dukes and Shonna Dooman (BLM Southern Nevada District Office). Sites east of Searchlight proposed for permanent closure and Arden Mine are on the visit schedule.
5. Logged in securing information and photos provided by patented claim owners in Lincoln County.
6. Conducted AML site visits with John Callan (BLM AML program lead), Lorri Dee Dukes and Shonna Dooman (BLM Southern Nevada District Office). Meeting with Bob Wineland, claimant at the Oakland Mine east of Searchlight to discuss bonding of AML hazards he does not want permanently closed on his claims. Toured a heap leach site southwest of Searchlight (reclamation in progress) and visited the site of the November 2012 AML accident south of Henderson.
7. Work is in progress by BLM to complete categorical exclusions on 146 AML hazards proposed for permanent closure in Clark County. The BOR crew will be returning to Clark County to begin work probably in early December.
8. Packed 5 mineral and 5 rock kits requested by a Clark high School science teacher.
9. Prepped materials for Caden Roberts’ Eagle service project scheduled for November 9.
10. Completed Caden Roberts’ Eagle Scout Service Project. Seven previously secured AML hazards were repaired southwest of Goodsprings, Clark County. This is the Division’s 138th Scout project.
11. Attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony for five Scouts in Troop 372 who secured AML hazards for their Eagle Service projects: Ross Tate, Seth Stewart, Tyler and James Reed and Alexander Barlow. Congressman Joe Heck presented the Eagle badge to each of the Scouts.
12. Re-visited and re-secured two AML hazards in the Goodsprings area, Clark County.
13. Logged in Scout project and re-visit photos – updated AML database with securing information.
14. Presented 5 assembly sessions of “What a Geologist Does”, “Minerals and Commodities” and “Stay Out and Stay Alive” for 520 7th graders at Lawrence Middle School, Las Vegas.
15. Attended McCaw School of Mines Foundation Board meeting. Review of funding, policy and procedures for accounting and personnel. Discussion of planned displays, repairs and improvements. All school days for the rest of the 2013-2014 school year are booked with Mine tours.
16. Completed Jacob Eckersley’s (Scout #161) Eagle project reconnaissance site visit. Four AML hazards in the Goodsprings/Sandy Valley area of Clark County will be secured.
17. Completed Jonathan Rolle’s (Scout #171) Eagle project reconnaissance site visit. Two interconnected AML hazards will be secured on valley of Fire State Park land southwest of Overton, Clark County.
18. Presented one assembly session of “What Geologists Do”, “Minerals and Commodities in Nevada” and AML for 128 5th graders at Grant Bowler Elementary School - Logandale.
19. Presented five assembly sessions of “What Geologists Do”, “Minerals and Commodities in Nevada” and AML for 420 7th graders at Lied Middle School – North Las Vegas.
20. Conducted AML patented claim research through the Lincoln County Assessor’s office.
21. Prepped materials for Eagle Scout Rheuben Trotter’s project scheduled for Saturday, November 23 (Scout #169).
22. Received information from office visitors on unsecured AML hazards in the Mt. Potosi area of Clark County.
23. Completed Rheuben Trotter’s (Scout #169) Eagle Scout service project. One AML hazard was secured and four hazards were re-secured in the Crescent Peak area west of Searchlight, Clark County. This was the 139th completed project. To-date Scouts have secured 642 AML hazards and re-secured 129.
24. Assembled materials and supplies for Mason Reid’s Eagle Scout mine securing project scheduled for Saturday, December 7.

GEOHERMAL (LOWELL)

1. Reviewed ORNI 15 LLC's (Ormat Nevada) sundry notice to perform mechanical integrity testing on the Jersey Valley 81-28 injection well. Waiting for UIC and BLM approvals.
2. Reviewed Gradient Resources' sundry notice to reclassify the Patua 44-19 production well to an injection well. Contacted UIC, in which they are currently reviewing the well.
3. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's sundry notice to run a pressure-temperature-spinner survey (PTS) in the Desert Peak 67-21 production well. Mike approved.
4. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's sundry notice to run a pressure-temperature-spinner survey (PTS) in the Desert Peak 77-21 production well. Mike approved.
5. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's sundry notice for changes to well bore construction in the McGinness Hills 25-10 production well. This well has not been drilled. Rich approved.
6. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's sundry notice to remove a packer within the Jersey Valley 81-28 injection well. Mike approved.
7. Involved in a teleconference between the BLM (Winnemucca and State Offices) and US Geothermal concerning the San Emidio 58A-33 observation. US Geothermal would like to keep the well bore open until at least September 2014 due to Department of Energy involvement in the well.
8. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's sundry notice to clean out the Desert Peak 21-1 production well. Mike approved.
9. Reviewed Ormat Nevada's sundry notice to repair or replace the pump in the jersey Valley 77A-28 production well. Mike approved.
10. Wells drilling: ORNI 43 LLC Tungsten Mountain 84-22 observation well; Wild Rose 38-12 observation well.

OIL AND GAS (LOWELL)

1. Reviewed EFT Nevada LLC's permit application and drilling program for the Cedar Ridge 1 well in Elko County. The proposed well location is NW4 NE4 Section 29 T29N R54E (1 to 2 miles southeast of Robinson Mountain, along the far western edge of southern Huntington Valley). The proposed total depth of the well is 8,000 feet. Waiting on BLM approval.
2. Reviewed Noble Energy's cementing procedure for the M2C-M2-21B borehole. Mike approved.
3. Revised and added Conditions of Approval to the draft COA's being proposed for wells that are to be hydraulically fractured.
4. Reviewed MTS Energy's informational sundry on tubing and annulus pressures in the MTS Ferguson Spring 7-33 well.
5. Witnessed the running and cementing of the intermediate casing in the Noble M10C-M10-11B well. Also witnessed casing pressure test after cement job was completed.
6. Inspected the MTS Energy Ferguson Spring well and location on November 14th, approximately 25 miles south of Wendover.
7. Inspected all wells in the Grant Canyon, Bacon Flat, Sans Spring, Kate Spring, Ghost Ranch, and Eagle Springs oil fields in Railroad Valley on November 15th.
8. Inspected the Trap Spring 20-X water well, Portuguese Mountain 14A-12 shut-in exploratory well, Current Creek 31-1 temporarily abandoned exploratory well, East Hogback shut-in exploratory well, Santa Maria de Los Angeles 1 shut-in exploratory well, and the Radio 6-31 shut-in exploratory well in Railroad Valley on November 16th. Also inspected the FLT 1 shut-in exploratory well east of Eureka in the Pancake Range on November 16th.
9. Reviewed VF Neuhaus' request to release the bond (certificate of deposit) covering the Tomera Ranch 33-2RR well. This well was plugged and abandoned in July 2007. Rich approved.
10. Drilling/Completion: Noble Energy Humboldt M2C-M2-21B; Noble Energy Humboldt M10C-M10-11B.

OTHER (LOWELL)

1. Mike and I met with Art to discuss possible regulations related to hydraulic fracturing, as well as possible regulations to satisfy SB 390. We also discussed general COA's concerning hydraulic fracturing that will be posted on the web site at a later date.
2. Met with Scott Spenser, possible developer of greenhouse in Wadsworth, and Steve McKay, driller, to discuss permitting and drilling requirements.
3. Mike, Art, and I attended the IOGCC conference in Long Beach, California, on November 4th through November 6th.
4. 97% of oil wells have been inspected, 114 out of 117 wells (production, injection, disposal, and related water wells).
5. 66 out of 435 geothermal wells have been inspected, or 15%. The wells inspected are located at Steamboat, Beowawe, and Tuscarora. I plan on inspecting an additional 216 geothermal wells in December, located within Churchill, Humboldt and Lyon Counties, where the total geothermal wells inspected should be 282, or 66% of the 435 well total.
6. Rich, Mike, Art, and I met with Gary Johnson and John Menghini of the BLM State Office to discuss NDOM's proposed well bore construction and hydraulic fracturing COA's, a part of which would be converted to regulations related to SB 390, in order to determine if there would be any direct conflicts with the BLM Onshore Orders. Met on Tuesday, November 19th.
7. Rich, Mike, Art, and I met with Noble Energy and NDEP concerning Noble's water sampling program in the Elko area on Wednesday, November 20th.
8. Rich, Mike, Art, and I attended the SB 390 Stakeholder's meeting on Thursday, November 21st.
9. Worked on information for Mike's response to NDOM's audit (risk assessment, well inspection, and BOP tests).
10. Inspected all geothermal wells at Ormat Nevada's Dixie Hope, Terra-Gen's Coyote Canyon, and Terra-Gen's Dixie Valley (except 76-28 observation well, playa too wet and soft to get to well). 103 out of 428 (24%) have now been inspected.