

Topic: National Coal Mining Geospatial Committee (NCMGC) Activities

Issue: This report identifies FY 06 accomplishments and FY 07 plans of the NCMGC.

Background: At the TIPS Steering Committee meeting held in St. Louis on May 3-5, 2005, the TIPS Steering Committee and OSM Director Jeff Jarrett concurred on the formation of a National Coal Mining Geospatial Committee (NCMGC). The NCMGC was established in late FY 2005 to promote the use of geospatial technology for implementing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The NCMGC is supported by TIPS and operates as a partnership between the OSM and the states authorized to implement SMCRA. Committee members represent the geospatial technology interests of the states, tribes, and OSM offices. SMCRA organizations with representation in the NCMGC include the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC), National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs (NAAML), and the Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB).

FY 2006 accomplishments include holding the first meeting to plan work activities; determining geospatial technology development status among all SMCRA organizations; establishing a Geospatial Data Steward within each SMCRA organization; conducting the first National Meeting of SMCRA Geospatial Data Stewards; identifying geospatial technology development needs of SMCRA organizations for FY 2007; establishing a Coal Mining Spatial Data Standards ASTM Task Group from Geospatial Data Stewards offering to help develop voluntary standards for exchanging coal mining spatial data; conducting the first meeting of this task group at ASTM headquarters; obtaining vendor software training for a few qualified Geospatial Data Stewards in managing coal mining geospatial data in an enterprise environment; and successful first steps in a "proof of concept" effort to develop a geospatial infrastructure to exchange selected coal mining spatial datasets between two networked servers within OSM's Wide Area Network (WAN). These activities of the NCMGC support the goals of the President's Management Agenda in the expansion of e-Government to reduce redundancy; facilitate horizontal (cross-federal) and vertical (federal, state and local) information sharing; establish a direct relationship between IT and mission/program performance to support citizen-centered, customer-focused government; and maximize IT investments to better achieve mission outcomes.

Status: In FY 2007, the NCMGC will continue efforts to promote the use of geospatial technology to meet the business needs of SMCRA organizations. Activities anticipated in FY 2007 include a planning meeting to review and implement recommendations from the first National Meeting of SMCRA Geospatial Data Stewards; briefings to OSM management and SMCRA organizations on the accomplishments and progress of the NCMGC in its activities; holding three meetings of the Coal Mining Spatial Data Standards ASTM Task Group to develop voluntary spatial data standards for the first two coal mining spatial data sets of national interest: surface coal mining boundaries and underground coal mining boundaries; sending additional qualified personnel to attend vendor software training in managing coal mining geospatial data in an enterprise environment; continuing development work on a geospatial infrastructure to exchange selected coal mining spatial datasets among networked servers outside OSM's WAN; recruiting state regulatory programs to participate in this geospatial infrastructure; conducting an outreach program by giving presentations about NCMGC activities at national meetings of SMCRA organizations; exploring participation with MSHA; and establishing a planning sub-committee to begin preparations for an FY 08 National Meeting of SMCRA Geospatial Data Stewards with a theme of "Integrating GIS into SMCRA Business Processes".

Contact: Billie Clark, Chief, Technology Management Division, WRO, 303.844.1400, x. 1495 or Bill Card, GIS Coordinator, KFO, 865.545.4103, x. 134.