

## **Summary Report—The Second Geospatial Conference “Incorporating Geospatial Technologies into SMCRA Business Processes”, March 25-27, 2008**

April 9, 2008 (updated)

The Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement’s (OSMRE) national Technical Innovation and Professional Services (TIPS) Program in cooperation with the National Technical Training Program (NTTP), Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC), National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML), and Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) held a Geospatial Conference “Incorporating Geospatial Technologies into SMCRA Business Processes” on March 25-27, 2008 in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference featured 55 presentations focused on geospatial mapping of coal mining features; serving, collecting, exchanging coal mining geospatial data; geospatial applications to the support SMCRA regulatory processes; electronic permitting; and field applications of geospatial technology to implement SMCRA.

One hundred and forty three (143) people attended the conference primarily from State, Tribal, and OSM offices. SMCRA State, Tribal and OSM supervisors/managers fully supported the conference with 21 in attendance. Conference participants included 27 attendees registered as SMCRA Geospatial Data Stewards. Four college students from Tuskegee University and four students from Clark Atlanta University also attended. Dr. Arthur F. (Fritz) Hasler, a NASA Emeritus Scientist and University of Utah Adjunct Professor who has worked most of his 40-year professional career at NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, was Keynote Speaker.

The National Coal Mining Geospatial Committee (NCMGC) held a business meeting on the morning of the second day of the conference and an interactive working session that afternoon. During the NCMGC business meeting, conference attendees received presentations that included the Chairman’s Report, activities of the Coal Mining Geospatial Data Standards ASTM Task Group, recommendations from the NCMGC of selected Title 5 and Title 4 coal mining spatial datasets proposed for standards development, and a Coal Mining Spatial Infrastructure Progress Report. The Chairman’s Report briefed the attendees on its geospatial workforce training program, public outreach program, recruitment program, small SMCRA program assistance, and concluded with a “Road Ahead” discussion. The future looks bright. It was obvious that the SMCRA Geospatial Data Stewards and their managers are planning and building geospatial infrastructures within their respective organizations to improve SMCRA business processes. The SMCRA Geospatial Data Stewards voted overwhelming in favor of developing national, voluntary standards for the recommended datasets to facilitate the exchange and use of coal mining spatial data. In the NCMGC Working Session, attendees asked questions, identified and discussed issues, and provided valuable comment and feedback to the NCMGC to guide its future efforts.

This geospatial conference was a milestone event in that it was the first time a large number of SMCRA regulatory programs presented reviewed papers and presentations to share with attendees from other SMCRA offices on the use of geospatial technology within their respective programs (regulatory and AML). These papers and presentations represent a very significant increase in the use of geospatial technology by SMCRA offices since the last geospatial conference in December, 2004. The conference was well attended and well received. Evaluation responses were very favorable. Exhibitors included CAD Research, Inc., Carlson Software, Idaho National Laboratory, Intermap Technologies, Trimble, and OSM’s Technology Development and Transfer office. Southern Illinois University in Carbondale provided registration support.