UTAH OGM COAL PROGRAM TRAINING REPORT

General

TO: Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Dana Dean, P.E., Senior Reclamation Hydrologist

SUBJECT: Interstate Mining Compact Commission Benchmarking Workshop on Surface and Groundwater Database Development and Use in State Mining Regulatory Programs – Dec. 4-5, 2007 New Orleans, LA

MEETING SUMMARY:

Paul Jehn – Groundwater Protection Council

- RBDMS (risk based data management system) was ranked as one of the 100 most successful programs that the Department of Energy has ever created.
- Expanded RBDMS (from Oil and Gas regulatory side) to include mining program data. (Our Oil and Gas program uses the RBDMS)
- Requires dedicated IT personnel to develop and maintain - .net, SQL, etc.
- The GIS link that is web enabled, like our oil and gas program has, would be helpful for us. Just before moving temporarily to Oil and Gas I contacted Barry Biedinger with the AGRC. He was busy on another project at the time, but indicated he would be the person to work with to get GIS information available on our website. I passed on his contact information/etc. to my then supervisor.
- Open source code, no per-seat licensing

Cheryl Socotch – Ohio

- Working with Groundwater Protection Council to adapt RBDMS for their use.
- This is Ohio's fourth attempt at creating a working database.
- It is still in the working stage, has not been used yet, has been in development since 2002
- Not web accessible
- Phase II will be very expensive to implement
- Have not entered any legacy data
- Very IT intensive

Don Drazan – New York

- Oracle, SQL Server backend, Access front end
- Cold fusion interface for web
- Very IT intensive; citrix, asp.net, equis
- Mostly for water quantity, not quality data
- Used $40,000 to build onto the RBDMS system
- Users must build and run their own SQL queries
- QA/QC provided by the Hydros, not the operators, nor the database
- Integrating map with searchable database

Gail Jackson – Pennsylvania

- Oracle
- Not web accessible
- State enters all data and performs QA/QC
- No legacy data entered
- Have an IT developer on staff fully dedicated to maintaining the database

Bruce Stevens and Vicki Broomhead, Indiana

- Indiana has also started to tailor the RBDMS for their data needs, they have been working on it for 3 years, and technology has already changed and all needs upgraded – staying on the old software is not an option
- 1 dedicated IT person – but the whole thing has been developed on just that person's salary
- Data entered manually by State staff
- QA/QC performed by inspectors
- Not web accessible

Dan Spindler – Illinois

- Paradox
- Anyone using the database must have the entire system loaded on their computer – all operators and consultants have it. Updates are sent out by the State.
- Data entered manually by the State
- 1 person fully dedicated to data entry
- Not web accessible

Nick Schaer – West Virginia

- Not 1 uniform database – some Oracle, some Access, ERIS
- Paper submittals, State personnel enter and QA/QC check data
- Citrix GIS interface, Equis, Crystal Reports
- Can only look at one parameter at a time
- Not web accessible

David Sanders – Virginia

- Use university students to program
- SQL/Access

- 100% electronic permitting (actually had the legislature change the certification Rules so that PE certifications can be signed electronically – we would have to do the same to go to 100% electronic)
- Not web accessible
- Have a nice Access template where the hydrologist can pick several parameters for a given site, and the program will dump the data to Excel AND graph it. This could be a big time saver for us. We already have all of our data duplicating to a SQL database, if we could get their programming it could be a great addition to our system.

Kathy Muller Ogle – Wyoming

- Past tries - Oracle – when personnel get trained, they are highly employable and leave for other opportunities
- Now using Access
- There is a QA/QC check performed by the program, but the flagged data is sequestered and filtered out of the database instead of checked up on with the operators.
- No web access – not even available to staff – hydros must ask the IT person to print out data for them
- Operators supply data in spreadsheet, no particular format, it is then manually entered into the database
- Have taken several years to get where they are at

Gerald Waddle – Tennessee

- SQL
- OSM manually enters data

OBSERVATIONS:

No one is receiving the data directly to the database by way of the operators. The operators are not responsible for QA/QC checks. There is little or no public access. At least one IT person dedicated full time to maintain the database.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The only improvements over what we have now that I, as a hydrologist who uses this data to do my job, would recommend two upgrades at this time:

- contact Barry Biedinger at AGRC again and get his and Dan Jarvis' group's help to implement the GIS interface of RBDMS into our database, and
- contact Virginia and get some of their programming to make graphing of data quicker