

OGMCOAL - Water Issue Sub-Committee Meeting: February 24th, 2011 Agenda

From: Steve Christensen
To: Water Issue Sub Committee
Date: 2/17/2011 5:11 PM
Subject: Water Issue Sub-Committee Meeting: February 24th, 2011 Agenda
CC: OGMCOAL
Attachments: Minutes 2010.09.21.doc; 02_24_11_agenda.doc

Hello All,

Attached is a proposed agenda for the upcoming Water Issue Sub-Committee meeting. I've also attached the previous meetings minutes for you to review. As a reminder, the meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM at the Price BLM office on February 24th.

If you have any suggested revisions and/or additional agenda items, please feel free to e-mail them to me. The agenda has plenty of weighty subject matter on it as is, but my sense is that some of these topics will be on-going. That said, there's always room for more.

Hope to see everyone next Thursday. Have a great long weekend!

Regards,
Steve

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**INTERAGENCY COAL COORDINATION GROUP
WATER ISSUE SUBCOMMITTEE**

February 24th, 2011

10:00 AM

BLM Building - Price

Conference Call # 866-782-3847

Pass Code: 1606521#

1. Welcome
2. Review/Approval of Minutes from September 21st, 2010 Meeting
3. Continuing Wt. Rights Work in Sufco Expansion Areas (DWRi)
4. Memo from State Engineer (DWRi)-follow up item.
 - a. Clarification on when water rights required.
5. North Water Springs Update: (USDA Forest Service/DOGM)
6. Lila Canyon Diligence Claims Update (BLM)
7. Crandall Canyon Update (DOGM)
8. Long-term Mine Water Discharge Post-Mining (All)
 - a. What can mining companies expect in terms of potential problems?
 - b. Bonding/Funding over long term.
 - c. Contingency plan development.
9. Mechanism to Utilize Water Storage Capacity of Mined Out Areas for Public/Irrigation. (BLM- J. McKenzie)
10. Additional Issues
11. Next Meeting: Time / Issues & Assignments
12. Adjourn

Mission Statement

The Water Issues Subcommittee was created in 2009 to promote greater communication, coordination and discussion among the Interagency Coal Coordination Group about water issues relative to mining.

INTERAGENCY WATER ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Meeting Date: September 21, 2010

To: Water Issues Sub-Committee

Attendees: **BLM-** Vaughn Hughes, Stephen Falk, Jeff Brower, Steve Rigby, Jeff Mckenzie
DOG M- April Abate, Steve Christensen, Daron Haddock, Kevin Lundmark
DWRi- Marc Stilson, Michele Gabb
DWR- Leroy Mead

Purpose: Discuss water issues relative to interagency communication and interaction.

MEETING SUMMARY:

Following introductions & review of previous meetings minutes, Marc Stilson provided everyone with an update on the Bear Canyon Mine water rights. The water rights have been updated into the name of Castle Country LLC. He also explained that the mine would still be responsible to make sure they have enough water for all above ground and underground operations when the mine proves up on the water right.

The next item on the agenda was the Lila Canyon Mine. Marc explained that at the recent field trip they were able to get the correct GPS points on the springs to provide more accurate maps. The field trip also helped to identify springs that did not have water rights filed on them. Marc then explained that SITLA had recently filed on one of the springs. Jeff Brower stated that the BLM would be filing on Woodchopper and Quaker Spring in the near future. There was then a discussion about what water rights Lila Canyon was using and if they even had filed any water rights. Kevin indicated that the mine would have had to designate which water rights they were using in their mining plan and he would follow up with the answer. In a follow up email from Kevin he informed everyone that the mine was currently trucking water in.

Greens Hollow was the next order of business. It was explained that during the recent field trip GPS points were able to be corrected and it was determined water rights have not been filed on a bunch of the springs. Tom Lloyd had told Marc in previous meetings that the Forest Service was planning on getting their water rights corrected and up to date. On the field trip we were informed that the mine is planning to go into the Mud Springs area before going into the Greens Hollow area.

Next April Abate updated the committee on the North Water Spring. The mine has proposed to pipe water from lower in the drainage back up to the spring. DOGM responded that since it was such a long way, this plan did not seem very feasible and have not heard anything from the mine since.

Steve Christensen explained to the committee that Crandall Canyon is still in compliance with their water quality issues but that they have requested more time and leniency to find a different way to clean the water, which will be more effective and not have such a high perpetual operating cost. The remainder of the meeting centered on discussing and amending the charter. Some minor corrections were made and it was discussed and decided on that the charter would not be a signatory charter since the membership changes.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 20, 2011 at the Price BLM. At a later date the meeting was changed to February 24, 2011 at the Price BLM at 10:00 AM.