



**Hazmat Work Group
Abandoned Mine Lands Subgroup
January 23, 2008 Meeting Summary**

Action Items are in bold italics

- **Update on funding opportunities and priorities for funding**
No one has received final word on the Feinstein money but NPS expects about \$900k, which would be split between Joshua Tree, Mojave NP, and Point Reyes. BLM expects \$400k will be available for physical safety hazards in the desert. John Key (BLM-CASO) provided a handout outlining FY08 funding for the BLM AML program. Mojave NP also has \$1.6m for disturbed lands. All funding with possible exception of the NPS Feinstein money is one-year funding. California Department of Conservation (DOC) Expects \$750k to 1m in FY09 and will have \$427k in FY08. There will likely be delays in DOC's funding due to a possible delayed State budget.
- ***Agencies need to update the priority list that DOC maintains. Updates should be sent through your agency POC to Cy Oggins (DOC).***
- Peter Graves (BLM-RIFO) said that MSHA had contacted him regarding a recent accident in hopes to put together an AML safety film. MSHA will be filming in Randsburg February 14 and 15.
- **Cultural and NEPA compliance**
Bob Bryson (NPS-MOJA), BLM state archaeologist and Linda Greene (NPS-DEVA) meet with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Sacramento last month. SHPO fully supports the Programmatic Agreement (PA) for AML treatments and will expedite the process. Once complete, Bob will meet with SHPO to finalize the PA then each agency can adopt it. In short, the PA will allow AML treatments without recordation of the entire site. Only the feature being treated will need to be documents and that documentation will be minimal. ***Agency cultural and AML folks should review the draft PA and have comments for Bob on or before the February 7 conference call. Bob will email out the electronic version of the PA.***

Bob also discussed training for cultural folks. A historic mining archaeologist would conduct the training and it would include use of the PA. Such training would ensure

uniform application of the PA among the agencies utilizing it. ***The group will recommend that the DMG cosponsor this training in the late winter or early spring.***

Bob also indicated that he was working to develop standard NEPA templates that agencies could include in NEPA documents for AML treatments. These templates would primarily deal with proposed actions, affected environments, and impact analysis. Each agency will still need to develop their own NEPA documents but these templates should streamline the document's preparation.

Russell will contact the wildlife agencies to discuss programmatic consultation.

- **Opportunities for collaborative implementation of AML treatments**
After discussion, it was obvious that the bottleneck to implementation was technical expertise. Luke Sabala at Joshua Tree is available to help agencies but he is one person and AML is not is only job. DOC has two contracts that we can utilize and those contractors have technical experience. The possibility of using annuitants was also discussed. ***By the February 7 conference call, Everyone is to prepare a list of internal resources, contractors, or annuitants that have expertise in AML treatments or can provide labor for AML treatments. You should send your list to the AML list serve when complete.***
- ***Anyone can send a message to the list serve by simply sending an email to aml@dmg.gov.***
- ***Russell will post several AML resources to the DMG webpage and send out a link.***
- ***Next meetings***
 - ***February 7, conference call at 1:00pm-*** Russell will send out call in info the week prior.
 - ***March 20, 10:00 in Barstow-*** Russell will secure a conference room and send out an announcement