

Coordinated Application Process and Coordinated Post Reclamation Assessments in Ohio

Dave Clark ODNR-DMRM

Sheila Newman USACE





Becker Photo







Ohio Coal Coordination

Coordinated Application Process

ODNR-DMRM-Permitting

OEPA-401 Coordinator

USACE-Regulatory

USEPA

USFWS

Applicant

Applicant's consultant

Coordinated Post Reclamation Assessments

USACE-Regulatory

ODNR-DMRM-Inspectors

OEPA-401 Compliance personnel

History of Integrated Process

- IAP in 2005-intent was to combine all applications into one 404/401/SMCRA
 - Difficulties due to differences in regulations
 - Difficulties understanding who regulates what
 - Tremendous amount of unnecessary paperwork and workload added to each agencies review
 - Lasted about 3 years
 - Great learning experience

Kaizen

- Dissected the IAP to make it better
- Decision was made to scrap the IAP
- CAP-Coordinated Application Process
 - Return to agency specific application process
 - Overlapping but not identical review

CAP

- Joint field review
 - Determination of jurisdiction – USACE
 - JD map becomes part of SMCRA application
 - Identification of high quality resources –OEPA
 - Identification of developed and undeveloped spring sources-ODNR-DMRM permitting staff
 - USFWS, USEPA, Applicant, Consultant
- Technical Review
 - Discrepancies in applications
 - Mitigation Review

Joint Review Benefits

In the field

- Open discussion of high quality resources

- Identify areas for avoidance

- Identify potential difficult areas for construction/reclamation purposes....slips

During review

- Ensure big ticket items are the same

 - coal tonnage, mine sequence, permit area

- Monitoring points selected for dual usage

END RESULT-SMCRA/404/401 permits are not the same but do not contradict one another

Detriments

- Scheduling can be difficult
- Did I mention that scheduling can be difficult?

Third Tuesday Meetings

- Opportunity for industry to meet with regulatory agencies
 - Discuss ongoing projects
 - New projects
 - Compliance issues
 - Program issues
 - Open forum for transparency

Quarterly Coal Meetings

- Hosted by ODNR-DMRM
- USACE, OEPA, USEPA, USFWS, OSM, Industry
- Well attended by Ohio Coal Association
- Consultants
- Pulse check on how processes are flowing
- Another forum for industry specific issues

Coordinated Field Inspections with Coal Mining and Reclamation Inspectors

Identified a need for fluent communication between coal reclamation inspectors and regulatory personnel

Goals

- Improve our understanding of one another's programs which will improve our ability to identify issues and problem solve in a more efficient and cohesive manner
- Identify and correct compliance issues early when chance of immediate correction is high
- Avoid asking industry to achieve conflicting goals and/or make on site modifications that would jeopardize compliance under any program
- Aid industry in achieving compliant reclamation and successful stream and wetland mitigation

Our Approach

- Share information
- Train in the classroom
- Train in the field
- Coordinate future inspections

Joint Field Inspections









































Where do we go from here?

More training

Refine the process

Continue joint field work

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