



Details

August 5, 2010

Admin

Now is the season to be taking those field photos for inclusion in OGM's annual photo contest. We'll be calling for entries in October so keep those cameras clicking.

Customer Service

A customer service kudo to Leslie Heppler. Salt Lake City Planner Wayne Mills told Steve Schneider that Leslie is a great resource for his office. He once referred a "community advocate" to Leslie to discuss business along the Beck Street corridor and the advocate even responded back about the positive experience of communicating with Leslie. Congratulations Leslie!

Coal

The Board of Oil, Gas and Mining issued its decision on Alton Coal Development's permit for the Coal Hollow Mine on Tuesday afternoon. The board upheld the permit action over the objections of several environmental organizations that oppose the project. The environmental groups claim the project will pollute waterways and kick up dust at Bryce Canyon National Park. The matter is probably headed for the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the Coal Team has set a new record for timeliness! They completed over 94% of their required tasks on-time, something that has never been done before. The Minerals Team also kept up the new record timeliness record they set last quarter. They have maintained the high-quality of their work, while increasing customer service and improving processes.

The Coal Team consists of Daron Haddock, Jim Smith, Vickie Southwick, Suzanne Steab, April Abate, Steve Christensen, Joe Helfrich, Kevin Lundmark, Angela Nance, Jo Ogea, James Owen, Ingrid Wieser, Priscilla Burton, Pete Hess, Karl Houskeeper and Steve Demczak.

The Minerals Team consists of Paul Baker, Emily Berry, Penny Berry, Vickie Southwick, Leslie Heppler, Lynn Kunzler, Tom Munson, John Rogers, Wayne Western, and Brett Gregory.

A big thanks and congratulations to all!

Minerals

Prompted by concerns lodged by environmental groups, John Baza acted as hearing officer at a public meeting on July 27th held here at DNR on the proposed PR Springs tar sands project on the border of Uintah and Grand counties. About 25 people showed up to air their views about the project.

Proposed by Canada-based Earth Energy Resources, the operation would take place on 213 acres and involve the open-pit mining of tar sands to extract 2,000 barrels of bitumen per day over a seven-year period.

Almost without exception the complaints were not directed at the division's analysis or process, but rather general in nature regarding air quality, county roads, climate change or they just didn't like it.



Steve Alder did an excellent job of presenting the division's findings and explaining the process to those present, including the press.



Meanwhile, on July 6th the division was contacted by a Forest Service Mineral Program Manager at Fishlake National Forest who indicated that during a routine bat inspection of an old mine adit a case of old sweaty, crystalline dynamite had been found. This type of dynamite is very unstable and easily detonated with any kind of movement or contact. The location was about 1 mile northwest of Big Rock Candy Mountain in Sevier County.

On July 7th John Rogers determined that there was no active mining at the present time or in recent history. Access to the mine is over a 2-mile road that is very steep, rocky and rutted. A hazardous material officer with the Sevier County Sheriff's office inspected the dynamite and was concerned with the danger of the situation to the public.





The explosives unit that operated out of Utah County was immediately dispatched to the scene and about four hours after the initial call, the explosive team detonated the dynamite.

AMR

Congratulations to Chris Rohrer and everyone else who worked on the Temple Mountain Project! Utah will receive the OSM Western Regional Award for that project at the NAAMLN conference in September. It's another demonstration of the outstanding work accomplished in the AMR program. Thank you to everyone on the AMR team for your efforts and your ongoing commitment to excellence. (Remember it's supposed to be a secret until the banquet so don't gloat to any of your out of state colleagues quite yet.)

And a final thought for your Thursday. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow. Have a good one!