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Summary of CBM Hydrology Task Group Meeting

5/4/04

Teleconference Call

(Notes taken by Andy Bobst, BLM-Miles City)

Participants:

Andy Bobst, BLM, Miles City FO

Paul Beels, BLM, Buffalo FO

Don Fisher, WY-DEQ

John Wheaton, MBMG

Tom Reid, MT-DEQ

Melanie Clark, WY-USGS

John Lambing, MT-USGS

Rick Schuler – BLM, WY-SO

Dan Henge – WY-DEQ

Proceedings:

0900 – Attempted to start meeting, but NPS line is not up. John Rebar is out of the office.

Connected via BLM-MSO bridge.

Discussed preliminarily results from the Skeward Reservoir BLM-USGS monitoring. Revision of the pit siting criteria is underway and should be out soon. Need to get more study of these to get a better handle on what is going on. WY does not define “aquifer”, they are protecting “groundwater”, not aquifers. This is significantly broader in that groundwater does not need to be useful. Tom Reid indicated that MT law is similar. In order to address issues concerned with impoundments a sub-group will be set up.

Impoundment Sub-Group Members to include:

Don Fisher – WY-DEQ (lead)

John Wheaton - MBMG

Mike McKinley – WY-BLM

Someone from WSEO (John Barnes?)

Someone from MT-DEQ (Tom Reid?)

Andy Bobst – MT-BLM

Someone from MT-DNRC (Kert Martin?)

Rick Huber – WY-Game and Fish

Surface water monitoring was the next issue addressed. Of particular concern was the difference in standards between MT and WY for metals, particularly the total vs. filtered. It was felt that it would be better to do fewer metals as both total and dissolved than to collect different types of samples in each state, and then not be able to compare the data.

Perhaps it would be best to address this in a tiered approach with high med and low priority metals. A small sub-group will look at this particular issue. Included will be

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John Lambing (MT-USGS), Melanie Clark (WY-USGS), Dan Hengel (WY-DEQ), and Tom Reid (MT-DEQ).

Rick Huber expressed concern about impoundments, particularly the cost of reclamation and a true cost benefit analysis of impoundments for the life of the project. A comparison of different water management options should be done, with life of project costs. For example, basins vs. injection vs. surface discharge vs. treatment... Paul Beels indicated that reclamation plans are now being required for impoundments submitted to BLM in Wyoming. The fact that bonding for individual impoundments is not required at this time was discussed. WY-BLM is still working on this with BLM-Washington Office.

A presentation of the surface water monitoring plan will take place on June 16th. Andy Bobst, Melanie Clark and Dan Hengel will present. Tom Reid will also be present to take questions if needed.

A Hydrology Task group meeting will occur on the 16th as well. This will be a break out from the main group in the afternoon. We will meet at the BLM Buffalo Field Office at 1pm, to discuss current issues, and work towards development of an integrated groundwater monitoring program. A groundwater sub-group may be the most efficient approach. A USGS bridge will also be used for this call for those who will not be in Buffalo. This bridge is at (703) 648-4848, and the Conference Code is 42565.