

# in depth

west virginia

department of environmental protection

Vol. 24, No. 6

July-August 2016

DEP's Meade conquers one of world's toughest marathons, Page 5



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## DEP Divisions Mobilize in Wake of Historic Flooding

### Nearly two dozen killed in flash flooding

by Jake Glance

Many West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection employees mobilized in the wake of historic flooding that destroyed hundreds of homes and left as many as 23 people dead.

The Division of Water and Waste Management's (DWWM) Dam Safety section worked closely with dam owners to make sure dams were not com-

promised. DWWM officials also worked with landfill operators to extend hours and waive disposal fees for flood debris, and with wastewater treatment plants to make sure those inundated with water were able to get back online as quickly yet as safely as possible, and checked on impacts to both above-ground and underground storage tanks.

Homeland Security and Emergency Response personnel worked with local emergency officials on debris staging, and hazardous waste separation and disposal. Mining and Reclamation personnel inspected impoundments. Abandoned Mine Lands investigated

mud slides to determine if they were caused by pre-law mining. Division of Land Restoration staff were checking on remediation sites to determine what impact the rainfall had.

Employees from various divisions, including the Environmental Advocate's Office, staffed the Emergency Operations Center at the State Capitol. And Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan employees filled hundreds of trash bags with clean shirts and gloves to be taken to areas hit hardest by flooding.

see FLOODING, Page 6

# Out of This World

## Camp teaches service, conservation

by Terry Fletcher

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Youth Environmental Program often has guest speakers and presenters from local environmental groups attend its annual Junior Conservation Camp at Camp Cedar Lakes in Ripley, but this year, the campers had visitors from a galaxy far, far away.

As the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the camp got under way, members from Vader's 501<sup>st</sup> Legion of Giving, a Star Wars themed community outreach group, marched their way into the opening assembly and mingled with the campers.



Campers learned conservation and outdoor skills at Junior Conservation Camp, and also heard about community service from members of the Star Wars-themed outreach group "Vader's 501st Legion of Giving," which includes some DEP employees.

"I think everyone was thrilled," said DEP employee and 501<sup>st</sup> Legion member Amy Higgs of the campers' reaction. "There was shock and cheers and jaws open. With a room that big full of kids, it's hard to tell which ones were scared, but for the most part, they were pretty excited."

The Legion of Giving is an all-volunteer organization formed to promote interest in Star Wars through the building and wearing of quality costumes and to facilitate contributions to the local community through costumed charity and volunteer work.

See JR. CAMP, Page 4

## DEP's UST Program Earns Praise

by Colleen O'Neill

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) houses a program that is bringing much deserved praise to the mountain state.

Its Underground Storage Tank (UST) program is being hailed as one of the best in the nation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commended the DEP for this "stellar program."

"The UST program has one of the best inspection rates in the nation, two-and-a-half years into a three-year inspection cycle they have already exceeded grant requirements by completing inspections on all UST facilities," said DEP's Ruth Porter, who has managed the program for more than five years.

"Their inspection rates are a direct reflection of the dedication, knowledge and hard work of the inspection staff."

See UST, Page 6

# Small Application Extender Classes Offer Hands-On Training

## DEP moving closer to one stop shop for document management

by Jake Glance

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is moving closer to housing documents from all divisions in one place, making it easier to retrieve and share those documents.

Christina Richmond of the Business and Technology Office (BTO) will be the first to say the transition to Application Extender has been a long but deliberate one.

She coordinated several small familiarity courses to help those who will be using Application Extender - known as AX - every day to get more comfortable using it.

The transition to AX has been going on for months.

"Human Resources has been using Application Extender longer than anyone else in the agency," Christina said during the training session.

"Water and Waste Management has been putting all of their permit files in Application Extender since January

of last year, Oil and Gas and Air started putting all of their permit information in around March and April of last year, and the Division of Mining Article 3 permits went live on January 1."

She added that the Division of Land Restoration and Special Reclamation are doing testing now.

The class on July 26 was kept small to allow attendees to ask questions if needed. Richmond went from showing how to log on to the system at an office workstation or a remote PC to how to search for permits that were approved during certain time periods.

Using Application Extender, documents can be quickly accessed across divisions. For example, an Environmental Enforcement inspector will be able to quickly access permits issued by the Division of Air Quality.

Richmond said that dozens of file types can be uploaded and viewed on Application Extender including Word,



Christina Richmond (peach shirt) leads a small Application Extender familiarity course on July 26 at DEP headquarters.

Excel, Outlook emails, PowerPoint, PDFs, and even pictures and high-definition video.

Application Extender is also expected to reduce the amount of time DEP staff dedicate to fulfilling Freedom of Information Act requests. DEP receives more than 1,700 FOIA re-

quests per year, and Application Extender has a feature that allows up to five guests at a time to sign in to view public documents.

Questions about Application Extender can be directed to Christina Richmond at [Christina.L.Richmond@wv.gov](mailto:Christina.L.Richmond@wv.gov).

## Kanawha County Sheriff's Department Shares Workplace Safety Training

### SWAT officer explains what to do in an emergency

by Jake Glance

The Kanawha County Sheriff's Department visited the DEP headquarters on July 27 and 28 to instruct employees on what to do if the unthinkable happens.

Mass workplace shootings - violent events that often garner intense media coverage - are relatively rare.

Short classes such as the one administered by Sgt. Rick Kegler of the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department (KCSO) SWAT Team can save lives. Kegler has been with the KCSO for 15 years and on the SWAT Team for 13 of those years.

He explained the worst thing to do in a violent situation is to become passive. He said the best thing to do is be proactive by barricading yourself



into a room using any heavy items available.

Kegler said in the past, people were taught to simply hide during a workplace shooting. But he used Virginia Tech as an example of why barricading is better, pointing out that no one was injured in the classroom that was barricaded.

The ALICE system is taught now - an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. The ALICE system is not a step-by-step response to a shooter, but different actions to take during an event.

## DEP Goes Greener



Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs have been installed in the Cranberry River Conference Room at DEP headquarters. All of the fluorescent and incandescent bulbs have been replaced, in favor of the more energy efficient LED bulbs. Administrative Services is currently developing a project that would allow DEP to convert all of the lights at DEP headquarters to LED, making the facility even greener. While many facilities are now utilizing LEDs for lighting, it is not new technology. It was developed in the early 1960s and was used widely in electronic displays as early as the 1970s. New technology and brighter LEDs have meant more applications for this energy efficient technology.

# Ten Questions With DMR's Phil Mooney

**1. What is your position with DEP and how long have you been with the agency?**

I'm an environmental inspector supervisor and I've been with the agency in the mining division for 23 and a half years.

**2. Without using the words "environment" or "protect," what do you think is the mission of DEP?**

I believe our mission is to preserve and restore the lands of West Virginia and enforce the laws developed by our agency.

**3. What are your daily duties at DEP?**

There are many. Answering the public's concerns about mining operations via email or phone, meetings discussing mining issues, directing the inspection staff when necessary, giving and taking advice. I try to keep the staff informed about all aspects of the job, including but not limited to policy, law and procedure changes. I keep my supervisor informed about issues within our group. Checking time cards, reading reports, violations and many other mundane tasks. Carrying out any special task that may come from upper management.

**4. Where did you grow up?**

Ruth, (Trace Fork), West Virginia, just south of the corridor G shopping complex.

**5. When you were growing up, who were your heroes?**

Probably my older cousins, Buster and Paul Hill. They instilled a great

passion in me for the outdoors.

**6. If you could narrow down the strangest thing you've ever seen while on the job at DEP, what is it?**

Two things come mind. One was when I had a front seat to a fully loaded rock truck roll over on its top. It was like in slow motion and sort of surreal. I thought the driver was killed, but was just shook up.

The other was during one of our really brutal winters I had a coyote come up to my jeep window begging for food. Needless to say I gave up my lunch. I even have pictures of that encounter. They like grapes for sure.

**7. Have you always whistled so much?**

I was always a noisy kid, making weird sounds, imitating animal sounds, imitating people so the whistling was kind of a natural thing. It allows me to kind of escape for a few minutes here and there. What I really like is when I hear other people start whistling with me. I have always loved music so I suppose it stems from that. My wife whistles too but only after I whistle a few bars of something and she'll start without realizing it.

**8. Outside of work at DEP, what activities do you enjoy?**

I love to fish, which is my favorite outdoor activity. My other interest is playing music. I play tuba for the Charleston Metro band. I started in earnest playing tuba again about six months ago after a 47-year layoff. I play bass guitar, dabble at lap steel



Phil Mooney

(slide guitar), harmonica, drums, and upright bass (bass fiddle). I sing, too, but on a limited basis. I have a few friends that I jam with when we can. We cover several styles of music but old blues is our first choice. So I'm still making noise after 66 years.

**9. What do you think is the biggest challenge facing West Virginia's natural environment?**

It seems that we have a few industries in West Virginia that are not as well regulated as mining, oil and gas, and others. Some seem to have no enforcement at all.

**10. If you could take a vacation to anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go?**

Probably to Vietnam to see how everything has changed, especially the people. Some were very humble. I left there in 1971 after serving two tours of duty in the Army.

# Want to Beat the Heat? Try These Easy Lifehacks

by Jake Glance

Sometimes staying cool during the dog days of summer isn't rocket science. Drinking more water, staying out of the sun, and going for a dip in the pool are some of the obvious ways to cool down.

But there is more you can do to beat the summer heat.

For example, did you know that [applying antiperspirant at night is more effective than applying it right after showering?](#) That's because your sweat glands are less active at night and your skin is drier. Applying it right after showering makes it harder for the antiperspirant to get into your sweat glands to clog them.

Make sure you turn your window fans to blow hot air out of your house at night. You can also make sure your ceiling fans are turning counter clockwise.

Why suffer through leaning over a 400-degree oven, when [there are recipes out there that don't involve using heat](#) to prepare meals?

You can cool your car down quickly by using a simple trick. Roll down the passenger side window and go to the driver's side door. Open and close the driver's side door several times to create a vacuum to move the hot air out of your car. This can cool your car by more than 10 degrees.

Staying cool while you sleep is also a priority. There are pillows that are designed specifically to stay cool, but some of them are pricey. You can use the "Egyptian method," which is covering up with a slightly damp sheet, or using a spray bottle with a 1:1 mixture of water and rubbing alcohol to spritz the liquid on your body.

Knowing your body's cooling points also helps. Wrapping a damp bandana loosely around your neck cools the carotid artery. Other cooling points to focus on are your temples, the insides of your knees and elbows, the tops of your feet and insides of your ankles, and your inner thighs. Applying cool water to these points will help you cool down.

[You can learn more about the difference between heat stroke and heat exhaustion here on Accuweather's website.](#)



**Clean out your basement or empty that overflowing garage and donate your leftover latex paint!**

**Any color or quantity will be accepted.**

**The original label must be attached to the can and the paint must be liquid.**

**Sept. 14, 2016 • 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. • DEP Kanawha City Garage**

# JR. CAMP

con't from Page 1

While you have to be 18 to join the 501<sup>st</sup>, Higgs informed the campers about the Galactic Academy, which acts as a training program for those not yet of age.

"I had numerous kids come up to me throughout the week wanting to know about the Galactic Academy," she said. "In the Galactic Academy, kids are working alongside us, building a costume, and when they turn 18, they become a full-fledged member."

Higgs said all of the Legion members' elaborate costumes are handmade and members must go through a rigorous grading process to ensure they are authentic and movie-quality.

Fellow DEP employee and Legion member Michael Boyer, dressed as a sand trooper, was also part of the presentation that included characters such as a storm trooper, a Tusken Raider and the always-popular Darth Vader.

Higgs, donned in her Bo Katan costume, took off her helmet and took part in a question-and-answer session with the youngsters.

"There were several of them that didn't know about the community stuff we do," said Higgs. "They thought it was really neat to do something like this and still give back. It doesn't have to be just a hobby, you can give back. The reaction was pretty positive."

These intergalactic guests spoke about community involvement that many of the campers would experience firsthand.

While the YEP pulls from various resources from across the state (and Universe) to put on the camp, it always finds a way to give back.

This year, the campers helped repair the split-rail fence at Cedar Lakes' historic Heritage House.

"I think we exceeded expectations," said Division of Forestry Partnership Coordinator Andy Sheetz, who led the project. "They were only expecting us to fix half of it, but we used some of the old timber that was in pretty good shape and the new timber that [camp director] Diana [Haid] got for us and were able to get it done."

Sheetz and crew braved poison ivy, splinters and the threat of snakes to help repair over 1,200 feet of fence line in just two days.

"The kids worked really well, they worked really hard and they're very



One of the projects at Junior Conservation Camp was to repair the split rail fence at Cedar Lakes' historic Heritage House.

proud of what they did," said Sheetz.

It wasn't all hard work all week, though.

The group of approximately 200 11-to-14 year-olds took part in morning and afternoon classes that featured topics ranging from geo-caching to the basics of camping, while also having the chance to pick from activities such as canoeing, fishing or gun safety.

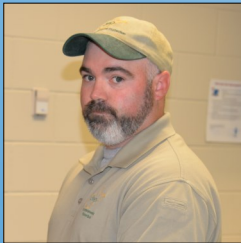
A trio of visitors from this solar system also made an appearance, as well. Apiarist Wade Stiltner and the DEP's Mike Huff and Tomi Bergstrom

spoke to the campers about bee-keeping, drones and frogs and toads, respectively.

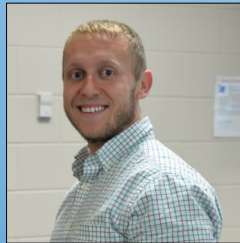
Campers were able to partake in fishing, swimming, organized sports and arts and crafts and were treated with a snack and campfire each night. A dance highlighted the final evening of camp.

For more information about the Junior Conservation Camp, visit the YEP website at [www.dep.wv.gov/pio/YEP](http://www.dep.wv.gov/pio/YEP) or contact Diana Haid at [diana.k.haid@wv.gov](mailto:diana.k.haid@wv.gov).

## Employee of the Month, Rewards and Recognition Awards Presented



**March Employee of the Month**  
Michael Goff, OOG



**April Employee of the Month**  
Carson Wright, DWWM



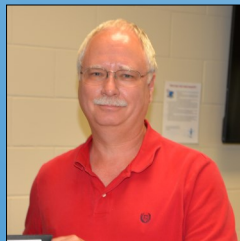
**May Employee of the Month**  
Mark Casto, DMR



**June Employee of the Month**  
Nancy Dickson, DWWM



**May Rewards and Recognition Award**  
Jenna Palmer, DWWM



**May Rewards and Recognition Award**  
David Fewell, DAQ



**May Rewards and Recognition Award**  
Renu Chakrabarty (front, in peach shirt), Gene Coccari, Laura Jennings and Laura Crowder, all of DAQ

# One of the World's Toughest Marathons No Match For DEP's Terry Meade

## Grueling 26.2 mile course hits runners with hills and heat

by Colleen O'Neill

Just because you're in your 50s, don't think you can't accomplish something - be it learning to drive or in Terry Meade's case, run a full marathon.

"I could not have done it without the encouragement, support, and yes, the pushing of Tondra Elkins, my high school friend and coach," Meade, an employee with DEP in the Logan field office, said.

She is speaking about the Hatfield McCoy Marathon 2016 in Mingo County.

"It wasn't on a whim I decided to do this. I had a goal of running a half-marathon by the time I was 50. And now I'm 53, and since I had run many half-marathons and other distance races, I thought maybe I'd do a full marathon. But I needed help."

In Williamson, where Meade lives, the community is health-conscious. There is a group Meade belongs to, called Tug Valley Road Runners Club, which has group runs to encourage experienced and new runners. The community helps with the marathon, which begins at 3 a.m. and goes until

dark. The marathon began in 2000 with only 13 runners. Now, 16 years later, it has more than 1,200 participants.

Elkins also was a member of the club, and Meade told her that she didn't think she could run it by herself and finish. Elkins, who ran the marathon the year before with her daughter, told Meade that she would run it with her.

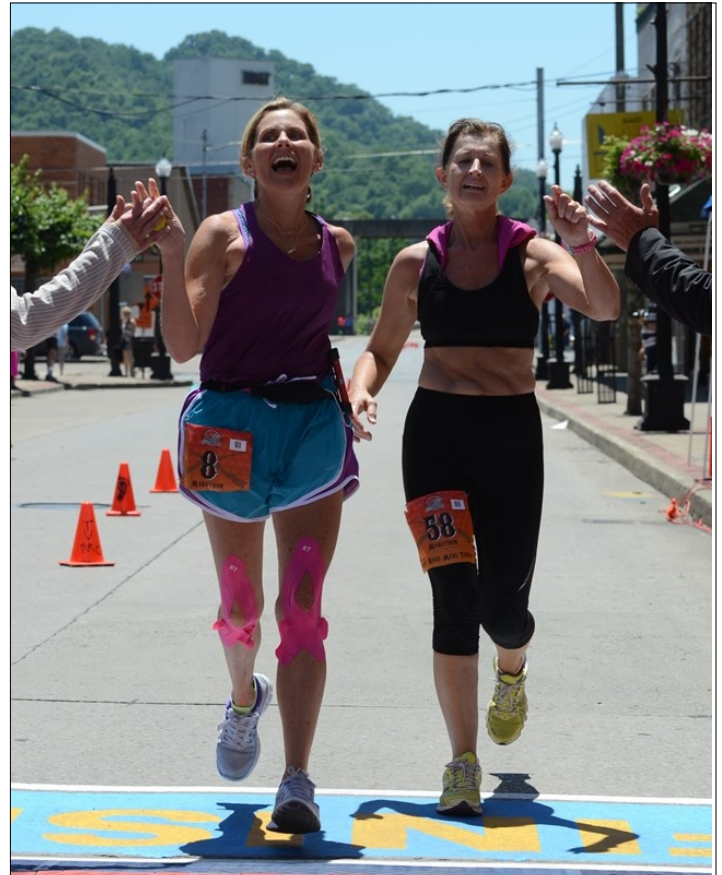
The Hatfield McCoy marathon is ranked by the Weather Channel as one of the "15 Toughest Marathons in the World." Meade knew it was difficult, as she had run the event's Half-Marathon, which consisted of "hills and heat." The race starts in South Williamson, Kentucky, and finishes in Williamson, West Virginia.

"Coming across the bridge on 2nd Avenue in Williamson from Kentucky back into West Virginia, I looked down on the road, thanking Jesus for helping me push through and found a shiny quarter on the ground. To me, this was a sign I could do this," Meade said.

"We walked across that bridge and once we hit the other side, Tondra looked at me and said 'You ready to run this finish,' so we started running hand in hand. Seeing family and our community cheering us on was a feeling I will never forget. I did it," she said.

Upon completion of the full marathon, the runner receives a mason jar and a medal. This unique keepsake is ranked by Red Bull as one of the "Eight Finisher's Medals You Need In Your Collection."

"The Mason Jar is for moonshine, but I keep my 'lucky quarter' in it instead, said Meade. "It's a reminder that you can do whatever you set your mind to, no matter your age."



Tondra Elkins (left) and Terry Meade (right) hold hands as they cross the finish line of the Hatfield McCoy Marathon in Williamson, West Virginia.



The finisher's medal is ranked by Red Bull energy drink as one of the "Eight Finisher's Medals You Need In Your Collection." Also pictured is Terry's lucky quarter.

### History of the Marathon

- The traditional marathon is a run of 26 miles, 385 yards
- Named in honor of the Greek soldier Philippides, who ran from the site of the Battle of Marathon to Athens
- Marathon was one of the sports of the first Olympic games in 1896
- The men's world record is held by Dennis Kimetto, who ran the marathon in 2:02:57 in 2014
- The women's world record is held by Paula Radcliffe, who ran the marathon in 2:15:25 in 2003
- Promarathon.com estimates that more than 511,000 people complete a marathon every year



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*inDEPth is published by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.*

# FLOODING

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"I know after leaving Clendenin that I really could have used a clean T-shirt," said Sandy Rogers, the REAP project manager. "A family member owns a beauty shop in Clendenin, and the mud was a foot deep in there. It got flooded eight feet deep with water. They lost everything."

Sandy talked while helping fill bags with supplies that were then loaded onto trucks, bound for some of the hardest hit areas of the state — including Elkview, Clendenin, Queen Shoals, Prociuous, Rainelle, Rupert and White Sulphur Springs.

Rogers, who is from Prociuous, said the worst part of the flood is that so few people have flood insurance.

"Every back stream, every hollow, it's just devastation everywhere. The bigger towns get all the publicity. But everything in some of these smaller communities is washed away. Trailers, cars, I saw a dump truck turned over."

Donation points were set up in the DEP headquarters in Charleston to collect items such as bleach and other



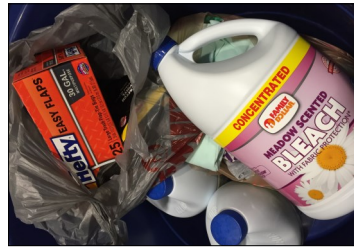
Lisa Facemyer and Brenda Justice with DEP's REAP program work to fill garbage bags with gloves and a clean t-shirt. The bags were taken to flood damaged areas of Clay, Greenbrier and Kanawha counties.

cleaning supplies, bottled water, and even pet food.

The death toll from the flood was at least 23: 12 in Greenbrier County with three more presumed dead, six in Kanawha County, and one each in Jackson County and Ohio County.

Monetary donations are also being accepted to help flood victims. Those wishing to donate can do so by visiting room 3042 at DEP headquarters or by sending it via interdepartmental mail to Rachel Kerns-DEP Fiscal. Receipts will be issued for monetary donations.

Any donations not disbursed to employees in need will be transferred to the West Virginia Voluntary Organi-



Collection points like these were set up in DEP headquarters to accept cleaning supplies and other items needed by flood victims.

zations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

## 1985 v. 2016

The "Election Day Floods" of 1985 killed 62 people, 38 of whom were in West Virginia. The storm was the result of the remnants of Hurricane Juan stalling over the state.

<u>1985</u>		<u>2016</u>
22 inches in two days	<b>Rainfall Total</b>	9 inches in two days
38	<b>Deaths in WV</b>	23
\$700M	<b>Estimated Damage</b>	TBD
8,000+	<b>Homes Damaged</b>	5,500+
Parsons, Franklin	<b>Hardest Hit Areas</b>	Clendenin, Richwood, White Sulphur Springs

# UST

con't from Page 1

Now, the team has another challenge. As a result of the January 2014 chemical spill, the first Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) Act in 2014 was passed. This Act enforced the registration and inspection of ASTs, with the frequency based upon risk. What is known as the "Tanks Program" consists of USTs and ASTs. Porter explained that when the inspectors were trained, they were trained in both ASTs and USTs.

The plan is for the inspectors to be responsible for a certain area, whether it contains ASTs or USTs. They will

inspect both, Porter said. Approximately 1,000 ASTs have been inspected by staff since October 2015.

"EPA indicated that they had been watching the development of the AST program and felt that West Virginia was leading the way with ASTs," she said. "There are not many states with AST programs and West Virginia's program is unique in its risk-based approach to regulating ASTs with higher risk-tanks being regulated to a stricter standard than lower-risk tanks. Risk is based upon AST location, size and contents. Both the inspection and administrative Tanks Program staff have been working diligently with others in the agency to get the AST program up and running, since the passage of the first AST Act in 2014."



Pictured are some of the DEP's UST inspectors at an EPA training class. Shannon Straley (front); Left to right: Jeffrey Cavender, Cleve Honaker, Eric Mauzy, Mark Howard (EPA instructor), Michel Boyer, Josh Griffin, Jason Liddle. Inspectors not pictured: Niki Davis, Richard Moles and Jamie Tallman.



### New Hires

- Matt Burdette, Business and Technology Office
- Jane Caswell, Executive
- David Oldaker, Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation
- Jacob Seech, Division of Land Restoration
- Matthew Thompson, Division of Water and Waste Management
- Bryan Warner, Division of Mining and Reclamation

### Recent/Upcoming Retirements

- Patsy Bailey, Division of Mining and Reclamation
- Steven Ball, Division of Mining and Reclamation
- David Gay, Division of Mining and Reclamation
- Elbert Morton, Division of Water and Waste Management
- Richard Roy, Division of Mining and Reclamation
- John Scott, Division of Mining and Reclamation