

DIVISION OF MINE PERMITS

UK Professional Engineers in Mining
2018



DMP Mission Statement

- The mission of the Division of Mine Permits is to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects of coal mining and reclamation operations. This is accomplished by evaluating mining and reclamation plans and issuing permits to ensure that coal mining operations meet the performance established under the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977.

DMP Activities

- DMP Director attended the OSMRE Appalachian Region States Meeting in Wheeling, WV.
Topics discussed:
 - 1996 Biological Opinion;
 - Best Practices for Obtaining Compliance on Companies with Unabated Violations for Several States;
 - Financial Assurance for Long Term Treatment.
- DMP personnel are actively participating in the CEDAR Entrepreneurial Coal Lands Redevelopment Program and competition. Over the past twenty-three years, there have been 9,425 projects entered in the Regional Coal Fair and 1,449 of those have received a total of \$242,646 in cash prizes.

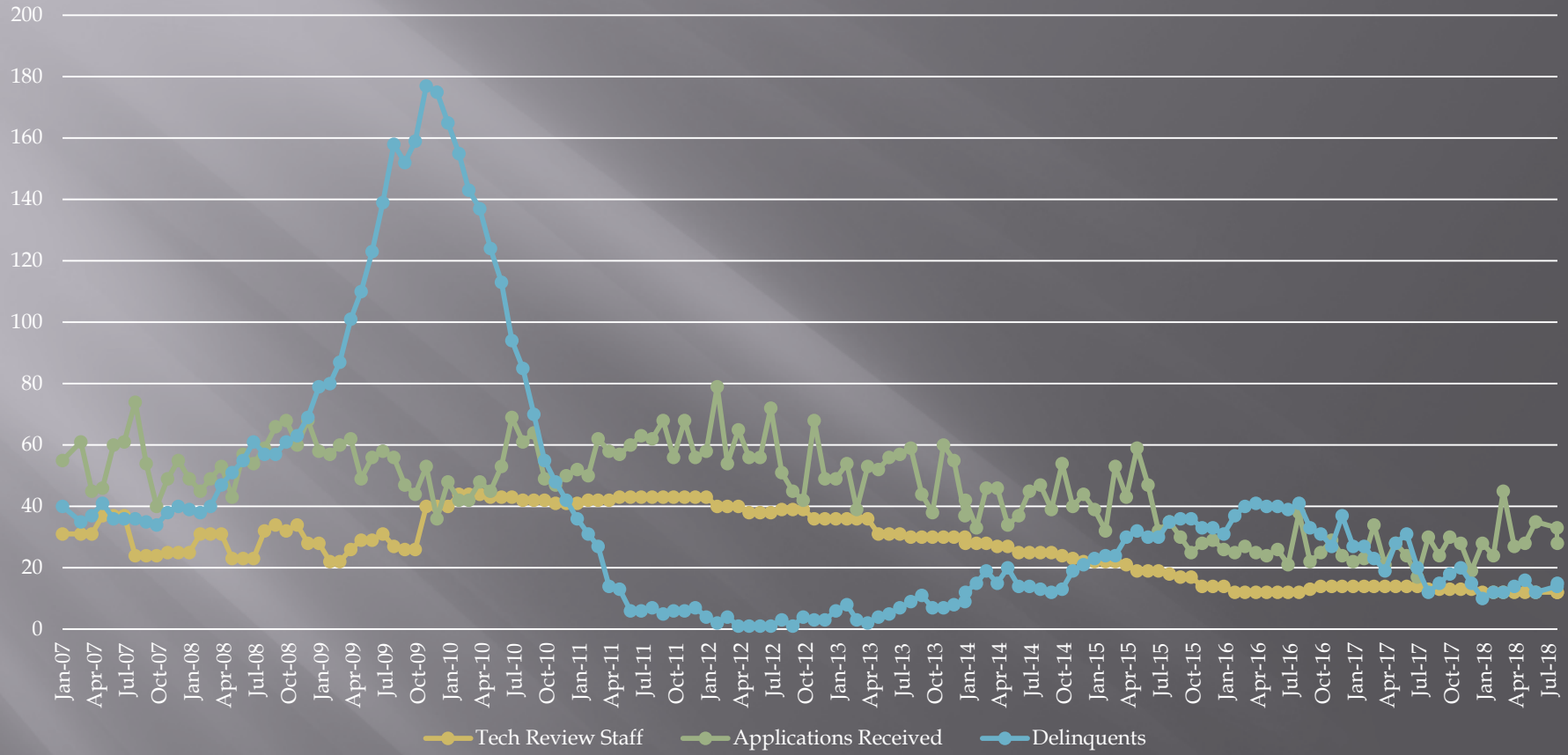
DMP Activities

- Reducing the number of delinquent permit applications and increasing efficiency.
- Participating in oversight studies required by OSMRE.
- Implementing regular training and engineering round-table sessions.
- Revising 405 KAR and application forms to eliminate shadow area permitting requirement.

Permitting Activity

Fiscal Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 thru 8/31/18
Total Applications	1525	1719	1545	1301	1061	1060	92
NW	61	41	33	13	19	13	4
AM	67	71	63	38	23	30	2
MA	48	33	80	49	49	23	4
MI	440	385	367	231	227	268	49
Mid-terms	484	675	570	526	431	396	44
Transfers	245	187	251	268	95	177	25
Renewals	180	327	181	176	217	153	5
Staff (Avg. Monthly)	77.2	68.9	56.8	51.9	52.8	43.7	40.5
Delinquents (Avg./Mo.)	6.7	15.6	30.5	37.2	25.5	14.7	13

Permitting Activity



Highwall Reduction

- In an effort to reduce reclamation liability in the Commonwealth, DMP focused on permitted highwall reduction.
- DMP has concentrated its efforts on Contemporaneous Reclamation Variance (CRV) applications and is requiring appropriate justification for CRV's. This includes insuring appropriate equipment spreads are on-site, review of proposed sediment control, appropriate number of pits and work areas, and detailed mine sequencing with time frames and worst-case disturbance.

Highwall Reduction

- DMP has worked in collaboration with industry to reduce the potential reclamation liability for the Commonwealth by more than \$194 million (based on an average bench width of 100 feet; average wall height of 60 feet; at a cost of \$3.50/cubic yard).
- DMP has reduced total permitted highwall in the Commonwealth by 250,000 feet (47+ miles).
- The reductions have allowed for permittees to apply for the release of up to \$4,500,000 in Supplemental Assurance bond.

OSMRE and DMP

- An improved relationship between the Division and the Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has facilitated the resolution of issues related to reclamation bonding, long term treatment for substandard mine water discharges, and impoundments.

OSMRE Oversight and Special Studies

- Impoundment Breakthrough Potential
- Underground Mine Pool Evaluation Study
- Long Term Treatment (LTT) Inventory Policy and Practices Study
- Bond Adjustment Study
- CHIA Study

Training

Conducting regular training sessions for DMP technical reviewers and engineers to ensure timeliness and uniformity in review.

- Roundtables
- Application Specific
- Field Trips

Training

- **OSM Courses**
Planned/Attended:
 - AML Design
 - Applied Engineering
 - Geology & Geochemistry of Acid-Forming Materials
 - NEPA Procedures
 - Underground Mining Technology
 - Passive Treatment: Theory and Application
- **TIPS Courses**
Planned/Attended:
 - ArcGIS Pro for Mining
 - Geochemist Workbench
 - Hydrologic Engineering
 - Surface Deformation Prediction System
 - Testing and Analysis of Aquifer Characteristics with AQTESOLV

Roundtables

Roundtable training sessions in 2018 have included:

- Coal Market Deferments
- Sediment Control
- Contemporaneous Reclamation Variances

Field Trips

DMP personnel are frequently going out to jobsites with permittees and consultants to be educated on site conditions.



Engagement with Industry

- DMP and DMRE personnel had been meeting with ACEC on a quarterly basis to discuss issues impacting industry and working to find solutions. We hope to reinitiate these quarterly meetings soon.
- Quarterly Industry Communication meetings and meetings with the KCA Environmental Committee.

Division Vacancies and Upcoming Hiring Efforts

- Environmental Scientist V
- Environmental Scientist Consultant
- Environmental Engineer Assistant III
- Environmental Engineer Consultant
- Environmental Control Manager
- GIS Section Supervisor