The meeting started at 1:00 pm by Ed Coleman.


Introduction of Participants: Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Senate Bill 343 – New/Updated Forms or Concerns
- Updated Plan of Operations and Application – reviewed form, accepted comments for proposed changes and answered questions.
- Limited Borrow Operation – reviewed form, accepted comments for proposed changes and answered questions.
- Phase II Release Request – reviewed form, accepted comments for proposed changes and answered questions.
- Pond and Wetland Design Worksheet – reviewed form, accepted comments for proposed changes and answered questions.
- Fuel Guideline and Worksheet – reviewed form, accepted comments for proposed changes and answered questions.
- Determining Depth to Groundwater Worksheet – reviewed form, accepted comments for proposed changes and answered questions.
- Surety Bond Rider – reviewed form, accepted comments and answered questions.

Revenue Generated from Application Fees – $10,500 received in application fees at this time.

Bonds – Timing of Bond Submittals – Reviewed when the hard copy bonds are required.

Electronic Fee Payment – Jennifer Skartveit reviewed the process and answered questions.

Staffing and Workload – Ed Coleman discussed the additional Full Time Employees to be added to the Opencut Staff in the future as well as the plan to employ drones to inspect sites. The challenging sites continue to take up additional staff time and Opencut has 5 sites in extended review. Chris Cronin discussed the number of Referred Complaints coming into the Section.

Bond Release Requests Processed and Pending Bond Releases – JJ Conner explained the additional information found on the handout.
Processing Applications with Expired Reclamation Dates – Ed Coleman reviewed the process for sites with Expired Reclamation Dates. Leea Anderson discussed the Enforcement process.

Upcoming Opencut Enhancements

- **Postmining Land Use Reclamation Only Form – Coming Soon** – Ed Coleman explained where the desire for this form originated and JJ Conner discussed the model for the form.
- **Updated Landowner Consultation Form** – reviewed form, accepted comments and answered questions.
- **1040 EZ Opencut Application – As Requested by House Natural Resources** - Ed Coleman explained where the desire for this form originated and JJ Conner discussed the model for the form.
- **Fee Rules on Administrative Actions** – Ed Coleman said these may come in the future.

Challenges with Controversial Opencut Sites

- Opencut staff and Operators discussed the challenges and lessons learned from sites with public meetings.

Next meeting date and location – Ed Coleman asked the stakeholders where the next meeting should occur and the date. Rob Koelzer suggested that the next meeting occur during the Montana Contractors Association (MCA) meeting to be held in January in Missoula and the attendees agreed. Ed explained that the meeting had to be open to all interested parties and not just MCA members and would confirm with David Smith, MCA. The meeting was set for January 15, 2020. More information to follow.