Retooling the Engineering Manual for Mining Operations
TGD no. 563-0300-101

Status
➢ The process of updating the 1999 engineering manual began around 2014 (August)
➢ The revised Engineering Manual was published for public comment in October 2020 (ended January 2021)
➢ Nearly 200 comments submitted including many internal comments
➢ Comments reflected an expectation for addition of details and specificity (i.e., suggestion to expand the document even more)
➢ BMP does not have a staff engineer but relies on DMO P.E. staff for engineering decisions

Procedures
➢ DMO staff continue to use existing regulations, established standards and references, and site-specific justifications to approve engineered plans on mining permits regardless of the existing TGD. Consideration of plans includes addressing the unique issues on mine sites.
Options/Draft Plan

❖ A. Split apart the existing Engineering Manual content into more manageable, workable pieces that can be more easily updated
❖ B. Eliminate unnecessary, duplicative, and conflicting information
❖ C. Provide users with updated references and considerations to use to prepare and revise permit applications
❖ D. Department utilizes SOPs to document specific review processes across the DMOs as needed; available online
❖ E. BMP maintain an Engineering for Mining Permits public web page to gather all the links in one place and note additions and changes (new SOPs, TGD changes, form changes, etc.)
❖ F. Sample drawings made available to share with applicants as part of correction letters/design suggestions
❖ G. Applicants and consultants can submit questions or comments that will be addressed by a collective group of DEP mining staff

Public Documentation and References

➢ The existing Engineering Manual can be converted to a publication/reference guide that provides basic recommendations about engineering on mine sites
➢ Permit applications will include a new item for preparers to describe the references used for the plans in each applicable section: operations, E&S controls, streams, wetlands, treatment, etc.
➢ Examples of references that can be used:
   o DEP program manuals
   o DEP technical guidance
   o National engineering handbooks
   o AMD Treat software