

Hello, my name is Paul Brown. I'm currently the section chief in the oil and gas program at the Bureau's National Operations Center in Lakewood, Colorado. I've been with the Bureau of Land Management for about 35 years working in the Washington DC office, in field offices in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. I'm here today to talk to you a little bit about a new application that the Bureau of Land Management is implementing internally in our organization, as well as externally to our oil and gas operators, to electronically file with BLM field offices electronic versions of either the Notice of Staking form or the Application for Permit to Drill.

But before we get into the specific details, I'd like to introduce you to one of my co-workers. Joining me today is Cindy. Cindy, would you tell us a little bit about yourself?

My name is Cindy Lewis. I work in the Oklahoma Field Office in the Tulsa location. I've been working with the Bureau for several years now. And I've been working with the AFMSS 2 program over the last year. And I'm excited about the new changes with AFMSS 2.

All right, excellent. Now, you'll notice in BLM, and in any large organization, we like to use a lot of acronyms. And we're going to try to explain what we mean by certain acronyms. If we get too far away, hopefully we'll remember what the acronyms are we're using and how to define those.

The AFMSS system is currently a Bureau internal system-- stands for the Automated Fluid Minerals Support System, or known as AFMSS. And that is an internal database application, or an automated application, within BLM to track oil and gas wells, permitting, inspection, and enforcement-- all of the different things that the BLM does-- cradle to grave, from a proposed well to a final plug and abandonment and restoration.

The WIS system-- we'll use that acronym as well-- stands for the Well Information System, which is currently the electronic version of reporting that is available to oil and gas customers to submit APDs, Notice of Stakings, Application for Permit to Drill, if you will, and Sundry Notices, and Well Completion Reports. The AFMSS and WIS systems respectively are about 15 to 20 years old. They're in great need of replacement. So the process that we will be using is to replace those existing systems and replace that with a system that both BLM and oil and gas operators will use. And that will be referred to as AFMSS 2.

Now, the Bureau is a very large organization. We have many, many offices across the Bureau from one coast to the other. Cindy, can you give us an idea of the implementation plan? Is everybody going to be having this system all at once? How is that actually going to work?

Actually, Paul, the AFMSS 2 system is going to roll out and be implemented in offices gradually. The first office

that will be in production live will be the Farmington, New Mexico office. And then we will roll out to another offices slowly throughout the process. We will be hopefully live across the Bureau by the end of next year.

OK, now, the operators will be able to tell if their particular field office or field offices have been implemented on this system. If you're currently a WIS user, you'll go into the WIS database. If you can no longer select that particular field office, that'll be an indicator to you that that field office is now moved to the system.

One of the things that we'll be doing at a national level, and also at the field office level, is doing outreach training announcements, and different things like that, to let you know where we are in that particular field office as far as the implementation schedule. We'll be posting training videos, information packets, links to use your guides, and different kinds of resources as we go along. So just as a simple reminder, currently, we're going to be replacing the Notice of Staking and the Application for Permit to Drill process in AFMSS 2, and then eventually replacing the Well Completion Report and the Sundry Notices in the same AFMSS 2 application. Is that correct?

Yes, Paul. Right at this time, the first module that we'll roll out will be the NOS and permit module. That will be the first module that will come alive for operators to submit any data in. However, soon we'll have the sundry and the Well Completion Report module available, hopefully, by next summer. And so operators will use AFMSS 2 when they go live for their NOS and APDs. But they will still use the WIS system to electronically submit sundries and Well Completion Reports.

OK, excellent. Now, Cindy, what kind of changes will the operators see right off the bat if they're currently using an electronic system? What kind of changes will they see right off the bat with this new application?

The new application is rather data intensive. In other words, they will be entering everything that they would have on paper into the AFMSS 2 system. Also, the applications that will be attached will be individually attached and not in just one big lump attachment. So they will see that as well. The AFMSS 2 system follows the Onshore Order regulations. And they will see the application, drilling program, SUPO, bond, operator certification, and actually, the ability to pay their application fee all on the AFMSS 2 system.

Well, Cindy, with that comment, I'm sure you've got the attention of quite a few people. The capability of paying the permit fee online through an automated process, can you tell us some more about that?

Yes, pay.gov is live now. And an operator can go online and pay their application fee at pay.gov. One thing the operator needs to take note of is that they need to record the receipt number because they will not be able to submit an APD without a receipt number. However, if an operator chooses, they can still go to their field office and pay by check or call their field office and pay by check. But you will need to have the receipt number in order to submit the APD at all.

OK, excellent. I appreciate that point of clarification. Now, for those of you who do not use the automated system right now and are using paper, I don't want to create any sort of panic or concern on your part. The BLM in the field offices have built a process into the APD and NOS process in their field offices that will allow paper APDs, or manual APDs, to be still submitted to the BLM office. I do want to caution you, however, that we're anticipating regulatory changes in the future that will require, or make mandatory, the use of an automated system to file an APD or a Notice of Staking with the BLM offices. So not to cause you any great concern, but also to give you give you kind of a heads up or an early warning that that mandatory application-- automated application-- will be coming in the future.

So we've talked a little bit about what will happen with the automated applications now, what will happen with them a little bit later. And again, we'll be doing a lot of outreach, a lot of training, a lot of resource development to instruct the operators as far as how to use the system and where we are in the process. Cindy, I guess that pretty well covers what I have in my mind. But is there anything that we didn't cover that we should share with our viewers?

I want to encourage the operators that they will need to apply for a new user and login for each individual that will be accessing the AFMSS 2 system. It is not the same password that you use in the WIS system. And you will need to file a Help Desk ticket through the Well Information System at this time. Include in that request your user name-- the user that will be using this system individually, also the company name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. E-mail address communication will be done almost all the time through the AFMSS 2 system. And that is how you will be communicated with on 10-day letters, letters of acceptance, and the like. So it is really imperative that the operators do remember that the user ID and access will be a separate user information.

Excellent. I just want to emphasize, as well, in addition to the outreach and the information that we'll be posting on our websites, the information that we'll be providing to the operators. If they have any questions whatsoever about their application, about the schedule, about the resources that are available, they can always look at our web page or call the local BLM field office and ask for someone in the oil and gas program, and they should be able to help them out, to direct them to the resources, or direct them to the right folks.

So I hope we've garnered your interest. I hope that you're interested in what we're going to do going forward, and you'll join us for our training sessions in the future, and track our progress on implementation and development as we go through the future. Cindy, anything that you'd like to add at the end before we wrap things up?

I would just like to say I'm very excited about the ability of this system to provide transparency to the operators, quality data, and a product in efficiency. And hopefully they'll see their APDs and permits go through the system a little quicker this way.

Thank you very much for your time this morning. I appreciate your assistance and your information. And thank you to our listeners and our viewers. We appreciate your time and attendance this morning. And we hope that you'll follow us along as we implement and develop our packages. And again, feel free to give us a call any time and we'll help you out. Thank you. Good day.