

Johnson, Bill H (DNR)

From: David Blaha <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 8:34 AM
To: Carlson, Erik (DNR)
Cc: Al Trippel
Subject: RE: Realistic results meeting

Erik

Thanks a lot – that helps me to understand what is going on, as I have been picking up on some of this “dynamic”

I don't know Foth, but i give PolyMet/Barr credit for having an independent firm review their modeling before delivering to us

I do think at times that we are delving deeper than we may need to (losing sight of what is important, although I sense this is partly attributable to a lack of trust in Barr), but also feel that the schedule is overly aggressive – the combination of the two will burn staff out and result in bad feelings – we are seeing some of that already

Let me know if there is anything I can be doing to help, and definitely let me know if I (or ERM) are doing anything unintentionally to make the problem worse

Hang it there – from my perspective the project has really benefited from your energy and organizational skills!!!

From: Carlson, Erik (DNR) [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:18 AM
To: David Blaha
Subject: RE: Realistic results meeting

Dave,

Last week Jim Scott made a deadline commitment to Glencore that Co-leads had not agreed to. We proceeded full steam to try to meet this deadline which ruffled technical staff feathers here and at Barr. We at the DNR took some process shortcuts (like forwarding comments without a thorough internal audit) that ended up backfiring on us. Barr then got upset about the poor job I was doing managing the process. Folks here feel burned out from the work load in trying to meet a deadline and then the way Barr and PolyMet handled the critiques of the process which could have been managed better on their side. Anyway I think it is behind us now.

Some more context for Feb 8: PolyMet has hired a consulting firm to oversee GoldSim modeling called Foth. Foth won't be doing the modeling, just checking Barr's work and providing additional technical expertise where needed. I heard Jim didn't take the news very well. Borovsky *did* handle it well. Foth's first task it to look deeper into issues Barr/PolyMet had proposed to bring into the realistic results check process. Before triggering a substantial Co-lead discussion, Foth is making sure PolyMet is on firm ground.

From: David Blaha [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 7:59 AM
To: Carlson, Erik (DNR)
Subject: RE: Realistic results meeting

Erik

I understand, and keeping to 4 hrs sounds fine as long as the expectation is that we will use several meetings to get thru this material

Believe me, I rarely lobby for a meeting to go more than 4 hrs!!!!

What is driving the social dynamic – simple burn out, lack of trust in their deliverables, something else?

Just want to make sure I am sensitive to the situation

Thanks

From: Carlson, Erik (DNR) [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 8:40 AM
To: David Blaha
Subject: RE: Realistic results meeting

Hi Dave,

Glad to hear you will be in town. It is true PolyMet has high expectations on what we can get through. I think we'll need several 4 hour meetings to work through the issues. I am hesitant to go longer than 4 hours. There social dynamic right now between Barr and DNR are quite stressed. Four hours is asking a lot, especially when we are looking ahead to a 4 hour meeting every week for the foreseeable future.

-Erik

From: David Blaha [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 4:48 PM
To: Carlson, Erik (DNR)
Cc: Al Trippel
Subject: Realistic results meeting

Hi Erik

Fyi – I will be in St. paul and hope to attend the Feb 8th RR meeting in person

I understand at this meeting we will receive the initial modelling results from Barr and need to discuss some of the CDFs

I do that will be a full agenda and you may want to consider reserving some additional time, even if we don't end up needing it

Don't know others schedules, but just a suggestion –seems like a lot to get thru in 4 hrs

Hope you are hanging in there – I look forward to seeing you again

Take care

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