



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 16, 2004

TO: Jeffrey Tryens, Director
Oregon Progress Board

FROM: Vicki S. McConnell, Director
Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

SUBJECT: Annual Performance Measure Report for the
Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Our Performance Measure Report covers the period from June 2002 to July 2003 maintaining our previous reporting schedule. I will summarize our performance accomplishments as well as indicating the challenges we face in the upcoming fiscal year.

Tasks in Program I (Geologic Survey and Services) consist of collecting and creating data and disseminating information regarding geological natural resources and hazards. Program I projects cover the compilation and dissemination of geologic information and maps of sufficient detail to aid regions with a variety of land use and natural resource problems and policy development. Our Agency Goals (PM#7-9) reflect the primacy of our agency mission of geologic mapping and resource data collection. In this reporting period, we completed and published maps and reports of both regional and local scale. Our primary stakeholders for these publications are federal, state, and local entities concerned with the management of natural resources such as water.

High-resolution geologic maps are produced to provide data for local land use and resource development issues. These maps are important to foresters for resource development and fire suppression, to local planners for land use planning and development, to other state agencies for a variety of policy and resource decisions. For example, our geologic maps and resource databases provide vital information for decisions leading up to locating potential "shovel-ready" industrial sites for development. We maintain and update spatial databases of mineral and rock resources and the activity associated with mineral exploration and extraction. Low-resolution compilation projects are the summary of multi-year mapping projects and are designed to provide overview information for issues such as groundwater modeling of entire basins. We have completed basin-wide studies of the Upper Grande Ronde River and the Umatilla River.

We coordinated with the Office of Emergency Management to develop an Oregon Benchmark that will track the critical task of supplying hazard data to local jurisdictions so they may use it as a basis for informed mitigation plans (OBM 67a & b, PM#1-5). We measure our contributions in two ways: first, by determining the increase in percentage of local jurisdictions that now have hazard maps and mitigation plans and second, by the effectiveness of our public education program.

In this past year we have worked with several coastal communities to complete tsunami evacuation plans, worked with local government planning departments to integrate our new landslide hazard information, provided information to cities and counties completing community preparedness plans now required by FEMA, and assisted the Oregon University System in evaluating seismic vulnerability of high risk buildings on campuses across the state. Each of these tasks has far-reaching implications. For example, without certified hazard mitigation plans in place, there are some federal disaster relief funds that local jurisdictions cannot obtain when needed. The Oregon University System work has been directly related to deferred maintenance legislation and plans. These are descriptions of only a portion of our ongoing projects; space and brevity preclude listing them all.

Our agency is in the position of having data that is of critical importance to individuals, governments agencies, and businesses, but we are too small to provide focused, one-on-one consultations. For this reason, we direct our public educational efforts to organizations that can best integrate and disseminate the information to a wider audience. In practice, this means that we work closely with state and local government agencies, and some private sector and not-for-profit agencies, which can incorporate our data into short- and long-term plans for communities. From a project point of view, the challenge we face is to find sufficient non-General Funds to continue this important work or to justify legislatively appropriated General Funds. Most of our projects are specifically targeted for use in the public sector, and finding other funding partners to achieve the highest priority work has not always been possible. The legislative removal of our editor position in the last biennium adds to the challenge to continue to present high-quality, professional, and peer-reviewed data to our stakeholders in a timely manner.

Program II (Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation) provides for post-mining land use by assuring that proper design plans and financial security exist before exploration begins, by providing regular inspection and oversight to mining operations, and overseeing beneficial, sustainable reclamation at the end of the mining cycle. This is the subject of our Agency Goal 4 (PM #6a&b). Our professional staff of Reclamationists and Hydrologists annually conduct over 800 on-sight inspections, maintain a dynamic spatial database of mined land use and reclamation information, process 100's of permits, and design reclamation sites and plans as needed. This year additional funding was procured to address abandoned mined sites on the Willamette and Rogue Rivers. Because the program is tied to industry activity, it is difficult to project goal targets.

Ideally, all mined acres would be immediately reclaimed for future use. This is not possible in cases where mined lands no longer have responsible parties associated with them. In other cases, operators have a legitimate reason to hold the site unreclaimed for a

period after completion of work. We are presently pursuing a variety of funding sources and programs to increase the ability to reclaim abandoned or orphaned mined sites. We have found throughout our work with mining operators that a strong field presence during mining operations is the best strategy for cooperative regulation and reclamation design. However, sites that require extra staffing draw from our limited fee-based staff resources and reduce the total number of reclaimed acres counted in performance evaluations. Our future challenges are to find sufficient staff to address long term issues tied to mineral land use and sustainable reclamation while maintaining a productive and transparent relationship with the industry we oversee. We have also been tasked by the legislature in a Budget Note to design a survey that will allow evaluation of customer satisfaction of our permitting process. This will become part of our Program II Performance Measure in the next budget cycle.

cc: DOGAMI Section Leaders