



Fact Sheet

Grassy Mountain Mine Project

Proposed Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permits in the consolidated mining permit

[The Grassy Mountain Mine Project](#) is a proposed underground gold and silver mine and an indoor processing facility in Malheur County, about 22 miles southwest of Vale. Under state law, Oregon uses a [consolidated application process](#) for administering state regulatory requirements for chemical process mines. The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) leads this process, and is working with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other federal and state agencies to develop permit conditions that protect public health, the environment, and wildlife.

DEQ's proposed permits

DEQ is responsible for reviewing environmental permit applications, drafting proposed operating permit requirements, and enforcing final permit requirements. Calico Resources USA Corp. submitted permit applications for the Grassy Mountain Mine. Permitting is a standards-based process and DEQ is following regulatory standards set by the Oregon Legislature and the Environmental Quality Commission. If the permit applicant can show they meet standards, DEQ will issue the permits. The following are required DEQ permits for this facility.

A **water pollution control facility permit** will regulate the management and discharge of industrial wastewater to protect public health and the environment. This permit will also establish requirements for the disposal and management of solid wastes generated from mining and processing activities.

An **industrial stormwater permit** will regulate stormwater discharged to surface waters. Stormwater collection ponds will also be regulated under the facility's stormwater management plan.

An **onsite septic system** water pollution control facilities permit will regulate the construction and operation of an onsite sewage disposal system, commonly referred to as a septic system.

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800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov



An **air contaminant discharge permit** will regulate air emissions, including emissions from above-ground processing, refining, and transportation of the ore and mine backfill material. The permit also regulates emissions from auxiliary equipment such as boilers, heaters, generators, and fuel storage. The permit will also include an air toxics assessment and conditions and will require annual testing and frequent monitoring for compliance. One year after start of operation, the facility will be required to apply for a Title V Federal Operating Permit.

Mine waste management

The primary solid waste generated by the mine will be tailings, which is the material left over after the gold or silver is extracted. The tailings will be disposed of on-site in a lined landfill called a Tailings Storage Facility. The tailings will have various concentrations of heavy metals all below hazardous levels and some residual cyanide. The permit requires the mine operator to control cyanide concentrations in tailings to protect wildlife.

Non-discrimination statement

DOGAMI acknowledges the systemic inequities that have created disparate outcomes for Oregon's diverse communities and understand our responsibility in addressing these challenges is built on the principles of fairness, respect, and equality. We are firm in our commitment to equity and environmental justice, recognizing the importance of diversity in fulfilling our mission to make all of Oregon's communities safe and prosperous. We are dedicated to creating and sustaining an environment – within the agency and in the broader community – where all individuals, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or socioeconomic status, can engage with and benefit from our work.

