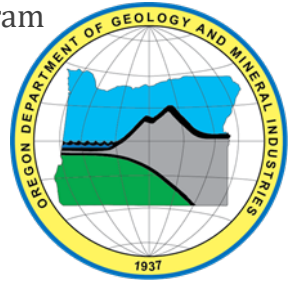


ENGAGe

Spring 2025

Exploration, Non-aggregate, Gas/oil, Aggregate, Geothermal



DOGAMI Permitting Timelines

Reminder: DOGAMI continues to experience an unprecedented volume of applications, inquiries, complaints, and compliance actions that has resulted in an increase in processing and response times. Thank you for your patience as we work through our increased workload.

Here are some things you can do to help the application process along:

- Set up a pre-application meeting with our staff to discuss your surface mining project and identify requirements and any additional considerations.
- If you are amending your permit or interested in past information about a site, request a copy of the site file via a Public Records Request (PRR). *Please note there may be a fee for a PRR submitted by anyone other than the current permittee.*
- Submit applications that are as *administratively complete* (have all the required elements) and *technically sound* (accurately reflect your proposed plans) as possible to prevent requests for additional information and reduce necessary revisions.

To increase the effectiveness of your communications:

- Send detailed questions *via email if possible* – the more specific you can be about your question or request, the faster we can get back to you or route your inquiry to the appropriate resource. Always include the DOGAMI Site ID number, if you have one.
- Consolidate messages into a single email so your questions can be answered all at once; receiving multiple emails over a few days will increase the time it takes to prepare a thorough response.

DOGAMI strives to process permit applications as quickly as possible to facilitate applicant/permittee compliance with Oregon law. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

ENGAGe Feature: Public Records Request Website!

IT'S FINALLY HERE! A website that tells you how to request public records from DOGAMI! I (Becky Johnson, Office Operations Assistant and Public Records Manager for the MLRR Program) had to go shout it out in nature I was so excited (see picture on right).

Now instead of emailing one of the permitting staff or calling your favorite Reclamationist, the email address is right on the website, along with what needs to be included with your request! Also included on the website is the fee schedule set by the Department of Administrative Services. If you ever have questions About public records or making a public records request – you know where to go: <https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/mlrr/Pages/public-records-requests.aspx>



Contact us at 541-967-2039 mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov

<https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/mlrr>

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation

229 Broadalbin St. SW, Albany, OR 97321

DOGAMI TALK: Exclusion Certificates

Over the past six months, there has been a significant increase in Exclusion Certificate (EC) applications. As such, we felt it timely to provide a refresher on what ECs are, clarify the circumstances in which an EC is not required (though we remain available to assist if there is any uncertainty), and offer some practical guidance to support applicants throughout the process.



To start, we've expanded our EC application processing team! Becky Johnson, Office Operations Assistant is still happy to answer general questions, while Nicole Ledbetter, GIT (seen in photo on left with Ceasar the No Drama Llama), who is one of MLRR's wonderful "new" Permit Specialists. Nicole started with the Department back in May 2024 and has already become an integral part of our team.

Now to jump in with a refresher. **Exclusion Certificates** are certificates that are required for mining activity that removes less than 5,000 cubic yards and affects less than one acre of land within a 12-month period. [Operating Permits are required for mining activities above these thresholds.] You can find the statute that governs Exclusion Certificates under ORS 517.753 and the administrative rule under OAR 632-030-0016. We have a very helpful FAQ regarding ECs that can be found on our website: https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/mlrr/forms/sufacemining/20220818_OP_EC_XP_byLaw_AgencyLogo.pdf

Applying for an EC:

When you apply for an EC, you are required to submit 3 things: a completely and correctly filled out application, proof of land ownership (which comes in the form of a listing packet or "TRIO" from your local title company), and an \$80 fee (currently; that is subject to change). Things we often see with applications that are incorrect:

- Missing TRIO (it is free for you to request this from your local title company)
- Incorrect legal description (if this is wrong it will get your application denied, please double check)
- Date mining activities began/if the area was mined (we have the ability to check... Please be honest)
- Signatures (we need ALL landowner and mineral owner signatures – except BLM)

****IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS – PLEASE CONTACT US BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION!****

Exemptions to needing an EC:

Road Building: If you are excavating and building roads/doing road maintenance for a farm or logging roads on a farm or on the tax lot that the logging roads exist on, and none of the product from your excavation is being sold – you don't need an EC. If your excavation area is in one location and you have to drive on a public road, highway, or across someone else's property to get to the roads you want to build or maintain - you would need an EC. Questions about whether your situation would be exempt? Contact us – **541-967-2039** or mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov

Exclusion Certificate Closure– DOGAMI requires a minimum of 30 days notice **before** your renewal is due for closure requests. If you are not planning on renewing your EC for the next year, make sure you are giving us written notice at least 30 days before your renewal is **due**. More time is always appreciated! This includes instances where you want to "transfer" your Exclusion Certificate. DOGAMI doesn't have statutory authority to transfer ECs, so we need a written request 30 days before the renewal due date from the current certificate holder to close the site, before we can process a new EC application for the same site.

If you'd like to receive this newsletter via email, sign up for our listserv:
<https://omls.oregon.gov/mailman/listinfo/mlrr.newsletter>