

the newsletter of the **Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation** program

# ENGAGE **Winter 2023**



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

## DOGAMI Permitting Timelines

***Just a reminder:*** DOGAMI continues to experience an unprecedented volume of applications, inquiries, complaints, and compliance actions resulting in an ongoing increase in processing and response times. Thank you for your patience as we continue with our increased workload.

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

- Set up a pre-application meeting with our staff to discuss your permitting project and potential complications you may encounter.
- 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 and technically sound as possible to prevent or reduce necessary revisions. Contact DOGAMI staff if you have questions.

To increase efficiency of communications:

- Send detailed questions *via email if possible* – the more details you give, (generally) the better and faster we can get back to you or route your inquiry to the appropriate resource.
- Consolidate communications as much as possible so your questions can be answered all at once rather than via multiple calls/emails. *Always include the DOGAMI Site ID# if applicable.*

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

## Staffing Changes: Saying Good-Bye to Cathy Cross

Cathy Cross has been essential to DOGAMI for the past 30 years. She was the face of the MLRR program front office and the voice at the other end of the phone for most of her tenure. Her knowledge of reclamation securities and process history was unmatched - and we miss it every day!. She was an integral part of keeping many of our processes running smoothly. In October, Cathy announced that she was retiring and 2022 would be her last year with DOGAMI. In spite of the many tears shed and protests of dismay, we sincerely wish Cathy the absolute best in her retirement and hope that she never has to look at another mail merge again! We hope she comes to visit often.

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Cape Flattery, Washington

## Important Reminders about Permit Closures!

**Exclusion Certificate (EC) Holders** – 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 proper notice! More time is always better as we must review for compliance issues in order to close.

**Operating Permit Holders** – It is important to remember that reclamation is often a *multi-year process*. Review your reclamation plan to confirm what is required for reclamation and closure for your site. Contact the department with any questions or concerns early on to ensure a smoother process. Closing an Operating Permit is a much bigger, multi-step process than simply a closure request\*. If you're interested in closing your permit, head to our website and review the closure forms and checklists. There is even an FAQ now! \**The permit must be maintained, including keeping renewals paid and current, until final site closure is approved.*

## Meet Your DOGAMI Support Staff:

**Becky Johnson** is MLRR's Office Operations Assistant and has been with DOGAMI since 2018. While her educational background is in natural resources, GIS, and environmental sciences, her employment background is in customer service. She is most often the voice at the other end of the line when you call into our office with your questions. Becky is the main support staff in charge of annual permit renewals and administering Public Records Requests and Exclusion Certificates. She even writes this newsletter 😊. She's also involved in the aggregate permitting process and is the primary admin support for the chemical process mining program. Her favorite part of working for DOGAMI is making her coworkers laugh, creating connections with customers, and learning new information!

**Telicia Hixson** is MLRR's wonderful Intern. She currently attends Oregon State University where she earned a B.S. in Biology and is now working on a Professional Science Master's degree in Environmental Science, with a focus in aquatic ecology 🌊. For the past several years she has been working in healthcare but decided to make a career change in 2021 to her field of study. Telicia's duties include assisting the program with office operations and permit processing. She will also be identifying and developing a special project in support of her Professional Science Master's Program.

**ReNeea Lofton (pronounced Ruh-Nee-Uh)** has been with DOGAMI since 2010. While her current title is Permit Coordinator, she has worn many different hats over the course of her tenure with DOGAMI. ReNeea's education is in biology with an employment background in natural resource administration and accounting. She is MLRR's go-to for Exploration, Oil/Gas, and Geothermal permitting. ReNeea's favorite part of the job is that it marries two of her passions – protecting the environment and meeting new people! She loves having formed more positive working relationships than she can count, and the work also satisfies her obsession with details 😊.

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