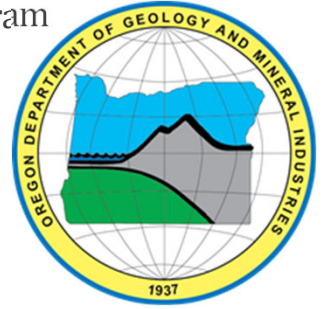


ENGAGe

Spring 2024



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: MINERAL RIGHTS

DOGAMI gets many requests regarding ownership of mineral rights, but this is not something we can confirm for you. Mineral rights (also known as mineral interest or mineral estate) refers to the owner's right to exploit, mine or produce the minerals they own. This does not apply to sand and gravel.

- Mineral rights are often specified in a property deed. A full title search back to the original deed that includes every transaction to present can determine if and how the mineral rights were assigned. It can't be assumed that because you have purchased a tract of land that you have the rights to mine the minerals located within it. A Title Lawyer may be useful in your search through the deeds.

We highly recommend contacting the county your mineral rights interest is located in. They can often provide helpful, specific information for your location.

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



Photo Taken by Becca Misho; Water quality inspections in NE Oregon

DOGAMI TALK: Giving you closure, while giving us time

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 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.

Operating Permit Holders – Closing an Operating Permit is a much bigger, multi-step process than simply calling and requesting closure, so make sure to reach out to DOGAMI as early as possible to get the process started. The first step is to check your reclamation plan to see what you need to do for reclamation and closure. Even if excavation activities are done, reclamation can take many years to complete before a site is ready for closure. Feel free to contact the Department if you've got any questions or concerns. Closure application, forms and an FAQ are available on our website!

Staffing Update:

While it’s been incredibly hard to say goodbye to staff as they start new journeys, we have been unendingly lucky finding new superstars to join our team! Meet our two new staff members:

Melissa Carley, G.I.T. (Aggregate Permitting Reclamationist): *Melissa Carley is an Oregon native who grew up in the Portland Metro area. She received a B.S. in Geology from Portland State University and spent several years working before returning to Portland State University to complete a master’s degree in geology, focusing on volcanology and igneous geochemistry. Most recently, she worked as an analyst and technical manager for an environmental lab specializing in asbestos testing in Eugene. In her spare time, she enjoys a variety of activities including hiking, gardening, kayaking, baking, reading, and camping.*

John Hook, R.G., C.E.G. (Mining Geologist / Reclamationist): *After graduating with a BA in geology from Whitman College in 2008, John was employed as a wellsite geologist and worked in a variety of fields and locations across the continental United States. In 2011, he joined his partner in Edmonton, Alberta, and took a job in compliance and source testing for a variety of local heavy industries. They returned to Oregon in 2015, where John joined the geology and mining group at GeoDesign Inc. (now NV5). During his time at GeoDesign, he garnered valuable experience in engineering geology and geotechnical engineering, as well as mine permitting, resource evaluation and compliance. In 2023, John became licensed as an Oregon Certified Engineering Geologist. He is thrilled to be a part of the team at DOGAMI and is looking forward to serving the people of Oregon.*

***If you’d like to receive this newsletter via email, sign up for our listserv:
listserv@sl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/mlrr.newsletter***