



# ENGAGE

Summer 2021

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

## **DOGAMI Permit Fee Changes – Effective January 1, 2021**

Beginning January 1, 2021, DOGAMI increased Application and Renewal Fees for several programs. This included applications for Aggregate, Exploration, Oil & Gas, and Geothermal permits. Exclusion Certificate application fees, DEQ water quality permit application and annual fees, and cost-recovery projects are not included in this fee update. Below is a clarification of those fees.

### Aggregate Permit Renewal

- IF YOU EXCAVATED/PRODUCED/SOLD MATERIAL INTO MARKET:
  - please pay **\$1,460 plus \$0.0125/ton** production fee
- IF YOU **DID NOT** PRODUCE/EXCAVATE/SELL MATERIAL INTO MARKET:
  - please pay the base rate of **\$1,200** flat (as you had no production)

**IF YOU ARE UNSURE – PLEASE CALL BEFORE YOU SEND IN YOUR RENEWAL**

<u>Oil &amp; Gas Permit Renewal</u>	\$1,160	<u>Geothermal Permit Renewal</u>	\$2,725
<u>Exclusion Certificate Renewal</u>	\$165	<u>Exploration Permit Renewal</u>	\$1,460

### **Application Timelines:**

Due to an increase in permit applications and inquiries submitted to the MLRR office, processing and response times have increased. Permit applications are processed in the order they are received and moved forward as applicants respond to deficiencies. This includes but is not limited to new applications for Exclusion Certificates, Exploration Permits, or Operating Permits; Transfer or Amendment applications; and Oil/Gas or Geothermal applications. Thank you for your patience.

## **DOGAMI Exploration Permits 101**

An **Exploration Permit** is required for all activities that disturb more than one surface acre or involve drilling more than 50 feet for the purpose of determining presence, location, extent, grade or economic viability of a mineral deposit. *Exploration activities below these limits are subject to an Exclusion Certificate.\**

**Is there anything NEW I should know about Exploration Permits?** Yes – as of January 1, 2021, the acreage limit for an exploration permit is 640 contiguous acres.

**Contact Us at 541-967-2039 [mlrr.info@oregon.gov](mailto:mlrr.info@oregon.gov)**  
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Active Quarry in Washington County; Photo taken by Lisa Reinhart

## DOGAMI Exploration Permits 101 (cont'd)

**Can I have multiple Exploration Permits at the same time? Yes. Can they be adjacent to each other? Yes.**

**Is financial security required for an Exploration Permit?** Yes – Reclamation security is required and based on the estimated cost if the department were to perform the work. Disturbance includes roads constructed or upgraded and must also be reclaimed unless written permission from the landowner is obtained.

**What if my application to explore is incomplete?** If an application is incomplete, the department shall notify the applicant in writing within 30 days of receipt and specify the deficiencies; the applicant may resubmit the application with deficiencies corrected within 60 days for review.

**How long does it take to get an Exploration Permit?** Based on external timelines that include coordination with other agencies, it generally takes more than 30 days after receipt of a complete application for an Exploration Permit to be approved or denied by the department. DOGAMI encourages applicants to allow a minimum of 180 days prior to desired project start date to obtain all required approvals; all permitting timelines are subject to current workload.

**Do I need any other approvals before I start exploring?** Possibly – other state, federal, Tribal, and local agencies may also require approvals or other permits prior to operation. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain any additional permits from other agencies.

**Do I need a DOGAMI permit to explore on BLM or USFS managed lands?** Yes – if the exploration exceeds DOGAMI's limits (more than one acre or depth of 50 feet), an Exploration Permit from the state is required prior to commencing operations. *Exploration activities below these limits are subject to an Exclusion Certificate. There is no minimum threshold in the State of Oregon for mining-related activities.*

**What if I have an Operating Permit and I want to explore within my permit boundary?** Exploration is an allowable activity in areas approved for mining within the confines of an approved Operating Permit boundary. If in doubt, please contact DOGAMI.

**What are the most common minerals to explore for in Oregon?** According to DOGAMI records, two-thirds of exploration applications are targeting gold or other precious metals (silver, platinum).

**What are the most unique minerals explored for in Oregon?** Lithium and Uranium.

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