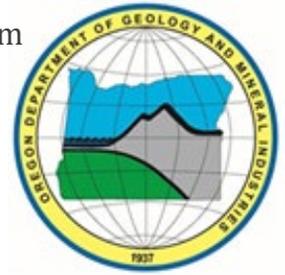


the newsletter of the **Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation** program

ENGAGe

Spring 2020



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

Do I need a permit for on-site construction activities?

In the 2019 legislative session, House Bill 3309 was passed. It amended the definition of surface mining (ORS.517.750) to exclude excavation or grading operations that are associated with on-site construction activities, and do not result in any excavated materials being sold into the commercial market. This amendment to the definition of surface mining went into effect on January 1, 2020.

What does this mean?

- Construction projects that excavate and *do sell into market* will still require an Operating Permit or Exclusion Certificate from DOGAMI.
- Construction projects that excavate and *do not sell into market* do not require an Operating Permit or Exclusion Certificate from DOGAMI.

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

ENGAGe Feature: Grassy Mountain Mine Project

On November 15, 2019, Calico Resources USA Corporation (Calico) filed a Consolidated Permit Application (CPA) under Oregon's chemical process mining laws and regulations. Calico is proposing to construct an underground gold mine, surface mill complex, and tailings storage facility at Grassy Mountain in Malheur County. The site includes both private and public lands. This CPA represents the first ever submitted to the state of Oregon.

DOGAMI is the lead agency for chemical process mining permitting in Oregon, with responsibility for coordinating a multi-agency review of the Grassy Mountain Mine Project CPA. On February 19, 2020, DOGAMI advised the applicant that, in conjunction with permitting and cooperating agencies, that the CPA was not complete and additional information was required.

More information on Chemical Process Mining in Oregon, the Grassy Mountain Project and opportunities for public comment on the application is available on our website:
https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr/chemicalprocess_Calico-GrassyMtn.htm

Contact Us at 541-967-2039 mlrr.info@oregon.gov
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DRY FALLS, WA – PHOTO TAKEN BY BECKY JOHNSON

Cari's Compliance Corner

On July 1, 2019, MLRR began using civil penalties as part of our enforcement program to bring mining sites into compliance with Oregon statute and rule.

First, we implemented civil penalties for the non-payment of renewal fees (more than 60 days late). Our Civil Penalties newsletter from Summer 2019 explains this in more detail. As a result of changes to the renewal timeline and these penalties, we have seen a steady decline in excessively late renewal payments! Thank you for your attention to the deadlines, as this allows staff to spend less time chasing fees and more time assisting applicants, permittees and the public.

DOGAMI is now implementing civil penalties for mining without a permit. DOGAMI will focus on sites that are operating without an Operating Permit from DOGAMI. Without appropriate regulation, there is no oversight on off-site impacts or reclamation once mining is completed. The sites may also be selling materials into market in competition with sites who are properly permitted. Depending on the severity of the violation, penalties for mining without a permit can be up to \$10,000 per day.

DOGAMI is striving to improve consistency and fairness in our enforcement program, while also providing support and advocating for voluntary compliance. In the future, civil penalties for mining without a permit will expand to include any mining activity conducted outside of your permit boundary (such as storing overburden, stockpiling, and excavation). A step you can take now to ensure compliance with your permit is to mark your permit boundary in the field.

If you have questions about compliance at your site, please contact DOGAMI's Mining Compliance Specialist – Cari Buchner at cari.buchner@oregon.gov or 541-967-2081.

Nominate For MLR Awards

Each year, the MLRR Program recognizes outstanding reclamation in several categories. We are continually seeking nominations for our annual Mined Land Reclamation Awards, and we encourage operators to nominate themselves.

With your help, we would like to identify operators who excel at the day-to-day operations of a site, perform high-quality reclamation, involve their companies in community service, or work to meet the goals of the Oregon Plan.

Nominations collected through March 15th are considered for this year's award.

For more details, please call 541-967-2149 or email ben.mundie@oregon.gov.

Please help DOGAMI-MLRR provide excellent customer service by taking our customer satisfaction survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MLRRCustomer>