

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

ENGAGE

**Special Pandemic
Edition May 2020**



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

To slow the spread of COVID-19, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order that Oregonians stay home except for essential needs. Health officials urge social or physical distancing, good hand hygiene and covering coughs.

For general information on COVID-19 in Oregon, **call 211** or visit <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.

DOGAMI OPERATIONS in RESPONSE to COVID-19

We hope this finds you well. DOGAMI would like you to know that our offices are still open to serve you. MLRR staff are coming into the Albany office on staggered schedules, and many of us are working from home. If you need to get in touch, the best way is via email and the general contact email address is mlrr.info@oregon.gov. The direct phone line is still 541-967-2039, but please be sure to leave a message so we may return your call.

Our goal during this unprecedented time is to work with you to continue business as safely and consistently as possible. To do our part to flatten the curve and limit the spread of COVID-19, we have implemented changes to the services we can offer during this time, beginning with suspending routine site inspections and conducting site visits only if the need is urgent and the visit can be conducted in a manner that keeps inspectors and on-site personnel safe.

In addition to limited site visits, you may also experience slightly longer processing times for applications, permits and complaints due to the coordination required with other entities and current scheduling constraints. We have also made the difficult decision to postpone the selection and presentation of this year's MLR Awards. We hope to bring those back online as soon as the program is in a more stable situation.

MLRR is aware that your world also feels turned upside-down. We are here to answer questions about your permits or to work out extensions to deadlines if necessary. Even with the possibility of extended timelines, we are still trying to keep it business as usual. This means that renewals will be sent at the beginning of the month that they are due. If you don't see your renewal by mid-month, please give us a call and we will resend it to you.

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

<https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr>

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation

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STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES.

ESSENTIAL
WORKERS,

THANK YOU
FOR ALLOWING
MY FAMILY
TO BE SAFE
AND INSIDE.

STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES.

INCREASED AWARENESS of QUARRY OPERATIONS

Following Executive Order 20-12, thousands of Oregonians are working from home or staying at home for the safety of others for an extended period of time. While most quarries haven't changed their operations, having people home during the day has increased calls to DOGAMI for complaints.

For example, in response to a blasting complaint, DOGAMI will reach out to the operator to notify them of the complaint and request the blasting reports for review against industry standard levels. We will then follow-up with both the operator and the complainant. This may take several days depending on the site circumstances and staff capacity. We encourage operators to reach out to their neighbors, and neighbors to ask to be added to the notification list to be alerted in advance of blasting.

We ask that everyone is patient with each other as we address these concerns.

Please plan ahead. The average time to process an operating permit is 5 months.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING RULE MAKING

MLRR has received approval from the DOGAMI Governing Board to initiate rule making on various topics. We will be holding Rule Advisory Committee meetings in the coming months to discuss proposed draft rule language with respect to:

- Executive Order 15-18: Oregon Sage Grouse Action Plan
- 2013 House Bill 2202: High Value Farmland in the Willamette Valley

The Rules Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public, but comments are not accepted during the meetings. Interested parties may attend the meetings to listen to the discussions and learn about the proposed rules. There will be an opportunity to submit comments on the rule language during the formal public comment period when the rules are filed with the Secretary of State's Office. The public comment period will be scheduled following the completion of the Rule Advisory Committee meetings.

The time, date, and options for listening in on these meetings will be posted on DOGAMI's website <https://www.oregongeology.org> and sent out to interested individuals via a new DOGAMI rule making listserv, <http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/dogami-rulemaking>. Please sign up for the list serv to be notified of this and any future rule making.

Sign up to get this newsletter: listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/mlrr.newsletter

Take our customer satisfaction survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020> Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey DOGAMI MLRR ENGAGE