



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter

January 2021

Chairman's Message

Governor Brown's 2021-2023 budget was released last month. Per that document, DOGAMI will cease to exist as an independent agency and will be phased out. This has been a concern for several years. While the mine regulatory program (MLRR) sustained itself through permit and operator fees, the "scientific" arm (Geological Survey and Services, or GSS) was often in the red in part due to dependence on grant funds. The governor's budget states the agency will be split in July 2021 along its component parts. GSS will be merged into the Dept of Land Conservation and Development, with some staff reductions. This may have (hopefully only temporary) effects on some of the DOGAMI tools and databases many technical folks like myself use: landslide inventories, LIDAR elevation data, geologic and tsunami mapping, etc. The budget linked below is 522 pages. I suggest you skip ahead to the discussion about DOGAMI on pp 165-166.

https://www.oregon.gov/das/financial/documents/2021-23_gb.pdf

More important to the mining industry, MLRR will be folded into the Dept of Environmental Quality (DEQ). There are no staff reductions being proposed, at least through the biennium. This change does create some concern, however, for how interaction with the industry might change under a different agency. I have worked with many of the current DOGAMI staff and can say they are supportive of the industry within the appropriate margins of their regulatory responsibilities. They understand the need for construction aggregates in our modern society, the challenges in operating a mine, and the long-distance planning required to keep aggregate supplies sustainable to local communities. I hope DEQ can adopt the same cooperative engagement and appreciation of the industry to make this transition effective for all.

I also regret to inform everyone that long-time member Melissa Mullins from Martin Creek Quarry is stepping down from her Board position. Her laughter and passion for standing up for the industry will be missed very much. Melissa, we wish you only the best.

Take care and be safe,

Erick Staley
Chairman

Safety Topics:



Annual Refresher Training Update for 2021

This year has proven to be quite difficult in preparing for our annual Part 46 refresher training classes. With our venues being under several COVID restrictions we have been working with them as well as with our instructors to insure we provide the best possible training to our members. If you are planning on attending one of our Part 46 training classes and you have not already done so please get your registration form in as soon as possible. If you need another form emailed to you or if you have any questions please let me know. **This year's registration deadline is February 5th.**

Thank you
Kellie Ramar
OIAA Secretary

Safepro MSHA Law Institute

The 2021 June Safepro Law Institute will be held in downtown Savannah Ga at the Hilton Garden Inn. Downtown Savannah offers many things to do and great restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

Safepro Institute will give you the information and knowledge to not only comply with MSHA law but to combat citations with which you do not agree. The institute covers the 1977 Mine Health and Safety Act as amended by the 2006 Miner's Act and 30 CFR standards. We will go into detail about Your company's responsibilities under the law and operator entitlements and inspector's responsibilities pertaining to the law. We will review what constitutes a S&S citation and 104d1 citation. You will be given a law manual which includes the two parts of the law and MSHA program policies. We will review a number of actual citations that have been issued over the years and how to defend against bad paper using the law manual. The seminar will cover part 46 training requirements and part 50 reporting requirements. By attending our institute, you will have the knowledge and confidence to handle the "imminent" MSHA inspection. Have your game plan and your people ready; remember your house must be in order to keep the government from controlling your business.

This institute represents the best way to bring your new people up to speed and refresh your supervisors, managers and lead people.

Spouses are welcome if your company allows you to bring them.

The Safepro hospitality room will be open Sunday night and every night after class with food and drinks along with a chance to talk with your instructors about any problems you and your company may face. To register go to safeproinc.com.

We only have **twelve** spots open for the 2021 June Law class. If you have anyone that needs to come sign up early.

Yours in Safe Production,

Dean

If anyone has any information they would like to share in next month's newsletter please let me know. Send your information to me at memberreply@oraggregate.com

We are currently looking for board members. If you are interested please contact the secretary for an application.

2021 Board of Directors

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Our next virtual board meeting will be held on February 17, 2021 at 9AM.
If you are interested in attending please contact our Chairman Erick Staley.

memberreply@oraggregate.com

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy