



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
PO Box 571
Stayton, Oregon 97383
www.oraaggregate.com

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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter

June 2020

Chairman's Message

DOGAMI is in the process of developing regulations to address “high-value” farm soils in the Willamette Valley. This stems from a 2013 House bill (HB2202) that was passed but has yet to be incorporated into mining regulations by DOGAMI. So, while this may be a surprise to some, it is actually overdue.

In a nutshell, the bill requires that a mine site located in the Willamette Valley must mine “substantially” all of the aggregate resource onsite if it is mapped in an area “predominately” in high-value farm soil (Class 1 and 2, using the USDA soil classification scheme). The resource must be mined out prior to any expansion effort. These would be sites that require a Goal 5 land-use process, which are typically large sites that must have a minimum thickness of aggregate resource in order to be permitted by the local authority. That thickness could be used to define how the amount of resource is calculated for a site, and later used to determine if a “substantial” amount has been mined.

As a geologist with an understanding of how resource deposits form, changes in resource quality, and other factors that cannot be easily predicted in the subsurface, this concept is flawed. While preliminary investigations (like drilling) may indicate a potential resource thickness and quality for the sake of land-use decisions, actually mining out a property reveals the true nature and extent of a deposit. Often, miners discover that Mamma Nature has surprises in store... Quality can drop, geologic contacts between units can shift, or undesirable interbeds can thicken and make deeper mining an unaffordable prospect. Put simply – and with a geologist's flair – schist happens.

OIAA has been communicating with DOGAMI to understand who this regulation might impact. I was able to listen in on the Rulemaking Committee meeting on June 11th. Comments were submitted for consideration, including how to interpret the quoted words above since they have important implications on how the regulation will be shaped. No final decisions were made; the Committee will meet again in July. OIAA will continue to track this and share developments with the association.

Hope everyone is doing OK, stay safe,

Erick Staley
Chairman

Safety Topics:



Ten Steps All Workplaces Can Take to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Coronavirus

All workplaces can take the following infection prevention measures to protect workers:

1. Encourage workers to stay home if sick
2. Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes
3. Provide a place to wash hands or alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60% alcohol
4. Limit worksite access to only essential workers, if possible
5. Establish flexible worksites (e.g., telecommuting) and flexible work hours (e.g., staggered shifts if feasible)
6. Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, or other work tools and equipment.
7. Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces, equipment, and other elements of the work environment
8. Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- approved cleaning chemicals with label claims against the coronavirus
9. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use of all cleaning and disinfection products
10. Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns

Information provided by OSHA Website



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OSHA 3994-01 2020

If anyone has any information they would like to share in next month's newsletter regarding how your business is doing thru these difficult times please let me know. Please send your email to me at memberreply@oraggregate.com

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Due to the COVID-19 current stay at home orders, we are working on the date and time of the next meeting.

memberreply@oraggregate.com

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy