



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
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www.oraggregate.com

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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter

December 2023

Chairman's Message

To OIAA Members and Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chairman for the past 8 years. It has been a pleasure to meet people and make friends at our annual training sessions, special workshops, board meetings, and other events. OIAA serves an important role for the Oregon mining industry, giving a voice and a support network for smaller miners and family businesses. Looking back at my first newsletter, this message still holds true:

"...[M]iners are misrepresented by widely held – and false – beliefs that they do not care about their actions or effects on their surroundings. In my experience, miners are more conscious of their long-term plans, environmental impact, and role in their communities than many other businesses. You deserve credit and thanks for what you provide to our built society, and it takes voices and good examples to spread the word.

The perception of the mining industry being "bad" for communities or the environment plays a direct role in how easily regulatory enforcement can be politicized. It is easy to punish "bad" people. I encourage each of you to interact with your communities, make your contributions known, and put a face to the hard working folks hidden behind the safety berms around your mine. Make it clear that you play a positive role in your communities, and it will be harder for others to vilify the industry and rationalize harsh enforcement."

As we head toward a new year, I encourage each of you to reflect on how you can sustain the good relationships with your community you've worked hard to culture, or how you can do better to overcome the common prejudices that can make it hard to be a miner.

And as always, thanks for your support of OIAA. Best of luck to you in 2024!

Erick Staley
Chairman

DOGAMI Update

Vaughn Balzer and other DOGAMI staff will be attending our February 7th board meeting. In addition to introducing new hires at their agency, Vaughn will provide a summary of a proposed rulemaking and be available to answer questions. The rulemaking is regarding the appeals process for DOGAMI actions other than contested cases. More details are due the first part of January 2024.

Note there will be a Public Hearing on January 24th, and the public comment process for the rulemaking ends February 2nd. See the attached summary for more details.



Albany, OR 97321-2246

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation Program
229 Broadalbin Street SW

(541) 967-2039
Fax (541) 967-2075

DOGAMI Update to OIAA

December 20, 2023

From: Vaughn Balzer, DOGAMI-MLRR Floodplain Mining Reclamationist and Rules Coordinator
To: OIAA Board and Members

DOGAMI wanted to provide the following updates to OIAA. In addition, I am happy to attend the next OIAA meeting on February 7 to provide more details and answer any questions. Note that I will invite DOGAMI's new hires (see below) to the meeting, however I won't be able to confirm their attendance until closer to the meeting date.

Updates:

1. **Rulemaking OAR 632-030-0056: "Appeals Process For Orders In Other Than Contested Cases"**
Rule Summary: This rule is being amended to align the rule text with Oregon Revised Statute 517.880. The Department's intent when issuing a suspension order is to prevent adverse impacts adjacent properties and/or the environment by requiring the immediate suspension of mining operations at any surface mining site where the operator has not complied with or is not complying with the operating permit, reclamation plan, or Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter.

The rule change only applies to Suspension Orders. Note that most permit compliance issues are resolved prior to DOGAMI issuing a Suspension Order. Currently there are only 13 Suspension Orders in effect.

The official Notice will be published on January 2, 2024, and will include the rule text that is proposed to be changed and provide the details on how to make comments during the Public Comment period. DOGAMI will share the Notice with OIAA once it has been published.

2. DOGAMI Staffing Update:

- a. Melissa Carley (MS, GIT) joined MLRR as our new Aggregate Permitting Reclamationist on Monday July 10, 2023.
- b. DOGAMI has a new Mining Geologist starting in January. DOGAMI will introduce the new hire after they have been formally on boarded.

3. **Pending Stormwater Training:** Lisa Reinhart of DOGAMI is participating in a stormwater training on February 1 at Chemeketa Community College in downtown Salem. OCAPA is sponsoring the training, however, the training is open for non-members to attend. There is also a Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL) training with an optional Field Day the day before in Albany OR that may be available at a discounted rate for those who attend the training on February 1. The stormwater Best Management Practices training and CESCL training will be posted on the OCAPA website (<https://www.ocapa.net/>) approximately 1 month in advance.



Congratulations to our new officers for 2024

Erwin Hackett - President

William Leavens – Vice President

Melissa Bronson – Secretary/Treasurer

Training

Training is the means of
Acquisition of knowledge
Training has specific
basic training require
continue training
...ativ

Our Annual Part 46 training is fast approaching. The registration form will be available mid-January. Be sure to watch for it via email and get registered as soon as possible. Space will be limited.

Albany - March 12, 2024

Roseburg – March 13, 2024

Attention OIAA member contacts

Please keep us updated on contact changes and email changes for your company.

Is there someone in your company that you would like to receive this newsletter? Please send information to memberreply@oregonaggregate.com

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Next Board Meeting Wednesday February 7th 2024

Our next Board meeting will be held at the offices of KPD Insurance 1111 Gateway Loop Springfield, Oregon on **February 7th at 10AM**. All members are welcome.