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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association  
PO Box 571  
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[www.oraggregate.com](http://www.oraggregate.com)*

## *Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter*

***September 2025***

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### **Spotlight: DOGAMI, Permitting, and Resources for Oregon's Aggregate Industry**

With MSHA, DOGAMI is the other main regulator in Oregon for those in the aggregate industry. For those who are already in or thinking of becoming a part of the aggregate surface mining industry in Oregon, it requires navigating a thoughtful but complex regulatory framework. At the center of this process is **DOGAMI**—the *Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries*. DOGAMI oversees permitting, compliance, and reclamation for aggregate surface mining operations across the state, ensuring that projects are conducted responsibly and in line with state law

If you are considering starting or expanding a surface mine in Oregon, here are a few important steps and resources to keep in mind:

#### **Understanding Permitting**

- **Start Early:** The permitting process with DOGAMI involves environmental, safety, and land-use considerations that can take significant time to coordinate. Early planning avoids costly delays.

- **Coordinate Locally:** Many counties and municipalities have their own requirements that align with or complement DOGAMI regulations. Be proactive in working with both DOGAMI and local jurisdictions.
- **Plan for Reclamation:** DOGAMI requires reclamation plans that describe how mined land will be restored. Building this into your business plan early demonstrates good stewardship and builds community trust.
- **Stay Informed**

For timely updates on permitting rules, policies, and regulatory changes, we recommend reading **ENGAGe**, DOGAMI's dedicated newsletter. It offers practical insights for operators, applicants, and anyone interested in Oregon's aggregate industry. The ENGAGe newsletter can be found on DOGAMI's website at <https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/mlrr/Pages/default.aspx>. The most recent ENGAGe newsletter is included here. There is also plenty of other helpful information on DOGAMI's website that is useful to those in the industry.

### Helpful Tips for Operators New and Old

- **Build Relationships:** Establish strong communication with DOGAMI staff and local regulators—they are valuable partners in helping you navigate requirements.
- **Seek Mentorship:** Connect with experienced operators within OIAA or other groups who have successfully operated in Oregon. Their real-world advice can save time and effort.
- **Invest in Compliance:** Understanding safety and environmental requirements upfront not only reduces regulatory risk but also helps build credibility with your community.
- **Use Industry Resources:** Look at DOGAMI and MSHA as not only a regulator but proactively as a resource to keep your operations in regulatory order. OIAA provides yearly miner training as required by MSHA. Leverage these to stay ahead of industry changes.

The aggregate surface mining industry in Oregon is both a challenge and an opportunity. With the right preparation, following the guidance from DOGAMI, and support from others in the industry, operators can position themselves for long-term success.

*Article provided by Erwin Hackett – Chairman*

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## ***Attention!!***

***We welcome and encourage all of our members to become more involved with our association. You are welcome to attend our meetings anytime. Please contact any of our board members for information on how you can become more involved, ways we can improve our association and information regarding our upcoming meetings.***

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.ORAGGREGATE.COM](http://WWW.ORAGGREGATE.COM)

We are always looking for information to print in the newsletter. If you have a specific article, safety information, or any other information you think will be helpful and of interest to our members, please submit them to [memberreply@oraggregate.com](mailto:memberreply@oraggregate.com)

With two of our founding member directors retiring from our board, we are currently looking to add to our Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining us please contact any of the board of directors or come to the next meeting to discuss the possibility.

## ***Current Board of Directors***

Erwin Hackett – Chairman  
Bill Leavens – Vice chairman  
Melissa Bronson – Secretary-Treasurer  
Erick Staley  
Bill Ruchti  
Andrew Siegmund

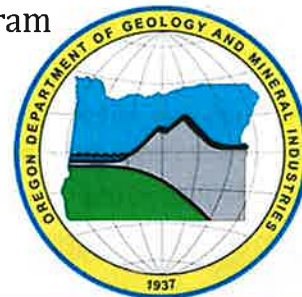
***The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2025 10AM  
at the office of KPD – Springfield, Oregon  
All members are welcome to attend.***

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

# ENGAGe

Spring 2025

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



## DOGAMI Permitting Timelines

**Reminder:** DOGAMI continues to experience an unprecedented volume of applications, inquiries, complaints, and compliance actions that has resulted in an increase in processing and response times. Thank you for your patience as we work through our increased workload.

Here are some things you can do to help the application process along:

- Set up a pre-application meeting with our staff to discuss your surface mining project and identify requirements and any additional considerations.
- If you are amending your permit or interested in past information about a site, request a copy of the site file via a Public Records Request (PRR). *Please note there may be a fee for a PRR submitted by anyone other than the current permittee.*
- Submit applications that are as *administratively complete* (have all the required elements) and *technically sound* (accurately reflect your proposed plans) as possible to prevent requests for additional information and reduce necessary revisions.

To increase the effectiveness of your communications:

- Send detailed questions *via email if possible* – the more specific you can be about your question or request, the faster we can get back to you or route your inquiry to the appropriate resource. Always include the DOGAMI Site ID number, if you have one.
- Consolidate messages into a single email so your questions can be answered all at once; receiving multiple emails over a few days will increase the time it takes to prepare a thorough response.

***DOGAMI strives to process permit applications as quickly as possible to facilitate applicant/permittee compliance with Oregon law. We appreciate your patience and understanding.***

## ENGAGe Feature: Public Records Request Website!

IT'S FINALLY HERE! A website that tells you how to request public records from DOGAMI! I (Becky Johnson, Office Operations Assistant and Public Records Manager for the MLRR Program) had to go shout it out in nature I was so excited (see picture on right).

Now instead of emailing one of the permitting staff or calling your favorite Reclamationist, the email address is right on the website, along with what needs to be included with your request! Also included on the website is the fee schedule set by the Department of Administrative Services. If you ever have questions About public records or making a public records request – you know where to go: <https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/mlrr/Pages/public-records-requests.aspx>



Contact us at 541-967-2039 [mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov](mailto:mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov)

<https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/mlrr>

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation

229 Broadalbin St. SW, Albany, OR 97321



## **DOGAMI TALK: Exclusion Certificates**

Over the past six months, there has been a significant increase in Exclusion Certificate (EC) applications. As such, we felt it timely to provide a refresher on what ECs are, clarify the circumstances in which an EC is not required (though we remain available to assist if there is any uncertainty), and offer some practical guidance to support applicants throughout the process.



To start, we've expanded our EC application processing team! Becky Johnson, Office Operations Assistant is still happy to answer general questions, while Nicole Ledbetter, GIT (seen in photo on left with Ceasar the No Drama Llama), who is one of MLRR's wonderful "new" Permit Specialists. Nicole started with the Department back in May 2024 and has already become an integral part of our team.

Now to jump in with a refresher. **Exclusion Certificates** are certificates that are required for mining activity that removes less than 5,000 cubic yards and affects less than one acre of land within a 12-month period. [Operating Permits are required for mining activities above these thresholds.] You can find the statute that governs Exclusion Certificates under ORS 517.753 and the administrative rule under OAR 632-030-0016. We have a very helpful FAQ regarding ECs that can be found on our website: [https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/mlrr/forms/sufacemining/20220818\\_OP\\_EC\\_XP\\_byLaw\\_AgencyLogo.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/dogami/mlrr/forms/sufacemining/20220818_OP_EC_XP_byLaw_AgencyLogo.pdf)

### **Applying for an EC:**

When you apply for an EC, you are required to submit 3 things: a completely and correctly filled out application, proof of land ownership (which comes in the form of a listing packet or "TRIO" from your local title company), and an \$80 fee (currently; that is subject to change). Things we often see with applications that are incorrect:

- Missing TRIO (it is free for you to request this from your local title company)
- Incorrect legal description (if this is wrong it will get your application denied, please double check)
- Date mining activities began/if the area was mined (we have the ability to check... Please be honest)
- Signatures (we need ALL landowner and mineral owner signatures – except BLM)

**\*\*IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS – PLEASE CONTACT US BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION!\*\***

### **Exemptions to needing an EC:**

**Road Building:** If you are excavating and building roads/doing road maintenance for a farm or logging roads on a farm or on the tax lot that the logging roads exist on, and none of the product from your excavation is being sold – you don't need an EC. If your excavation area is in one location and you have to drive on a public road, highway, or across someone else's property to get to the roads you want to build or maintain - you would need an EC. Questions about whether your situation would be exempt? Contact us – **541-967-2039** or [mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov](mailto:mlrr.info@dogami.oregon.gov)

**Exclusion Certificate Closure–** DOGAMI requires a minimum of 30 days notice **before** your renewal is due for closure requests. If you are not planning on renewing your EC for the next year, make sure you are giving us written notice at least 30 days before your renewal is **due**. More time is always appreciated! This includes instances where you want to "transfer" your Exclusion Certificate. DOGAMI doesn't have statutory authority to transfer ECs, so we need a written request 30 days before the renewal due date from the current certificate holder to close the site, before we can process a new EC application for the same site.

***If you'd like to receive this newsletter via email, sign up for our listserv:  
<https://omls.oregon.gov/mailman/listinfo/mlrr.newsletter>***