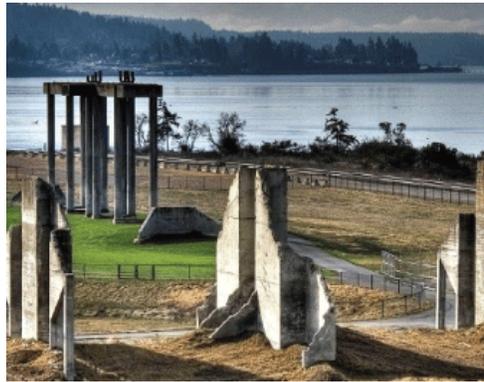




Sustaining surface mine reclamation

HB 1406 (Barkis)



FEE ADJUSTMENTS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN EFFECTIVENESS OF MINE RECLAMATION

Surface mining is vital to Washington's economy and infrastructure like roads, buildings and homes.

DNR's Surface Mine Reclamation Program is responsible for overseeing Washington's 950 surface mines are reclaimed so they provide subsequent, beneficial uses and safe stable slopes after mining is finished. This requires field inspections by trained geologists.

State law requires the program pay for itself through fees paid by miners. This is not possible under the current fee structure, which has not changed since 2006.

Fully funded, the program costs \$1.98 million a year in the 2015-17 biennium.

Earlier this year, DNR worked with industry to determine appropriate adjustments to the fee structure. That resulted in the following recommendations:

- Adjust new permit fees from \$2,500 to \$4,500
- Replace tiered annual permits with a flat fee of \$2,000
- Adjust permit revision fees from \$1,000 to \$2,500

This new rate structure simplifies administration and fee collection, allowing staff to focus on processing permits and giving mines proper oversight. Annual permit revenue would increase from \$1.56 million to \$2.01 million a year and fill 2.5 FTE vacancies.

Request: Adjust RCW 78.44.085 to reflect fee structure adjustments.

Reclamation permit fees fund sufficient staff to ensure mine reclamation conforms to standards in RCW 78.44

Surface mining contributes over **\$400 million** to our state's economy every year

Supported by the Surface Mine Advisory Committee, comprised of the following individuals and corporations:

- **Bruce Chattin**, Washington Concrete and Aggregate Association
- **Dave Lewis**, Miles Sand and Gravel Company
- **Jana McDonald**, Central Pre-Mix Concrete Company
- **Bill Sayer**, Cadman Inc.
- **Pete Stoltz**, CalPortland
- **Dan O'Neill**, Great Western Supply
- **Grant Newport**, Weyerhaeuser
- **Andy Wisner**, Whatcom County Planning Department
- **Sanjay Barik**, Washington State Department of Ecology
- **Gregor Myhr**, Washington State Department of Transportation

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