

Siskiyou County Mining Program

25 Active Mines

3 Idle Mines

2 Under Reclamation





Monitoring includes:

- One Annual Inspection
- Review of Estimated Reclamation Costs
- Financial Assurances
- Annual Production Reports

Timeline

On-site inspections occur within one year of the previous inspection, normally between September and December each year. The inspection report is due to the State DMR within 90 days of the inspection date.

Financial Assurances must be in the amount equal to or greater than the approved FACE. Upon notice of the FACE approval, the operator has 30 days to adjust the FAM.

SMARA requires the Lead Agency (the County) to set fees which cover the cost to manage the program. These fees remain at \$1400 annually.



The FACE is prepared by the mine operator and is due to the County within 30 days of the Annual Inspection.

The County has 60 days to review the FACE. It is normally submitted to the State DMR with the Annual Inspection Report.

The Annual Production Report with applicable fees is due to the State DMR by July 1 each year.

Common Issues

Reporting
MRRC-2
FACE

Boundaries
Perimeter
Depth

Reclamation
Slope
Vegetation
Monitoring

Violation Enforcement - SMARA § 2774.1

Notice of Violation

- Provide actions necessary to correct the violation.
- Provide 30 days to correct the violation.

Stipulated Order to Comply

- Should the operator and County agree that the correction may take more than 30 days, they may enter into a stipulated Order to Comply. This must include a schedule and time for compliance.

Order to Comply

- If the operator does not return to compliance or enter into a Stipulated Order to Comply within 30 day of the NOV, the County may issue a Order to Comply in which the operator must return to compliance or cease operations. The order becomes effective 30 days from issuance.

Violations – Not all violations are alike

Form Submittal Deadlines - Issues

- Banks and Lenders
 - Unable to process Financial Assurance Amendments within 30 days
- Obtaining necessary quotes and costs for FACE.
- Increased scrutiny by DMR

Mine Site Issues

- Mining outside of bounds or not in accordance with the Reclamation Plan
- Invasive plants – Starthistle
- Unable to obtain approved seed mix
- Unable to obtain application equipment – Hydroseeding
- Lack of Monitoring

Hello Ms. Cizin,

The Division of Mine Reclamation (Division) is processing Annual Reports and annual fees (MRRC-2) submitted by owner/operators for reporting year 2024, which were due to the Division and lead agencies by July 1, 2025, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) section 2207. As of the date of this email notice, the Division has not received the MRRC-2 form or the reporting fees from the owner/operator of the following sites:

91-47-0010, Rebecca – Deboy Mine
91-47-0051, Greystone Mine
91-47-0058, Rungi Pit

Pursuant to PRC section 2774.1(g)(1), this email constitutes a 30-day notice from the Division, allowing the County of Siskiyou to exercise primary responsibility to take appropriate enforcement actions under PRC sections 2774.1(c) and 2207(c). At minimum, an appropriate enforcement action in these cases is a notice of violation to the owner/operator for failing to file the annual report and related fee by July 1, 2025, along with a notice indicating administrative penalties may be assessed by the County of Siskiyou.

If the County of Siskiyou has received their copy of the Annual Report under PRC section 2207(b)(1) for any of the operations listed above, please advise me so that I can review the Division's records. Otherwise, the Division will continue to monitor this matter for 30 days after which it may exercise its authority to initiate appropriate enforcement actions, which may include the assessment of administrative penalties under PRC sections 2774.1(c) and 2207(c).



Roger Le-Hinds

Reporting Unit Analyst
Division of Mine Reclamation
California Department of Conservation
715 P Street, MS 1905, Sacramento, CA 95814

E: Roger.Le-Hinds@conservation.ca.gov



[We partner with local, state, and federal agencies to reclaim and remediate environments disturbed by mining, to benefit people and wildlife.](#)

Example of DMR Oversight

- SMARA allows for the State DMR to take enforcement action when the Lead Agency has not.

Should the County not enforce requirements under SMARA and within the approved reclamation plan, DMR has the authority to initiate enforcement actions.

Why are operators not sticking to their reclamation plans and complying with SMARA?

- Costs associated with requirements within their plans
- Complicated and time-consuming reporting requirement – Financial Assurance Cost Estimate
- They have no intent to resume mining
- Lock up the competition
- Costs associated with a necessary reclamation plan amendment
- It is easier to ask for forgiveness than seek permission (or so they believe)
- Lack of consistency with enforcement by the County

Failure to Comply

- Fines
 - Up to \$5,000 per day from the date of noncompliance





Appeals

- A Public Hearing must be held within 45 days of the filing of the appeal, unless a longer period of time is mutually agreed upon by the County and the Operator.



Summary

The Planning Commission is the approval authority for Use Permits and Reclamation Plans which regulate Surface Mines. The PC is also the review authority for Appeals to SMARA Violations. It is important to keep up to date on the challenges staff encounters with established mines to better understand why recommendations are made for new proposed mines that come before the Commission. Staff is additionally requesting direction regarding fair and effective enforcement for when it becomes necessary.