



The Surface Mining & Reclamation Division oversees coal exploration, mining and reclamation activities in Texas. In our regulatory role we ensure operators follow Commission rules and regulations established to protect public health and safety, the environment and natural resources.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Surface Coal Mining & Exploration Program

- Evaluate coal mining permit applications and mining operation and reclamation plans to ensure that: permittees comply with the Texas Coal Mining Regulations; and, coal mines are operated in a manner that protects the public and the environment during mining and reclamation. Inspects coal mine & reclamation sites monthly.
- Assure that the mined land is restored to a beneficial use following mining through inspection and enforcement activities and effective evaluation of applications for release of reclamation liability.
- Review permittee’s proof of financial assurance to ensure it is equal to the estimated cost of reclamation.

Abandoned Mine Land Program

- Reclamation of pre-law (prior to August 3, 1977) abandoned mines is funded by a production tax on existing coal mining operations in Texas.
- Reclaims abandoned mines through earthwork, burial or treatment of spoil, installation of erosion and water control structures, and revegetation.
- Closes dangerous abandoned underground mine openings by backfilling, capping with concrete or metal grating or installing metal gates.

Uranium Exploration Program

- Reviews permittees’ uranium exploration and mining permit applications to assure compliance with applicable regulations.
- Regulates uranium surface mining (note there no current Texas uranium surface mining operations in existence).
- Regulates uranium exploration activities conducted for in-situ uranium mining (regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), which uses in-situ leaching or solution mining to recover uranium.
- Inspects active uranium exploration sites monthly.



PUBLIC DATA & RECORDS

- Mining Permit applications; related file materials including operation and reclamation plans; applications to update or modify plans; inspection and enforcement documents.



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