



Fast Track Proposed Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	4 VAC 25-31
Regulation title	Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining
Action title	Amendment to repeal unnecessary and duplicative regulations
Date this document prepared	December 7, 2012

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Brief summary

Please provide a brief summary (no more than 2 short paragraphs) of the proposed new regulation, proposed amendments to the existing regulation, or the regulation proposed to be repealed. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes.

As part of Governor McDonnell's Regulatory Reform Initiative, this regulatory action repeals two sections which are unnecessary or duplicative. No substantive changes are made to the regulations

Statement of final agency action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including (1) the date the action was taken, (2) the name of the agency taking the action, and (3) the title of the regulation.

On December 7, 2012, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) adopted amendments to Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining.

Legal basis

Please identify the state and/or federal legal authority to promulgate this proposed regulation, including (1) the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia or General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable, and (2) promulgating entity, i.e., agency, board, or person. Your citation should include a specific provision authorizing the promulgating entity to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency/board/person’s overall regulatory authority.

DMME is authorized to promulgate regulations necessary to the performance of its duties under §45.1-161.3 of the Code of Virginia. §45.1-180.3 gives the Director of DMME specific authority over the reclamation of mineral mines. This authority is mandatory.

Purpose

Please explain the need for the new or amended regulation. Describe the rationale or justification of the proposed regulatory action. Detail the specific reasons the regulation is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. Discuss the goals of the proposal and the problems the proposal is intended to solve.

The purpose of this action is to reduce repeal unnecessary or duplicative regulations. There are no substantive changes to the regulation.

Rationale for using fast track process

Please explain the rationale for using the fast track process in promulgating this regulation. Why do you expect this rulemaking to be noncontroversial?

Please note: If an objection to the use of the fast-track process is received within the 30-day public comment period from 10 or more persons, any member of the applicable standing committee of either house of the General Assembly or of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the agency shall (i) file notice of the objections with the Registrar of Regulations for publication in the Virginia Register, and (ii) proceed with the normal promulgation process with the initial publication of the fast-track regulation serving as the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action.

This rulemaking is expected to be noncontroversial as unnecessary or duplicative regulations are being repealed.

Substance

Please briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both where appropriate. (Provide more detail about these changes in the “Detail of changes” section.) Please be sure to define any acronyms.

Two sections of 4VAC25-31 are being repealed because they are duplicative or unnecessary. No substantive changes are being made.

Issues

Please identify the issues associated with the proposed regulatory action, including:

- 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions;*
- 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and*
- 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public.*

If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, please indicate.

The primary advantage is simplifying the administrative code by eliminating unnecessary or duplicative regulations. There are no disadvantages.

Requirements more restrictive than federal

Please identify and describe any requirement of the proposal which is more restrictive than applicable federal requirements. Include a rationale for the need for the more restrictive requirements. If there are no applicable federal requirements or no requirements that exceed applicable federal requirements, include a statement to that effect.

There are no requirements that exceed applicable federal requirements.

Localities particularly affected

Please identify any locality particularly affected by the proposed regulation. Locality particularly affected means any locality which bears any identified disproportionate material impact which would not be experienced by other localities.

There are no particularly affected localities.

Regulatory flexibility analysis

Please describe the agency's analysis of alternative regulatory methods, consistent with health, safety, environmental, and economic welfare, that will accomplish the objectives of applicable law while minimizing the adverse impact on small business. Alternative regulatory methods include, at a minimum:

- 1) the establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements;*
- 2) the establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements;*
- 3) the consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements;*
- 4) the establishment of performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation; and*
- 5) the exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the proposed regulation.*

This regulation was reviewed in its entirety as part of Governor McDonnell’s Regulatory Reform Initiative. The proposed sections were identified as candidates for repeal as they are unnecessary or duplicative.

Economic impact

Please identify the anticipated economic impact of the proposed new regulations or amendments to the existing regulation. When describing a particular economic impact, please specify which new requirement or change in requirement creates the anticipated economic impact.

Projected cost to the state to implement and enforce the proposed regulation, including (a) fund source / fund detail, and (b) a delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures	\$0. This action will not result in any additional cost to implement.
Projected cost of the new regulations or changes to existing regulations on localities.	\$0. This action does not affect localities.
Description of the individuals, businesses or other entities likely to be affected by the new regulations or changes to existing regulations.	This action affects mineral mine operators.
Agency’s best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected. Please include an estimate of the number of small businesses affected. Small business means a business entity, including its affiliates, that (i) is independently owned and operated and (ii) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.	There are 433 mineral operations currently in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Approximately 90% of these (roughly 390) would qualify as small businesses.
All projected costs of the new regulations or changes to existing regulations for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities. Please be specific and include all costs. Be sure to include the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance by small businesses. Specify any costs related to the development of real estate for commercial or residential purposes that are a consequence of the proposed regulatory changes or new regulations.	This action will not increase costs on operators. No substantive changes are being proposed.
Beneficial impact the regulation is designed to produce.	This action is designed to eliminate duplicative or unnecessary regulations.

Alternatives

Please describe any viable alternatives to the proposal considered and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the action. Also, include discussion of less intrusive or less costly alternatives for small businesses, as defined in §2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia, of achieving the purpose of the regulation.

The sole alternative to this regulation is to leave the duplicative or unnecessary burdensome current language in place. This would contravene the purpose of Governor McDonnell’s Regulatory Reform Initiative.

Family impact

Please assess the impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one’s spouse, and one’s children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.

This action would have no impact on the family or family stability.

Detail of changes

Please list all changes that are being proposed and the consequences of the proposed changes. If the proposed regulation is a new chapter, describe the intent of the language and the expected impact. Please describe the difference between existing regulation(s) and/or agency practice(s) and what is being proposed in this regulatory action.

*If the proposed regulation is intended to replace an emergency regulation, please list separately (1) all differences between the **pre-emergency** regulation and this proposed regulation, and (2) only changes made since the publication of the emergency regulation.*

For changes to existing regulation(s), use this chart:

Current section number	Proposed new section number, if applicable	Current requirement	Proposed change, intent, rationale, and likely impact of proposed requirements
50	n/a	“The Mineral Mine Operator’s Manual is a non-regulatory guidance document to assist operators in complying with Title 45.1 of the Code of Virginia. The manual may be obtained from the division.”	Delete regulation. This regulation provides no regulatory guidance and is not required by law. This information is obtainable to operators through other sources.
550		“If the post-mining use is to be intensive agriculture, the planting and harvesting of a normal crop yield is required. A normal yield for a particular crop is equal to the five-year	Delete regulation. This regulation is redundant with 4 VAC 25-31-290 – Intensive agricultural use.

		average for the county. The use of grass, water bars, or diversion strips and natural vegetative drainage control may be require in the initial planting year as specified by the director”	
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