

**B-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 599**

Ordered by the House May 15  
Including Senate Amendments dated March 30 and House Amendments  
dated May 15

Sponsored by Senator MORSE

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Modifies definition of "surface mining."

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to surface mining; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 517.750.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 517.750 is amended to read:

5 517.750. As used in ORS 517.702 to 517.989, unless the context requires otherwise:

6 (1) "Board" means the governing board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Indus-  
7 tries.

8 (2) "Completion" means termination of surface mining activities including reclamation of the  
9 surface-mined land in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and operating permit.

10 (3) "Department" means the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

11 (4) "Exploration" means all activities conducted on or beneath the surface of the earth for the  
12 purpose of determining presence, location, extent, grade or economic viability of a deposit. "Explo-  
13 ration" does not include prospecting or chemical processing of minerals.

14 (5) "Explorer" means, notwithstanding the provisions of ORS 517.810 (2), any individual, public  
15 or private corporation, political subdivision, agency, board or department of this state, any munici-  
16 pality, partnership, association, firm, trust, estate or any other legal entity whatsoever that is en-  
17 gaged in exploration.

18 (6) "Landowner" means:

19 (a) The person possessing fee title to the natural mineral deposit being surface mined or ex-  
20 plored; and

21 (b) The owner of an equitable interest in land that is subject to a deed of trust.

22 (7) "Minerals" includes soil, coal, clay, stone, sand, gravel, metallic ore and any other solid  
23 material or substance excavated for commercial, industrial or construction use from natural deposits  
24 situated within or upon lands in this state.

25 (8) "Operator" means any individual, public or private corporation, political subdivision, agency,  
26 board or department of this state, any municipality, partnership, association, firm, trust, estate or  
27 any other legal entity whatsoever that is engaged in surface mining operations.

28 (9) "Overburden" means the soil, rock and similar materials that lie above natural deposits of

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 minerals.

2 (10) "Person" means any person, any federal agency or any public body, as defined in ORS  
3 174.109.

4 (11) "Processing" includes, but is not limited to, crushing, washing, milling and screening as well  
5 as the batching and blending of mineral aggregate into asphalt and portland cement concrete located  
6 within the operating permit area.

7 (12) "Reclamation" means the employment in a surface mining operation or exploration of pro-  
8 cedures reasonably designed to:

9 (a) Minimize, as much as practicable, the adverse effects of the surface mining operation or ex-  
10 ploration on land, air and water resources; and

11 (b) Provide for the rehabilitation of surface resources adversely affected by the surface mining  
12 operations or exploration through the rehabilitation of plant cover, soil stability and water re-  
13 sources and through other measures that contribute to the subsequent beneficial use of the explored,  
14 mined or reclaimed lands.

15 (13) "Reclamation plan" means a written proposal, submitted to the department as required by  
16 ORS 517.702 to 517.989 and subsequently approved by the department as provided in ORS 517.702  
17 to 517.989, for the reclamation of the land area adversely affected by a surface mining operation or  
18 exploration and including, but not limited to the following information:

19 (a) Proposed measures to be undertaken by the operator in protecting the natural resources of  
20 adjacent lands.

21 (b) Proposed measures for the rehabilitation of the explored or surface-mined lands and the  
22 procedures to be applied.

23 (c) The procedures to be applied in the surface mining operation or exploration to control the  
24 discharge of contaminants and the disposal of surface mining refuse.

25 (d) The procedures to be applied in the surface mining operation or exploration in the rehabili-  
26 tation of affected stream channels and stream banks to a condition minimizing erosion,  
27 sedimentation and other factors of pollution.

28 (e) The map required by ORS 517.790 (1)(e) and such other maps and supporting documents as  
29 may be requested by the department.

30 (f) A proposed time schedule for the completion of reclamation operations.

31 (g) Requirements of the exploration permit.

32 (14) "Surface impacts of underground mining" means all waste materials produced by under-  
33 ground mining and placed upon the surface including, but not limited to, waste dumps, mill tailings,  
34 washing plant fines and all surface subsidence related to underground mining.

35 (15)(a) "Surface mining" includes all or any part of the process of mining minerals by the re-  
36 moval of overburden and the extraction of natural mineral deposits thereby exposed by any method  
37 by which more than 5,000 cubic yards of minerals are extracted or by which at least one acre of  
38 land is affected within a period of 12 consecutive calendar months, including open-pit mining oper-  
39 ations, auger mining operations, processing, surface impacts of underground mining, production of  
40 surface mining refuse and the construction of adjacent or off-site borrow pits (except those con-  
41 structed for use as access roads).

42 (b) "Surface mining" does not include:

43 (A) Excavations of sand, gravel, clay, rock or other similar materials conducted by the land-  
44 owner or tenant for the primary purpose of construction, reconstruction or maintenance of access  
45 roads on the same parcel or on an adjacent parcel that is under the same ownership as the parcel

1 that is being excavated;

2 (B) Excavation or grading operations, reasonably necessary for farming;

3 (C) Nonsurface effects of underground mining; *[or]*

4 (D) Removal of rock, gravel, sand, silt or other similar substances removed from the beds or  
5 banks of any waters of this state pursuant to a permit issued under ORS 196.800 to 196.900[.]; **or**

6 **(E) Excavations or reprocessing of aggregate material, or grading operations, within the**  
7 **highway right of way reasonably necessary for the construction, reconstruction or mainte-**  
8 **nance of a highway as defined in ORS 801.305.**

9 (16) "Surface mining refuse" means all waste materials, soil, rock, mineral, liquid, vegetation and  
10 other materials resulting from or displaced by surface mining operations within the operating permit  
11 area, including all waste materials deposited in or upon lands within the operating permit area.

12 (17) "Underground mining" means all human-made excavations below the surface of the ground  
13 through shafts or adits for the purpose of exploring for, developing or producing valuable minerals.

14 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 517.750 by section 1 of this 2009 Act apply to all**  
15 **operating permits for surface mining whether issued before, on or after the effective date**  
16 **of this 2009 Act.**

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