

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/02/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/26, 05/28, 06/02

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Esquivel, Frederick, Gorsek, Krieger, McLain, Whitsett, Witt

Exc: 1 - McKeown

Prepared By: Chuck Gallagher, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) to provide notice to local jurisdiction and opportunity for local jurisdiction to request DOGAMI delay decision on operating permit and reclamation plan. Requires DOGAMI to give local jurisdiction notice and opportunity to provide comments prior to issuing operating permit and reclamation plan if local jurisdiction does not request delay. Requires DOGAMI to give certain information about proposed operating permit and reclamation plan to local jurisdiction. Applies to operating permits applied for on or after effective date of Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for improved communication and notice between agency and local government
- Ways to provide greater predictability in the permit process
- Need for advance planning to insure adequate notice without redundancy and unnecessary delay

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon the eligibility for a parcel of land to be mined rests with the land use authority, most commonly a county. The land use authority also establishes the secondary beneficial use to which the land must be reclaimed. The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) - Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation permit has two main functions: it insures that when mining occurs, off-site impacts are minimized and that the site is mined in a way that guarantees the reclamation will be completed. To obtain a permit, a company or individual submits an application that contains a mine plan, a reclamation plan, appropriate baseline information characterizing the existing environment and an application fee.

Senate Bill 361A would revise the process that DOGAMI follows when working with local jurisdictions to issue operating permits and reclamation plans.