

Senate Committee on Natural Resources, March 20, 2023, Follow-up response regarding SB 220

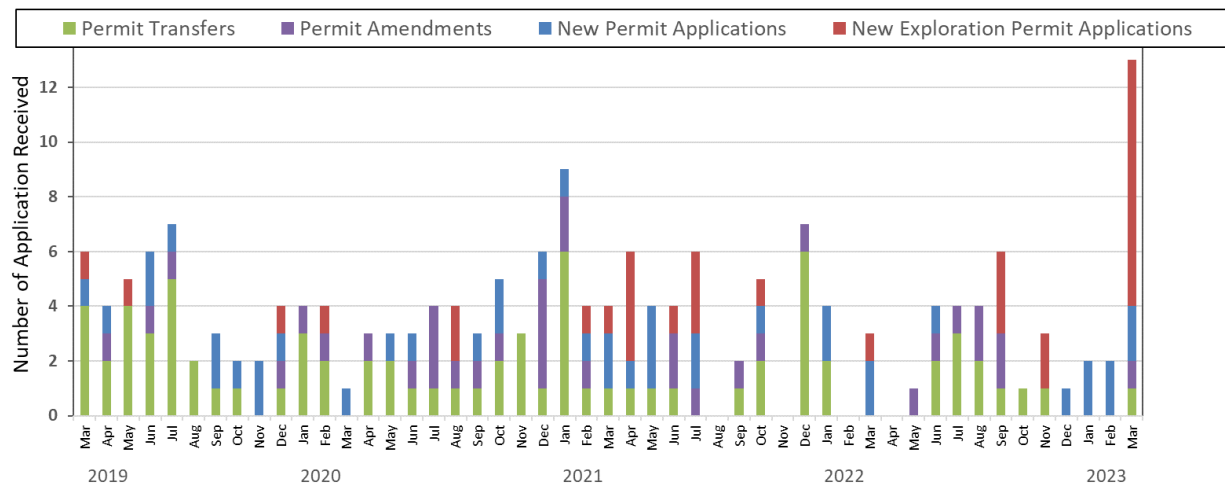
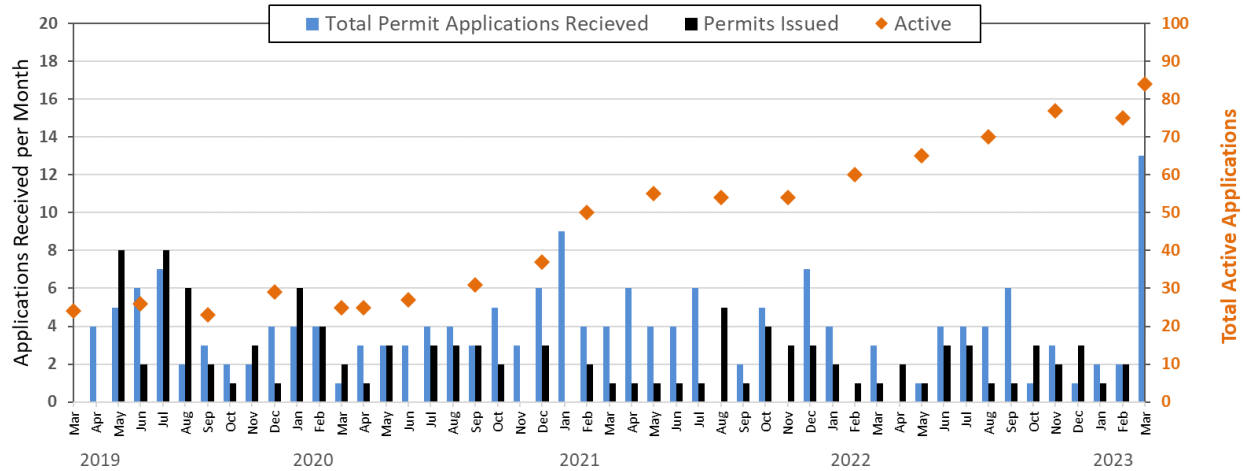
Question: “Can you provide me the total number of outstanding permits broken down into 1) new permits, 2) transfer permits, 3) Amendments to Existing Permits. 4) Limited Exempt or Exclusion Certificate applications?”

Answer: At the time of DOGAMI’s budget bill informational hearing in February, there were 72 active permit applications. As of today, March 20, 2023, there are 85 total active permits. The breakdown by category is shown in the table below and the two following graphs over time.

Active Application	Number	
	2/15/23	3/20/23
Operating Permit (OP)	65	69
<i>New</i>	18	19
<i>Amendment</i>	22	24
<i>Transfer</i>	22	23
<i>Transfer/Amendment</i>	3	3
Exclusion Certificate (EC)	1	1
Exploration (XP)	6	15
Total	72	85

There are four categories of Operating Permit. New operating permits include all new, mine sites without a current permit. Amendment applications are submitted to modify an existing permit (such as a change to the mining boundary). Transfer applications are submitted to change the designated permittee. Transfer/Amendment applications require both a change to an existing permit and the movement of a permit between entities.

Exclusion Certificates are required for relatively small-scale mining activity (<5,000 cubic yards and <1 acre of land impacted within 12 months). Exploration permits are required for activities seeking to determine the presence, location, extent, grade, or economic viability of a deposit (disturbing >1 acre or drilling > 50 ft deep).



Additional information:

- The MLRR program and fee structure (implemented January 2021) is scaled to process 25-30 active applications on a 4-6 month timeframe. A pulse of Operating Permit applications in late 2020/early 2021 overwhelmed program capacity. There has also been a significant increase in Exploration Permit Applications since early 2020.
- At current staffing, application review and processing timelines have increased to 8-12 months. In the last 4 weeks, the program received an additional 9 Exploration Permit Applications and 4 Operating Permit Applications.