

THE WILDS
Nearly 10,000
acres of reclaimed,
surface-mined land

Ohio

MISSION
Provide for safe and
environmentally
sound development
and restoration of
mineral and fossil
fuel extraction sites

VISION
We will lead change
in Ohio through
innovation,
excellence, and
partnering in
natural resource
stewardship

Maintaining
High Standards
of Regulatory
Effectiveness

Managing Energy & Mineral Resources

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mineral Resources Management



The mission of the Division of Mineral Resources Management is to provide for the safe and environmentally sound development and restoration of mineral and fossil fuel extraction sites.

Division responsibilities include the regulation of oil and gas production, surface and underground mining of coal and industrial minerals, and reclamation activities. The division also plugs abandoned oil and gas wells and restores abandoned mine lands, enforces mining safety laws, ensures protection of freshwater resources, and maintains a database of oil and gas well owners.

Expertise is provided by a professional staff of geologists, environmental specialists, engineers, blasting specialists, soils scientists, hydrologists, archaeologists and hydrogeologists.

Funding for programs comes from severance taxes on coal, minerals, oil and gas; federal grants and general revenue funds.

Permitting, Hydrology and Bonding

Under this program, environmental specialists review applications for mining and oil and gas permits. Detailed plans are examined to ensure mines and wells are designed to prevent or minimize environmental impacts, that proper environmental safeguards are in place, and all legal requirements are met.

Staff members also verify that applicants have complied with all bonding and surety requirements. Bonds provide the financial resources to restore a site if a mine or oil and gas operator fails to act responsibly in accordance with Ohio's site restoration laws.

The Division of Mineral Resources Management also manages permit records, databases, and all permit-related information.

Mining and Reclamation Regulation

Mineral resources inspectors implement the laws governing active mining practices to ensure the protection of citizens and conservation of environmental resources. This section also oversees land reclamation requirements to assure operators restore mine lands and waters to productive uses.

Oil and Gas Regulation

The division regulates all oil and gas drilling and production activities, including permitting, well operations, and inspection of well drilling and plugging. Included in this program is the regulation of brine disposal, solution mining operations, and underground injection operations.

Oil and Gas Cont.

The Orphan Well Plugging Program manages the plugging of improperly abandoned oil and gas wells for which no responsible owner exists. The orphan wells are plugged by means of formal bidding processes, landowner grants, cost-share agreements, or as emergency projects.

The Underground Injection Control Program protects Ohio's ground water by regulating the disposal of brine and other wastes produced while drilling for or producing oil and gas. The regulation of oil-field injection wells protects soil and ground water. Staff reviews construction specifications and issues permits for various types of injection deep into underground rock, and brine-spreading practices on roads.

The division's web site contains a wide variety of information, including oil and gas well permitting, project completion, and production reports. The site also provides an Emergency Oil and Gas Well Locator which allows emergency response personnel and planners to find well locations and detailed well information, as well as contacts and phone numbers for emergency situations. For further information, please visit our website at www.ohiodnr.com/locators/tabid/10358/default.aspx

Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)

The division administers programs that address problems resulting from mining that occurred prior to enactment of today's stricter reclamation requirements. Staff engineers and project officers design and oversee the reclamation of a variety of hazardous or environmentally degrading abandoned mine problems, including mine openings, landslides, highwalls, erosion, of barren spoil, subsidence, and acid mine drainage.



The federal AML Program is funded by grants derived from fees on every ton of coal mined in the United States. This program focuses on the elimination of public health and safety hazards left by mining that occurred prior to August 3, 1977. It also addresses sources of acid mine drainage that impairs the quality of streams in the coal region. This effort is augmented by partnerships with watershed groups, government agencies and private industry, all of which provide opportunities for leveraged funds.

A separately funded state AML Program, supported by state severance taxes on coal and industrial minerals, such as limestone, sand, and gravel exists solely to address mine related environmental concerns. The problem primarily addressed by this program is acid mine drainage. To be eligible under this program, the area must have been affected by mining prior to April 10, 1972.

To locate an abandoned recorded underground mine in Ohio, please visit our web site to use the web based application found at: www.ohiodnr.com/locators/tabid/10358/default.aspx

Mine Safety

Established in 1872, the Mine Safety Program enforces laws designed to provide safe working environments for Ohio's coal and industrial mineral miners. Services include inspections of surface and underground mines, accident investigations, mine rescue support, and safety training.

Miners are tested and certified to assure they understand and are skilled in using effective safety procedures. In addition, mine safety staff respond to mine disasters. Four rescue stations throughout Ohio's mining region maintain emergency vehicles and equipment for rapid mine rescue response.

The Cambridge Environmental Laboratory tests air samples from underground mines to verify and enforce that air in Ohio's underground mines is non-explosive and safe to breathe.

Support Services

Staff provide support to the division's permitting, regulatory, and AML programs. Division scientists trained in archaeology, agronomy, blasting and hydrology review and investigate the impacts of energy and mineral extraction. The Cambridge Environmental Laboratory assists in providing water chemistry data for the analysis of mine drainage.

Regional Offices

Athens AML	740-592-3748
Cambridge	740-439-9079
Cambridge AML	740-439-3640
Cambridge Lab	740-439-5591
Columbus	614-265-6633
Jackson	740-286-6411
Lebanon	513-933-6718
Mt. Vernon	740-392-4499
Napoleon	419-599-0058
New Philadelphia	330-339-2207
Salem	330-222-1527
Uniontown	330-896-0616



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