

RE: Licensing, Registering and Bonding of Mining Operations in Iowa through IDALS

This letter provides information regarding the Iowa Mineral Program and the licensing, registration, and bonding of Mineral Mining sites in Iowa. For additional information, please refer to Iowa Code chapter 208 and Iowa Administrative Rules chapter 27 IAC 60(208). Copies are available upon request.

To legally mine minerals in Iowa it is required that the operator hold a current **Iowa Mining License**. The Application for Mining License form (MP-05) should be completed and returned along with the \$50.00 License Application fee. The license must be renewed biennially (December 31) at a cost of \$20.00. Refer to Iowa Code (IC) section 208.7 and Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) rule 27-60.20(208) for further information.

In addition to the license application, each site to be operated is required to be registered under a current mining license. An **Application for Registration** of Land to be Mined form (MP-08) should be completed for each site to be operated and should be submitted seven days prior to the commencement of mining. Along with the registration application, a bond or bond increase, map of the area to be mined and a \$50.00 registration application fee is required. The registration must be renewed biennially (December 31) at a cost of \$70.00 per site. Refer to IC section 208.9 and IAC rules 27-60.30(208) and 27-60.31(208) for additional information.

**All mine sites must be bonded.** The Division may set the amount of the bond based on factors including, but not limited to, topography, type of mineral being mined, mining procedures, thickness of overburden and mineral deposit, processing procedure, and size of operation. During the course of mining the Division may increase or decrease the amount of bond on file, depending on the estimated reclamation liability at the site. Minimum bond is the greater of \$2,000 or \$500 per affected acre. The purpose of this bond is to guarantee the reclamation work required under the code (IC section 208.17 and IAC rule 27-60.80(208)) is completed. **Bonds may be provided as a Surety Bond, a Certificate of Deposit, or cash.** Bond Assignment forms (MP-03) and (MP-02) should be used. See IC 208.23 and 208.24 and IAC 27-60.40(208).

#### **Other Permit Considerations**

DNR - Air Quality, Water Usage/Discharge

MSHA - Mine ID

Local County - Special Use Permit, Planning/Zonning

## Active Mining Requirements

**Topsoil and Overburden Stockpiles** - Topsoil shall not be destroyed, buried or mixed with non topsoil materials. All stockpiles shall be seeded and stabilized if they are to remain in place for a period of more than 12 months.

**Erosion Control** - Affected areas that will not be disturbed by future mining graded, fertilized and seeded to ensure erosion control.

**Setback** - A 50-foot excavation setback is required to be maintained from all buildings, dwellings, public rights-of-way, and other man-made structures not associated with the mining operation.

- o An operator is required to maintain an excavation setback distance from the registered site boundary of at least 25 feet if the mine depth is less than 25 feet.
- o An operator is required to maintain an excavation setback distance from the registered site boundary of 50-feet if the mine is deeper than 25 feet.

**Upon completion of mining**, affected lands, excluding water impoundments, clean pit floors and stable highwalls, must be graded to a 4:1 slope, then vegetated. All mine related debris and stockpiles need to be removed. An effort should be made to keep all reclamation activities current to prevent an increase in bond liability.

Please reach out with any questions.

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Thank you,

*Abigayle Sweet*

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Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality

