

Budget Note to SB 838

Ways and Means

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) is undertaking a modernization effort to improve regulatory efficiency and customer service outcomes for the Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation Program. For 2025-27, these efforts include the implementation of an online permitting system, an expanded regulatory program and the adoption of recommendations for Agency efficiency as outlined in a recent Moss Adams organization Audit Report.

To monitor the successful implementation of these organization process changes and evaluate any need for additional resources, as identified in an April 2025 Audit Report, the Department is directed to:

- Develop a KPM for 2027-29 to track permit application processing against statutory timelines. The Governing Board through the Agency Request Budget Process will set the KPM targets. The primary goal for the biennium is to complete new applications and major modifications of existing permits within a 180-day timeline, recognizing this is longer than the statutory requirements.
- Review additional funding mechanisms for the long-term stability of the program in support of an affordable and readily available supply of mineral resources and report back to the legislature the agency's findings for alternative or additional funding mechanisms during the 2026 legislative short session.
- Complete transfer applications (with a conditional waiver for accepting legal liability) within 30-days unless the permitted site has two or more known material violations.
- Prioritize exploration permit processing, with an issuance goal of 60-days or less (including a 14-day processing period and 35-day interagency circulation).
- Clarify DOGAMI's regulatory authority and develop materials for applicants that outlines other agency approval requirements likely to be required after interagency circulation.
- Develop standardized application forms consistent with internal application requirements within 6-months.
- Develop comprehensive standard operating procedures and staff guidance documents for key processes as outlined in the Moss Adams audit report.

The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) shall provide a report on these items to [insert entity] by June 30, 2026 and the findings should form the basis for any change to the 2027-29 Agency Request Budget as it pertains to the Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation Program.