CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Surface Coal Mining & Exploration Program

- Evaluate coal mining permit applications and mining operation and reclamation plans to ensure that: permittees comply with the Texas Coal Mining Regulations; and, coal mines are operated in a manner that protects the public and the environment during mining and reclamation. Inspects coal mine & reclamation sites monthly.
- Assure that the mined land is restored to a beneficial use following mining through inspection and enforcement activities and effective evaluation of applications for release of reclamation liability.
- Review permittee’s proof of financial assurance to ensure it is equal to the estimated cost of reclamation.

Abandoned Mine Land Program

- Reclamation of pre-law (prior to August 3, 1977) abandoned mines is funded by a production tax on existing coal mining operations in Texas.
- Reclaims abandoned mines through earthwork, burial or treatment of spoil, installation of erosion and water control structures, and revegetation.
- Closes dangerous abandoned underground mine openings by backfilling, capping with concrete or metal grating or installing metal gates.

Uranium Exploration Program

- Reviews permittees’ uranium exploration and mining permit applications to assure compliance with applicable regulations.
- Regulates uranium surface mining (note there no current Texas uranium surface mining operations in existence).
- Regulates uranium exploration activities conducted for in-situ uranium mining (regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), which uses in-situ leaching or solution mining to recover uranium.
- Inspects active uranium exploration sites monthly.

PUBLIC DATA & RECORDS

- Mining Permit applications; related file materials including operation and reclamation plans; applications to update or modify plans; inspection and enforcement documents.

Contact Information

General Line:
512-463-6900
General email:
mining@rrc.texas.gov
Complaints:
miningcomplaint@rrc.texas.gov