

Utah Regulations

R647. Natural Resources; Oil, Gas and Mining; Non-Coal.

R647-1. Minerals Regulatory Program.

R647-1-101. Preamble.

These Rules and all subsequent revisions as approved and promulgated by the Board of Oil, Gas, and Mining (Board) of the State of Utah, are developed pursuant to the requirements of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975, Title 40, Chapter 8 of the Utah Code Annotated as amended (the Act). Section 40-8-2 of the Act states the findings of the Legislature.

In accordance with this legislative direction, these Rules recognize the necessity to balance the reclamation objectives of the Act with the physical, biological and economical constraints which may exist on successful reclamation. The Act and its revisions are hereby expressly incorporated herein by reference and made a part of these Rules.

There is intentional duplication in these rules. For example, the rule on hole plugging requirements is repeated in the section on Exploration, Small Mining Operations, and Large Mining Operations.

This repetition is intended to benefit the Operator by putting all the rules relevant to a type of operation in the introductory section and in the section on that type of operation.

R647-1-102. Introduction.

1. Effective Dates, Applicability, Type of Operations Affected:

1.11. Effective November 1, 1988, the following rules apply to all previously exempted mining operations and to mining operations planning to commence, or resume operations within the state of Utah.

These rules will not apply to existing mining operations approved prior to the effective date of these rules, or to notices of intention or amendments filed prior to these rules. However, these rules will apply to any revisions to an approved notice of intention filed subsequent to the effective date of these rules.

1.12. Operators should refer to the section of these rules which applies to the type of mining operation (e.g., exploration, small mining operation, or large mining operation) being conducted or proposed.

1.13. These rules apply to all lands within the state of Utah lawfully subject to its police power, regardless of surface or mineral ownership, and regardless of the type of mining operation conducted.

2. Cooperative Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) will cooperate with other state agencies, local governmental bodies, agencies of the federal government, and private interests in the furtherance of the purposes of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act. The Division is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements and develop memoranda of understanding with agencies in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The objective is to minimize the need for operators to undertake duplicative, overlapping, excessive, or conflicting procedures.

3. Operator Responsibilities, Compliance with other Local,

State and Federal Laws:

The approval or acceptance of a complete notice of intention shall not relieve an operator from his responsibility to comply with the applicable statutes, rules, regulations, and ordinances of all local, state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over any aspect of the operator's mining operations, including, but not limited to:

Utah State Division of Water Rights, the Utah Department of Business Regulation, the Utah State Industrial Commission, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah Division of State History, the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and local county or municipal governments.

4. Division Guidelines, Operator Assistance in Application Preparation:

Each operator who conducts mining operations on any lands within the state of Utah is responsible for compliance with the following rules. The Division shall provide guidelines to aid the operator in complying with the rules.

R647-1-103. General Rules.

The following are general rules for statewide application.

R647-1-104. Violations and Enforcement.

If after notice and hearing, the Board finds that a violation of the Act, these rules, a notice of intention, or a Board or Division order has occurred, the Board may take any enforcement action authorized by law including requiring: compliance, abatement, mitigation, cessation of operations, a civil suit, forfeiture of surety, reclamation, or any other lawful action.

R647-1-105. Forms.

The attached forms are intended for the convenience of the operator and the Division, and may be changed from time to time. The forms are not part of these rules and use of a particular form, though encouraged, is not required, as long as all of the necessary information is provided in a reasonable manner.

R647-1-106. Definitions.

"Act" means the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, enacted in 1975, as amended. (Section 40-8-1, et seq., UCA).

"Adjudicative proceeding" means an agency action or proceeding that determines the legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of one or more identifiable persons, including all agency actions to grant, deny, revoke, suspend, modify, annul, withdraw, or amend an authority, right, or license; and judicial review of all of such actions. Those matters not governed by Title 63G, Chapter 4, Administrative Procedures Act, of the Utah Code annotated (1953, as amended) shall not be included within this definition.

"Agency" means a board, commission, department, division, officer, council, office, committee, commission, bureau, or other administrative unit of this state, including the agency head, agency

employees, or other persons acting on behalf of or under the authority of the agency head, but does not mean the Legislature, the courts, the governor, any political subdivision of the state, or any administrative unit of a political subdivision of the state.

"Agency head" means an individual or body of individuals in whom the ultimate legal authority of the agency is vested by statute.

"Amendment" is an insignificant change in the approved notice of intention.

"Approved Notice of Intention" means a formally filed notice of intention to commence mining operations, including any amendments or revisions thereto that is determined to be complete and contains a mining and reclamation plan, which has been approved by the Division.

A notice of intention for exploration having a disturbed area of five acres or less, or a small mining operation must be determined complete in writing by the Division, but does not require a mining and reclamation plan.

"Board" means the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining. The Board shall hear all appeals of adjudicative proceedings which commenced before the Division as well as all adjudicative proceedings and other proceedings which commence before the Board. The Board may appoint a Hearing Examiner for its hearings in accordance with the Rules of Practice and Procedure before the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining.

"Deleterious Materials" means earth, waste or introduced materials exposed by mining operations to air, water, weather or microbiological processes, which would likely produce chemical or physical conditions in the soils or water that are detrimental to the biota or hydrologic systems.

"Deposit" or "mineral deposit" means an accumulation of mineral matter in the form of consolidated rock, unconsolidated materials, solutions, or otherwise occurring on the surface, beneath the surface, or in the waters of the land from which any useful product may be produced, extracted or obtained, or which is extracted by underground mining methods for underground storage. "Deposit" or "mineral deposit" excludes sand, gravel, rock aggregate, water, geothermal steam, and oil and gas, but includes oil shale and bituminous sands extracted by mining operations.

"Development" means the work performed in relation to a deposit following its discovery, but prior to and in contemplation of production mining operations. Development includes, but is not limited to, preparing the site for mining operations; further defining the ore deposit by drilling or other means; conducting pilot plant operations; and constructing roads or ancillary facilities.

"Disturbed Area" means the surface land disturbed by mining operations. The disturbed area for small mining operations shall not exceed five acres in an incorporated area of a county or ten acres in an unincorporated area of a county. The disturbed area for large mining operations shall not exceed the acreage described in the approved notice of intention.

"Division" means the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. The Division Director or designee is the Presiding Officer for all informal adjudicative proceedings which commence before the Division in accordance with Rule R647-5.

"Exempt Mining Operations" means those mining operations which were previously exempt from the Act because less than 500 tons of

material was mined in a period of twelve consecutive months or less than two acres of land was excavated or used as a disposal site in a period of twelve consecutive months. These exemptions were eliminated by statutory amendments in 1986 and are no longer available.

"Exploration" means surface disturbing activities conducted for the purpose of discovering a deposit or mineral deposit, delineating the boundaries of a deposit or mineral deposit, and identifying regions or specific areas in which deposits or mineral deposits are most likely to exist. "Exploration" includes, but is not limited to: sinking shafts; tunneling; drilling holes; digging pits or cuts; building roads and other access ways.

"Gravel" means a naturally occurring unconsolidated to moderately consolidated accumulation of rock and mineral particles, the dominant size range being between 2mm and 10mm, which has been deposited by sedimentary processes.

"Land affected" means the surface and subsurface of an area within the state where mining operations are being or will be conducted, including, but not limited to: (a) on-site private ways, roads, and railroads; (b) land excavations; (c) exploration sites; (d) drill sites or workings; (e) refuse banks or spoil piles; (f) evaporation or settling ponds; (g) stockpiles; (h) leaching dumps; (i) placer areas; (j) tailings ponds or dumps; (k) work, parking, storage, or waste discharge areas, structures, and facilities. Land affected does not include: (x) lands which have been reclaimed in accordance with an approved plan or as otherwise approved by the Board, (y) lands on which mining operations ceased prior to July 1, 1977, or (z) lands on which previously exempt mining operations ceased prior to April 29, 1989.

"Large Mining Operations" means mining operations which have a disturbed area of more than five surface acres at any time in an incorporated area of a county or more than ten surface acres at any time in an unincorporated area of a county.

"License" means a franchise, permit, certification, approval, registration, charter, or similar form of authorization required by statute.

"Mining operations" means those activities conducted on the surface of the land for the exploration for, development of, or extraction of a mineral deposit, including, but not limited to, surface mining and the surface effects of underground and in situ mining; on-site transportation, concentrating, milling, evaporation, and other primary processing. "Mining operation" does not include: the extraction of sand, gravel, and rock aggregate; the extraction of oil and gas; the extraction of geothermal steam; smelting or refining operations; off-site operations and transportation; reconnaissance activities; or activities which will not cause significant surface resource disturbance and do not involve the use of mechanized earth-moving equipment, such as bulldozers or backhoes.

"Notice of Intention" means a notice of intention to commence mining operations, that provide the complete information required for authorization to conduct mining operations, and includes any amendments or revisions thereto.

"Off-site" means the land areas that are outside of or beyond the on-site land.

"On-site" means the surface lands on or under which surface or

underground mining operations are conducted. A series of related properties under the control of a single operator but separated by small parcels of land controlled by others will be considered a single site unless excepted by the Division.

"Operator" means any natural person, corporation, association, partnership, receiver, trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, fiduciary, agent, or other organization or representative of any kind, either public or private, owning, controlling, conducting, or managing a mining operation or proposed mining operation.

"Owner" means any natural person, corporation, association, partnership, receiver, trustee, executor, administrator, guardian, fiduciary, agent, or other organization or representative of any kind, either public or private, owning, controlling, conducting, or managing a mineral deposit or the surface of lands employed in mining operations.

"Party" means the Board, Division or other person commencing an adjudicative proceeding, all respondents, all persons permitted by the Board to intervene in the proceeding, and all persons authorized by statute or agency rule to participate as parties in an adjudicative proceeding.

"Permit" means a notice to conduct mining operations issued by the Division. A notice to conduct mining operations is issued by the Division when either a notice of intention for a small mining operation or exploration is determined to be complete and includes a surety approved by the Division, or a notice of intention for a large mining operation or exploration with a plan of operations and surety approved by the Division.

"Person" means an individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, political subdivision or its units, governmental subdivision or its units, public or private organization or entity of any character, or another agency.

"Presiding Officer" means an agency head, or an individual or body of individuals designated by the agency head, by the agency's rules, or by statute to conduct an adjudicative proceeding. For the purpose of these rules, the Board, or its appointed Hearing Examiner, shall be considered the Presiding Officer of all appeals of informal adjudicative proceedings which commenced before the Division as well as all adjudicative proceedings which commence before the Board. The Division Director or his/her designee shall be considered a Presiding Officer for all informal adjudicative proceedings which commence before the Division in accordance with this Rule R647-5. If fairness to the parties is not compromised, an agency may substitute one Presiding Officer for another during any proceeding.

"Reclamation" means actions performed during or after mining operations to shape, stabilize, revegetate, or otherwise treat the land affected in order to achieve a safe and ecologically stable condition and use which will be consistent with local environmental conditions and land management practices.

"Regrade or Grade" means to physically alter the topography of any land surface.

"Respondent" means any person against whom an adjudicative proceeding is initiated, whether by an agency or any other person.

"Revision" means a change to an approved Notice of Intention to Conduct Mining Operations, which will increase or decrease the

amount of land affected, or alter the location and type of on-site surface facilities, such that the nature of the reclamation plan will differ substantially from that in the approved Notice of Intention.

"Rock Aggregate" means those consolidated rock materials associated with a sand deposit, a gravel deposit, or a sand and gravel deposit, that were created by alluvial sedimentary processes. The definition of rock aggregate specifically excludes any solid rock in the form of bedrock which is exposed at the surface of the earth or overlain by unconsolidated material.

"Sand" means a naturally occurring unconsolidated to moderately consolidated accumulation of rock and mineral particles, the dominant size range being between 1/16mm to 2mm, which has been deposited by sedimentary processes.

"Small Mining Operations" means mining operations which have a disturbed area of five or less surface acres at any time in an incorporated area of a county or ten or less surface acres at any time in an unincorporated area of a county.

"Surface Mining" means mining conducted on the surface of the land including open pit, strip, or auger mining; dredging; quarrying; leaching; surface evaporation operations; reworking abandoned dumps and tailings and activities related thereto.

"Underground Mining" means mining carried out beneath the surface by means of shafts, tunnels or other underground mine openings.

R647-2. Exploration.

R647-2-101. Filing Requirements and Review Procedures.

1. Prior to the commencement of exploration, a Notice of Intention to Conduct Exploration (FORM MR-EXP) containing all the required information must be filed with and determined complete by the Division and the Division shall have approved the form and amount of reclamation surety. It is recommended that the notice of intention be filed with the Division at least 30 days prior to the planned commencement of exploration.

2. Within 15 days after receipt of a Notice of Intention to Conduct Exploration (FORM MR-EXP), the Division will review the proposal and notify the operator in writing that the notice of intention is:

2.11. Complete and all required information has been submitted;
or

2.12. Incomplete, and additional information as identified by the Division will be required.

The Division will review and respond to any subsequent filings of information within 10 working days of receipt.

3. If more than five acres of disturbance are planned, a detailed exploration development and reclamation plan must be included in the notice of intention and approved by the Division.

4. The Division will review and approve or disapprove:

4.11. The form and amount of reclamation surety, and;

4.12. Any variances requested under R647-2-107, 108, or 109, regardless of the number of surface acres of disturbance planned.

5. Developmental drilling conducted within an already approved disturbed area with approved surety does not require submittal of a Notice of Intention to Conduct Exploration (FORM MR-EXP).

6. A permittee's retention of a notice of intention shall

require the paying of permit fees as authorized by the Utah Legislature. The procedures for paying the permit fees are as follows:

6.11. The Division shall notify the operators of record annually of the amount of permit fees authorized by the Utah Legislature for Exploration.

6.12. Fees are due annually by the deadline in R647-2-115 for reports.

6.13. A permittee may avoid payment of the fee by complying with the following requirements:

6.13.11. A permittee will notify the Division of a desire to close out a notice of intention by checking the appropriate box of the permit fees billing form.

6.13.12. The permittee will then arrange with the Division for an onsite inspection of the site to assure that all required reclamation has been performed. If an inspection reveals that an area is not yet suitably reclaimed, then a new billing notice will be issued and the permittee will be given 30 days from the date of the onsite inspection to pay the fee.

R647-2-102. Duration of the Notice of Intention.

1. A Notice of Intention to Conduct Exploration that has been determined complete or, for operations of more than 5 acres has been approved, shall be valid until November 30th of the year following the year of submittal. All exploration and reclamation activities should be completed within this time frame. An operator desiring to extend the duration of a notice of intention, must notify the Division in writing, prior to expiration of the notice of intention, specifying the reasons an extension is required, and the anticipated length of time required to complete exploration and reclamation.

2. The Division will review and approve the extension and adjust if necessary, the amount of reclamation surety.

3. Authorization to operate under a Notice of Intention to Conduct Exploration may be withdrawn in the event of failure by the operator to pay permit fees required by R647-2-101.6, or to maintain and update reclamation surety as required, after notice and opportunity for Board hearing.

R647-2-103. Notice of Intention to Conduct Exploration.

The notice of intention shall address the requirements of the following rules:

TABLE

RULE #	SUBJECT
R647-2-104	Operator(s), Surface and Mineral Owner(s)
R647-2-105	Maps and Drawings
R647-2-106	Project Description
R647-2-107	Operation Practices
R647-2-108	Hole Plugging Requirements
R647-2-109	Reclamation Practices
R647-2-110	Variance

R647-2-104. Operator(s), Surface and Mineral Owner(s).

The notice of intention shall include the following general information:

1. The name, permanent mailing address, and telephone number of the operator responsible for exploration.
2. The name and permanent mailing address of the surface land owner(s) and mineral owner(s) of all land to be affected by the operations.
3. The federal mining claim number(s), lease number(s), or permit number(s) of any mining claims, federal or state leases or permits included in the land affected.
4. A statement that the operator will conduct reclamation as required by these rules.

R647-2-105. Maps and Drawings.

The notice of intention shall include a location map and an operations map. Each map shall be plotted at a scale to accurately identify locational landmarks and operation details.

1. The general location map shall be the scale of a USGS 7.5-minute series map or equivalent (1"=2000') and identify new or existing access roads.
2. The operations map (1"=200' or other scale as determined necessary by the Division) shall identify:
 - 2.11 The area to be disturbed;
 - 2.12 The location of any existing or proposed operations including access roads, drill holes, trenches, pits, shafts, cuts, or other planned exploration activities; and
 - 2.13 Any adjacent previous disturbance for which the operator is not responsible.

R647-2-106. Project Description.

The notice of intention should include the following information:

1. A statement giving general details of the type or method of exploration proposed, including the proposed dates during which exploration will be conducted;
2. The type of minerals to be explored for;
3. The general dimensions of all drill holes, including total depth and diameter;
4. The general dimensions of all trenches, pits, shafts, cuts, or other types of disturbances;
5. The width and length of any new roads constructed;
6. An estimate of the total number of surface acres to be disturbed.
7. The amount of material (including mineral deposit, topsoil, subsoil, overburden, waste rock, or core hole material) extracted, moved, or proposed to be moved during the exploration operation.

R647-2-107. Operation Practices.

The operator shall conform to the following practices while conducting exploration unless the Division grants a variance in writing:

1. Public Safety and Welfare - The operator shall minimize hazards to the public safety and welfare during operations. Methods to minimize hazards shall include but not be limited to:

1.11. The closing or guarding of shafts and tunnels to prevent unauthorized or accidental entry in accordance with MSHA regulations;

1.12. The disposal of trash, scrap metal and wood, and extraneous debris;

1.13. The plugging or capping of drill, core, or other exploratory holes as set forth in Rule R647-2-108;

1.14. The posting of appropriate warning signs in locations where public access to operations is readily available;

1.15. The construction of berms, fences and/or barriers above highwalls or other excavations when required by the Division.

2. Drainages - If natural channels are to be affected by exploration, then the operator shall take appropriate measures to avoid or minimize environmental damage.

3. Erosion Control - Operations shall be conducted in a manner such that sediment from disturbed areas is adequately controlled. The degree of erosion control shall be appropriate for the site-specific and regional conditions of topography, soil, drainage, water quality or other characteristics.

4. Deleterious Materials - All deleterious or potentially deleterious material, shall be safely removed from the site or kept in an isolated condition such that adverse environmental effects are eliminated or controlled.

5. Soils - Suitable soil material shall be removed and stored in a stable condition where practical so as to be available for reclamation.

6. Concurrent Reclamation - During operations, disturbed areas shall be reclaimed when no longer needed, except to the extent necessary to preserve evidence of mineralization for proof of discovery. Areas which have been disturbed but are not routinely or currently utilized shall be kept in a safe, environmentally stable condition.

R647-2-108. Hole Plugging Requirements.

Drill holes shall be properly plugged as soon as practical and not be left unplugged for more than 30 days without approval of the Division. The procedures outlined below are required for the surface and subsurface plugging of drill holes. The Division may approve an alternate plan, if the operator can prove to the satisfaction of the Division that another method will provide adequate protection to the groundwater resources and long term stability of the land. Dry holes and nonartesian holes which do not produce significant amounts of water may be temporarily plugged with a surface cap to permit the operator to re-enter the hole for the duration of operations.

1. Surface plugging of drill holes shall be accomplished by:

1.11. Setting a nonmetallic permaplug at a minimum of five (5) feet below the surface, or returning the cuttings to the hole and tamping the returned cuttings to within five (5) feet of ground level.

The hole above the permaplug or tamped cuttings will be filled with a cement plug. If cemented casing is to be left in place, a concrete surface plug is not required provided that a permanent cap is secured on top of the casing.

1.12. If the area is tilled farmland, a five (5) foot cement plug must be placed above a permaplug or tamped cuttings so that the

top of the cement plug is a minimum of three (3) feet below the ground surface. The hole above the cement plug is to be filled with soil.

If cemented casing is to be left in place, a concrete surface plug is not required provided that a permanent cap is secured on top of the casing. The top of the casing and cap must be a minimum of three (3) feet below the ground surface.

2. Drill holes that encounter water, oil, gas or other potential migratory substances and are 2-1/2 inches or greater in surface diameter shall be plugged in the subsurface to prevent the migration of fluid from one strata to another. If water is encountered, plugging shall be accomplished as outlined below:

2.11. If artesian flow (i.e., water flowing to the surface from the hole) is encountered during or upon cessation of drilling, a cement plug shall be placed to prevent water from flowing between geologic formations and at the surface. The cement mix should consist of API Class A or H cement with additives as needed. It should weigh at least 13.5 lbs./gal., and be placed under the supervision of a person qualified in proper drill hole cementing of artesian flow. Artesian bore holes must be plugged in the described manner, prior to removal of the drilling equipment from the well site. If the surface owner of the land affected desires to convert an artesian drill hole to a water well, the owner must notify the Division in writing accepting responsibility for the ultimate plugging of the drill hole.

2.12. Holes that encounter significant amounts of nonartesian water shall be plugged by:

2.12.111 Placing a 50 foot cement plug immediately above and below the aquifer(s); or

2.12.112 Filling from the bottom up (through the drill stem) with a high grade bentonite/water slurry mixture. The slurry shall have a Marsh funnel viscosity of at least 50 seconds per quart prior to the adding of any cuttings.

R647-2-109. Reclamation Practices.

The operator shall conform to the following practices while conducting reclamation unless the Division grants a variance in writing:

1. Public Safety and Welfare - The operator shall minimize hazards to the public safety and welfare following completion of operations. Methods to minimize hazards shall include but not be limited to:

1.11. The permanent sealing of shafts and tunnels;

1.12. Appropriate disposal of trash, scrap metal and wood, buildings, extraneous debris, and other materials incident to mining;

1.13. The plugging of drill, core, or other exploratory holes as set forth in Rule R647-2-108;

1.14. The posting of appropriate warning signs in locations where public access to operations is readily available;

1.15. The construction of berms, fences and/or barriers above highwalls or other excavations when required by the Division.

2. Drainages - If natural channels have been affected by exploration, then reclamation must be performed such that the channels will be left in a stable condition with respect to actual and reasonably expected water flow so as to avoid or minimize future damage to the hydrologic system.

3. Erosion Control - Reclamation shall be conducted in a manner such that sediment from disturbed areas is adequately controlled. The degree of erosion control shall be appropriate for the site-specific and regional conditions of topography, soil, drainage, water quality or other characteristics.

4. Deleterious Materials - All deleterious or potentially deleterious material shall be safely removed from the site or left in an isolated or neutralized condition such that adverse environmental effects are eliminated or controlled.

5. Land Use - The operator shall leave the on-site area in a condition which is capable of supporting the postmining land use.

6. Slopes - Waste piles, spoil piles and fills shall be regraded to a stable configuration and shall be sloped to minimize safety hazards and erosion while providing for successful revegetation.

7. Highwalls - In surface mining and in open cuts for pads or roadways, highwalls shall be reclaimed and stabilized by backfilling against them or by cutting the wall back to achieve a slope angle of 45 degrees or less.

8. Roads and Pads - On-site roads and pads shall be reclaimed when they are no longer needed for operations. When a road or pad is to be turned over to the property owner or managing agency for continuing use, the operator shall turn over the property with adequate surface drainage structures and in a condition suitable for continued use.

9. Dams and Impoundments - Water impounding structures shall be reclaimed so as to be self-draining and mechanically stable unless shown to have sound hydrologic design and to be beneficial to the postmining land use.

10. Trenches and Pits - Trenches and small pits shall be reclaimed.

11. Structures and Equipment - Structures, rail lines, utility connections, equipment, and debris shall be buried or removed.

12. Topsoil Redistribution - After final grading, soil materials shall be redistributed on a stable surface so as to minimize erosion, prevent undue compaction and promote revegetation.

13. Revegetation - The species seeded shall include adaptable perennial species that will grow on the site, provide basic soil and watershed protection, and support the postmining land use.

Revegetation shall be considered accomplished when:

13.11. The revegetation has achieved 70 percent of the premining vegetative ground cover. If the premining vegetative ground cover is unknown, the ground cover of an adjacent undisturbed area that is representative of the premining ground cover will be used as a standard. Also, the vegetation has survived three growing seasons following the last seeding, fertilization or irrigation, unless such practices are to continue as part of the postmining land use; or

13.12. the Division determines that the revegetation work has been satisfactorily completed within practical limits; where reseeding has occurred and the vegetation has survived one growing season, the reseeded area shall not be included for purposes of determining whether future exploration or mining operations involve a disturbed area of five acres or less.

R647-2-110. Variance.

1. The operator may request a variance from Rule R647-2-107, 108, or 109, by submitting the following information, which shall be considered by the Division on a site-specific basis:

1.11. The rule(s) as to which a variance is requested;

1.12. The variance requested and description of the area that would be affected by the variance;

1.13. Justification for the variance;

1.14. Alternate methods or measures to be utilized.

2. A variance shall be granted if the alternative method or measure proposed will be consistent with the Act.

3. Any variance must be specifically approved by the Division in writing.

R647-2-111. Surety.

1. After receiving notification that the notice of intention is approved or complete, but prior to commencement of operations, the operator must post a reclamation surety with the Division.

1.11. Failure to furnish and maintain reclamation surety may, after notice and opportunity for a Board hearing, result in a withdrawal of the notice of intention as provided for in Section 40-8-16.

2. The Division will not require a separate surety where a reclamation surety in a form and amount acceptable to the Division is held by other governmental entities, provided that the cost estimate is accurate and the Division is named as co-beneficiary. Cooperative Agreements may be developed and entered into according to Section 40-8-22.

3. As part of the review of the notice of intention, the Division shall determine the required surety amount based on:

3.11. Site-specific calculations or estimates by the Division reflecting the cost the Division or a third party would incur to reclaim the site;

3.12. Site-specific calculations or estimates by the operator reflecting the cost the Division or a third party would incur to reclaim the site, if accurate and verifiable by the Division; or

3.13. The average dollars per acre costs for reclamation for similar operations, as determined by the Division, based upon approved surety amounts for current large mining operations.

3.14. In determining or verifying the amount of surety under Subsections 3.11 or 3.12, the Division shall use cost data from current sureties for large mining operations, adjusted as necessary to reflect the nature and scope of operations and reclamation under the notice of intention.

3.15. For the average dollars per acre in Subsection 3.13, the Board will annually approve the figure after a formal presentation from the Division and an opportunity for public comment.

4. The operator shall submit a completed Reclamation Contract (FORM MR-RC) with the required surety. The form and amount of the reclamation surety must be approved by the Division. Acceptable forms may include:

4.11. A corporate surety bond from a surety company that is licensed to do business in Utah, that is listed in "A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide" at a rating of A- or better or a Financial Performance Rating (FPR) of 8 or better, according to the "A.M. Best's Guide".

All surety companies also will be continuously listed in the current issue of the U.S. Department of the Treasury Circular 570. Operators who do not have a surety bond with a company that meets the standards of subsection 4.11 will have 120 days from the date of Division notification after enactment of the changes to subsection 4.11 to achieve compliance or face enforcement action. When the Division in the course of examining surety bonds, notifies an operator that a surety company guaranteeing its performance does not meet the standards of subsection 4.11., the operator has 120 days after notice from the Division by mail to correct the deficiency, or face enforcement action;

4.12. Federally-insured certificate of deposit payable to the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining;

4.13. Cash;

4.14. An irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank organized to do business in the United States;

4.15. Escrow accounts; and

4.16. The Board may accept a written self-bonding agreement in the case of operators showing sufficient financial strength.

5. Surety shall be required until such time as reclamation is deemed complete by the Division. The Division shall promptly conduct an inspection when notified by the operator that reclamation is complete. The full release of surety shall be evidence that the operator has reclaimed as required by the Act.

5.11. A partial release of surety can be made by the Division if it determines that a substantial phase or segment of reclamation such as demolition, backfilling or regrading has been successfully performed and the residual amount of retained surety is determined to be adequate to insure completion of reclamation.

R647-2-112. Failure to Reclaim.

If the operator fails or refuses to conduct reclamation as outlined in the complete notice of intention, and comply with the requirements of R647-2-107, R647-2-108, or R647-2-109 the Board may, after notice and hearing, order that:

1. Reclamation be conducted by the Division,

2. The costs and expenses of reclamation, together with costs of collection including attorney's fees, be recovered in a civil action brought by the attorney general against the operator in any appropriate court; and

3. Any surety filed for this purpose be forfeited. With respect to the surety filed with the Division, the Board shall request the Attorney General to take the necessary legal action to enforce and collect the amount of liability. Where a reclamation surety has been filed with other governmental agencies, the Board shall notify such agency of the hearing findings and seek forfeiture concurrence as necessary.

3.11. The forfeited surety shall be used only for the reclamation of land to which it relates, and any residual amount returned.

R647-2-113. Confidential Information.

Information provided in the notice of intention and in the Mineral Exploration Progress Report (FORM MR-EPR) that relates to the

location, size, and nature of the mineral deposit, shall be protected as confidential information by the Board and the Division. The information will not be a matter of public record until a written release is received from the operator.

R647-2-114. Revised Notice.

1. Minor additions or changes in the location of exploration operations do not require the submittal of a revised notice of intention. A new or revised Notice of Intention to Conduct Exploration (FORM MR-EXP) letter must be submitted when:

1.1. The proposed additions or changes will occur outside the originally designated legal subdivision; or

1.2. For exploration operations under 5 acres the proposed additions will cause the total unreclaimed surface disturbance to increase by more than 1 acre or exceed 5 acres; or

1.3. For exploration operations over 5 acres, the proposed additions or changes will cause an increase in the area of disturbance previously approved.

2. In the event the Division or the operator determine at the time a revision is submitted that the amount of the current surety does not accurately reflect the potential cost to complete reclamation at any particular point in time during the revised exploration operations, the Division may undertake a recalculation of the surety amount as provided in R647-2-111.3. If the recalculated amount is greater than the amount of the existing surety, the revised operations may not be implemented until a revised surety is filed with the Division.

R647-2-115. Reports.

On or before January 31st of each year, the operator conducting exploration must submit a Mineral Exploration Progress Report (FORM MR-EPR), which describes any unusual drilling conditions, water encountered, hole plugging measures, and reclamation activities conducted.

R647-2-116. Practices and Procedures; Appeals.

The Administrative Procedures, as outlined in R647-5, shall be applicable to minerals regulatory proceedings.

R647-3. Small Mining Operations.

R647-3-101. Filing Requirements and Review Procedures.

1. Prior to commencement of operations, a Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations (FORM MR-SMO) containing all the required information must be filed with and determined complete by the Division and the Division shall have approved the form and amount of reclamation surety. It is recommended that the notice of intention be filed with the Division at least thirty (30) days prior to the planned commencement of operations.

2. Within 15 days after receipt of a Notice of Intention, the Division will review the proposal and notify the operator in writing;

2.11. That the notice of intention is complete and all required information has been submitted; or,

2.12. That the notice of intention is incomplete, and additional information as identified by the Division will be required.

2.12.111. The Division will review and respond to any subsequent filings of information within 10 working days of receipt.

3. The Division will review and approve or disapprove:

3.11. The form and amount of reclamation surety (R647-3-111), and

3.12. All variances requested from Rules R647-3-107, 108, and 109, regardless of the number of surface acres of disturbance planned.

4. The operator must notify the Division no later than 30 days after beginning small mining operations.

5. A permittee's authorization under a notice of intention to conduct small mining operations shall require the paying of permit fees as authorized by the Utah Legislature. The procedures for paying the permit fees are as follows:

5.11. The Division shall notify the operators of record annually of the amount of permit fees authorized by the Utah Legislature for

5.11.11. Small Mining Operations (less than 5 disturbed acres)

5.12. Fees are due annually by the deadline in R647-3-117 for reports.

6. A permittee may avoid payment of the fee by complying with the following requirements:

6.11. A permittee will notify the Division of a desire to close out a notice of intention by checking the appropriate box of the permit fees billing form.

6.12. The permittee will then arrange with the Division for an onsite inspection of the site to assure that all required reclamation has been performed. If an inspection reveals that an area is not yet suitably reclaimed, then a new billing notice will be issued and the permittee will be given 30 days from the date of the onsite inspection to pay the fee.

R647-3-102. Duration of the Notice of Intention.

The notice of intention, including any subsequent amendments or revisions, shall remain in effect for the life of the small mining operation. However, the notice of intention may be withdrawn, after notice and opportunity for Board hearing, in the event of failure by the operator to pay permit fees required by R647-3-101 or to maintain and update adequate reclamation surety as required in R647-3-111.

R647-3-103. Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations.

The notice of intention shall address the requirements of the following rules:

TABLE

RULE #	SUBJECT
R647-3-104	Operator(s), Surface and Mineral Owner(s)
R647-3-105	Map
R647-3-106	Operation Plan
R647-3-107	Operation Practices
R647-3-109	Reclamation Practices
R647-3-110	Variance

R647-3-104. Operator(s), Surface and Mineral Owner(s).

The notice of intention shall include the following general information:

1. The name, permanent mailing address, and telephone number of the operator responsible for the small mining operation and reclamation of the site.

2. The name, and permanent mailing address of the surface landowner(s) and mineral owner(s) of all land to be affected by the mining operation.

3. The federal mining claim number(s), lease number(s) or permit number(s) of all mining claims, federal or state leases or permits included in the land affected.

4. A statement that the operator will conduct reclamation as required by these rules.

R647-3-105. Project Location and Map.

The notice of intention shall include a location map and an operations map. Each map shall be plotted at a scale to accurately identify locational landmarks and operations details.

1. The general location map shall be the scale of a USGS 7.5 minute series map or equivalent (1" = 2000') and identify new or existing access roads.

2. The operations map (1" = 200' or other scale as determined necessary by the Division) shall identify:

2.11. The area to be disturbed;

2.12. The location of any existing or proposed operations including access roads, drill holes, trenches, pits, shafts, cuts, or other planned small mining activities; and

2.13. Any adjacent previous disturbance for which the operator is not responsible.

R647-3-106. Operation Plan.

The operator shall provide a brief narrative description of the proposed mining operation as part of the notice of intention. The description should include the following information:

1. A statement giving general details of the type or method of mining operations proposed, and the type of minerals to be mined;

2. Estimated width and length of any new roads to be constructed;

3. An estimate of the total number of surface acres to be disturbed by the mining operation.

4. The amount of material (including mineral deposit, topsoil, subsoil, overburden, waste rock, or core hole material) to be extracted, moved, or proposed to be moved, relating to the mining operation.

R647-3-107. Operation Practices.

During operations, the operator shall conform to the following practices unless the Division grants a variance in writing:

1. Public Safety and Welfare - The operator shall minimize hazards to the public safety and welfare during operations. Methods to minimize hazards shall include but not be limited to:

1.11. The closing or guarding of shafts and tunnels to prevent unauthorized or accidental entry in accordance with MSHA regulations;

1.12. The disposal of trash, scrap metal and wood, and extraneous debris;

1.13. The plugging or capping of drill, core, or other exploratory holes as set forth in Rule R647-3-108.;

1.14. The posting of appropriate warning signs in locations where public access to operations is readily available;

1.15. The construction of berms, fences and/or barriers above highwalls or other excavations when required by the Division.

2. Drainages - If natural channels are to be affected by the mining operation, then the operator shall take appropriate measures to avoid or minimize environmental damage.

3. Erosion Control - Operations shall be conducted in a manner such that sediment from disturbed areas is adequately controlled. The degree of erosion control shall be appropriate for the site-specific and regional conditions of topography, soil, drainage, water quality or other characteristics.

4. Deleterious Materials - All deleterious or potentially deleterious material shall be safely removed from the site or left in an isolated or neutralized condition such that adverse environmental effects are eliminated or controlled.

5. Soils - Suitable soil material shall be removed and stored in a stable condition where practical so as to be available for reclamation.

6. Concurrent Reclamation - During operations, disturbed areas shall be reclaimed when no longer needed, except to the extent necessary to preserve evidence of mineralization for proof of discovery. Areas which have been disturbed but are not routinely or currently utilized shall be kept in a safe, environmentally stable condition.

R647-3-108. Hole Plugging Requirements.

Drill holes shall be properly plugged as soon as practical and shall not be left unplugged for more than 30 days without approval of the Division. The procedures outlined below are required for the surface and subsurface plugging of drill holes. The Division may approve an alternate plan, if the operator can prove to the satisfaction of the Division that another method will provide adequate protection to the groundwater resources and long term stability of the land. Dry holes and nonartesian holes which do not produce significant amounts of water may be temporarily plugged with a surface cap to permit the operator to re-enter the hole for the duration of the operations.

1. Surface plugging of drill holes shall be accomplished by:

1.11. Setting a nonmetallic permaplug at a minimum of five (5) feet below the surface, or returning the cuttings to the hole and tamping the returned cuttings to within five (5) feet of ground level.

The hole above the permaplug or tamped cuttings will be filled with a cement plug. If cemented casing is to be left in place, a concrete surface plug is not required provided that a permanent cap is secured on top of the casing.

1.12. If the area is tilled farmland, a five (5) foot cement plug must be placed above a permaplug or tamped cuttings so that the top of the cement plug is a minimum of three (3) feet below the ground surface. The hole above the cement plug is to be filled with soil.

If cemented casing is to be left in place, a concrete surface plug is not required provided that a permanent cap is secured on top of

the casing. The top of the casing and cap must be a minimum of three (3) feet below the ground surface.

2. Drill holes that encounter water, oil, gas or other potential migratory substances and are 2-1/2 inches or greater in surface diameter shall be plugged in the subsurface to prevent the migration of fluid from one strata to another. If water is encountered, plugging shall be accomplished as outlined below:

2.11. If artesian flow (i.e., water flowing to the surface from the hole) is encountered during or upon cessation of drilling, a cement plug shall be placed to prevent water from flowing between geologic formations and at the surface. The cement mix should consist of API Class A or H cement with additives as needed. It should weigh at least 13.5 lbs./gal., and be placed under the supervision of a person qualified in proper drill hole cementing of artesian flow. Artesian bore holes must be plugged in the described manner, prior to removal of the drilling equipment from the well site. If the surface owner of the land affected desires to convert an artesian drill hole to a water well, he must notify the Division in writing that he accepts responsibility for the ultimate plugging of the drill hole.

2.12. Holes that encounter significant amounts of nonartesian water shall be plugged by:

2.12.111. Placing a 50 foot cement plug immediately above and below the aquifer(s); or

2.12.112. Filling from the bottom up (through the drill stem) with a high grade bentonite/water slurry mixture. The slurry shall have a Marsh funnel viscosity of at least 50 seconds per quart prior to the adding of any cuttings.

R647-3-109. Reclamation Practices.

During reclamation, the operator shall conform to the following practices unless the Division grants a variance in writing:

1. Public Safety and Welfare - The operator shall minimize hazards to the public safety and welfare following completion of operations. Methods to minimize hazards shall include but not be limited to:

1.11. The permanent sealing of shafts and tunnels;

1.12. The disposal of trash, scrap metal and wood, buildings, extraneous debris, and other materials incident to mining;

1.13. The plugging of drill, core, or other exploratory holes as set forth in Rule R647-3-108;

1.14. The posting of appropriate warning signs in locations where public access to operations is readily available;

1.15. The construction of berms, fences and/or barriers above highwalls or other excavations when required by the Division.

2. Drainages - If natural channels have been affected by mining operations, then reclamation must be performed such that the channels will be left in a stable condition with respect to actual and reasonably expected water flow so as to avoid or minimize future damage to the hydrologic system.

3. Erosion Control - Reclamation shall be conducted in a manner such that sediment from disturbed areas is adequately controlled. The degree of erosion control shall be appropriate for the site-specific and regional conditions of topography, soil, drainage, water quality or other characteristics.

4. Deleterious Materials - All deleterious or potentially deleterious material shall be safely removed from the site or left in an isolated or neutralized condition such that adverse environmental effects are eliminated or controlled.

5. Land Use - The operator shall leave the on-site area in a condition which is capable of supporting the postmining land use.

6. Slopes - Waste piles, spoil piles and fills shall be regraded to a stable configuration and shall be sloped to minimize safety hazards and erosion while providing for successful revegetation.

7. Highwalls - In surface mining and in open cuts for pads or roadways, highwalls shall be reclaimed and stabilized by backfilling against them or by cutting the wall back to achieve a slope angle of 45 degrees or less.

8. Roads and Pads - On-site roads and pads shall be reclaimed when they are no longer needed for operations. When a road or pad is to be turned over to the property owner or managing agency for continuing use, the operator shall turn over the property with adequate surface drainage structures and in a condition suitable for continued use.

9. Dams and Impoundments - Water impounding structures shall be reclaimed so as to be self-draining and mechanically stable unless shown to have sound hydrologic design and to be beneficial to the postmining land use.

10. Trenches and Pits - Trenches and small pits shall be reclaimed.

11. Structures and Equipment - Structures, rail lines, utility connections, equipment, and debris shall be buried or removed.

12. Topsoil Redistribution - After final grading, soil materials shall be redistributed on a stable surface, so as to minimize erosion, prevent undue compaction and promote revegetation.

13. Revegetation - The species seeded shall include adaptable perennial species that will grow on the site, provide basic soil and watershed protection, and support the postmining land use.

Revegetation shall be considered accomplished when:

13.11. The revegetation has achieved 70 percent of the premining vegetative ground cover. If the premining vegetative ground cover of the disturbed area is unknown, then the ground cover of an adjacent undisturbed area that is representative of the premining conditions will be used as a standard. Also, the vegetation has survived three growing seasons following the last seeding, fertilization or irrigation, unless such practices are to continue as part of the postmining land use; or

13.12. The Division determines that the revegetation work has been satisfactorily completed within practical limits.

14. Where reseeding has occurred and the vegetation has survived one growing season, the reseeded area shall not be included for purposes of determining whether a mining operation is a small mining operation.

R647-3-110. Variance.

1. The operator may request a variance from Rule R647-3-107, 108, or 109 by submitting the following information which shall be considered by the Division on a site-specific basis:

1.11. The rule(s) as to where a variance is requested;

1.12. The variance requested and a description of the area that would be affected by the variance;

1.13. Justification for the variance;

1.14. Alternate methods or measures to be utilized.

2. A variance shall be granted if the alternative method or measure proposed will be consistent with the Act.

3. Any variance must be specifically approved by the Division in writing.

R647-3-111. Surety.

1. After receiving notification that the notice of intention is complete, but prior to commencement of operations, the operator must post a reclamation surety with the Division.

1.11. Failure to furnish and maintain reclamation surety may, after notice and opportunity for Board hearing, result in a withdrawal of the notice of intention as provided for in Section 40-8-16.

2. The Division will not require a separate surety where a reclamation surety in a form and amount acceptable to the Division is held by other governmental entities, provided that the cost estimate is accurate and the Division is named as co-beneficiary. Cooperative Agreements may be developed and entered into according to Section 40-8-22.

3. As part of the review of the notice of intention, the Division shall determine the required surety amount based on:

3.11. Site-specific calculations or estimates by the Division reflecting the cost the Division or a third party would incur to reclaim the site;

3.12. Site-specific calculations or estimates by the operator reflecting the cost the Division or a third party would incur to reclaim the site, if accurate and verifiable by the Division; or

3.13. The average dollars per acre costs for reclamation of similar operations, as determined by the Division, based upon approved surety amounts for current large mining operations.

3.14. In determining or verifying the amount of surety under Subsections 3.11 or 3.12, the Division shall use cost data from current sureties for large mining operations, adjusted as necessary to reflect the nature and scope of operations and reclamation under the notice of intention.

3.15. For the average dollars per acre in Subsection 3.13, the Board will annually approve the figure after a formal presentation from the Division and an opportunity for public comment.

4. The operator shall submit a completed Reclamation Contract (FORM MR-RC) with the required surety. The form and amount of the surety must be approved by the Division, except as provided in subpart 4.16. Acceptable forms may include:

4.11. A corporate surety bond from a surety company that is licensed to do business in Utah, that is listed in "A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide" at a rating of A- or better or a Financial Performance Rating (FPR) of 8 or better, according to the "A.M. Best's Guide".

All surety companies also will be continuously listed in the current issue of the U.S. Department of the Treasury Circular 570. Operators who do not have a surety bond with a company that meets the standards of subsection 4.11 will have 120 days from the date of Division notification after enactment of the changes to subsection 4.11 to

achieve compliance or face enforcement action. When the Division in the course of examining surety bonds, notifies an operator that a surety company guaranteeing its performance does not meet the standards of subsection 4.11, the operator has 120 days after notice from the Division by mail to correct the deficiency, or face enforcement action;

4.12. Federally-insured certificate of deposit payable to the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining;

4.13. Cash;

4.14. An irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank organized to do business in the United States;

4.15. Escrow accounts; and

4.16. The Board may approve a written self-bonding agreement in the case of operators showing sufficient financial strength.

5. Surety shall be required until such time as the Division deems reclamation complete. The Division will promptly conduct an inspection when notified by the operator that reclamation is complete.

The full release of surety shall be evidence that the operator has reclaimed as required by the Act.

5.11. A partial release of surety can be made by the Division if it determines that a substantial phase or segment of reclamation such as demolition, backfilling, regrading, or vegetation establishment has been successfully performed and the residual amount of retained surety is determined adequate to insure completion.

6. The amount of reclamation surety may be adjusted:

6.11. As required by a revision in the Notice of Intention under R647-3-115;

6.12. As a result of a periodic review by the Division conducted no more frequently than at 3 year intervals unless agreed to by the operator, which shall take into account inflation/deflation based upon an acceptable Costs Index; or

6.13. At the request of the operator.

7. Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, for operations where the surety is in the form of a Board-approved agreement under Section 40-8-14(3), the Board shall retain the sole authority over the release, partial release, revision or adjustment of the surety amount, if any, which shall be in accordance with the agreement and the Act.

R647-3-112. Failure to Reclaim.

If the operator of a small mining operation fails or refuses to conduct reclamation as required by the complete notice of intention, and fails or refuses to comply with R647-3-107, R647-3-108, or R647-3-109, the Board may, after notice and hearing, order that:

1. Reclamation be conducted by the Division; and

2. The costs and expenses of reclamation, together with costs of collection including attorney's fees, be recovered in a civil action brought by the attorney general against the operator in any appropriate court; and

3. Any surety filed for this purpose be forfeited. With respect to the surety filed with the Division, the Board shall request the Attorney General to take the necessary legal action to enforce and collect the amount of liability. Where reclamation surety has been filed with another governmental agency, the Board shall notify such

agency of the hearing findings, and seek forfeiture concurrence as necessary.

3.11. The forfeited surety shall be used only for the reclamation of the land to which it relates, and any residual amount returned.

R647-3-113. Suspension or Termination of Operations.

1. All mine operations are required to be maintained in a safe, clean, and environmentally stable condition. Active and inactive operations must continue to submit annual reports unless waived in writing by the Division.

2. The operator need not notify the Division of the temporary suspension of small mining operations.

3. In the case of a termination or a suspension of mining operations that has exceeded, or is expected to exceed two (2) years, the operator shall, upon request, furnish the Division with such data as it may require to evaluate the status of the small mining operation, the status of compliance with these rules, and the probable future status of the land affected. Upon review of such data, the Division will take such action as may be appropriate. The Division may grant an extended suspension period if warranted.

4. The operator shall give the Division prompt written notice of a termination or suspension of small mining operations expected to exceed five (5) years. Upon receipt of notification the Division shall, within 30 days, make an inspection of the property.

5. Small mining operations that have been approved for an extended suspension period will be reevaluated on a regular basis. Additional interim reclamation or stabilization measures may be required in order for a small mining operation to remain in a continued state of suspension. Reclamation of a small mining operation may be required after five (5) years of continued suspension. The Division will require complete reclamation of the mine site when the suspension period exceeds 10 years, unless the operator appeals to the Board prior to the expiration of the 10-year period and shows good cause for a longer suspension period.

R647-3-114. Mine Enlargement.

Before enlarging a small mining operation beyond five acres of surface disturbance in an incorporated area of a county or ten acres in an unincorporated area of a county, the operator must file a Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations (FORM MR-LMO) and receive Division approval.

R647-3-115. Revisions.

1. Small mining operators are required to submit a revision to the complete notice of intention when a significant change(s) in the small mining operation occurs. A revision can be made by submitting a revised FORM MR-SMO (or similar form) and indicating the portion(s) of the operation which is being revised.

2. Division approval of a revision of small mining operations is not required but the operational change may not be implemented until the Division determines that the revised NOI is complete.

3. In the event the Division or the operator determine at the time a revision is submitted that the amount of the current surety

does not accurately reflect the potential cost to complete reclamation at any point in time during the revised small mining operations, the Division may undertake a recalculation of the surety amount as provided in R647-3-111.3. If the recalculated amount is greater than the amount of the existing surety, the revised operations may not be implemented until a revised surety is approved by the Division.

4. If the acreage within an approved small mining operation is later annexed into an incorporated area of a county, the permit may continue as a small mining operation. If the operator of such small mining operation subsequently proposes an increase of the disturbed acres, the current definitions for small or large mining operations would apply as appropriate.

R647-3-116. Transfer of a Notice of Intention.

If an operator wishes to transfer a small mining operation to another party, an application form entitled, Transfer of Notice of Intention - Small Mining Operations (FORM MR-TRS) must be completed and filed with the Division. The new mine operator must post adequate reclamation surety and assume full responsibility for all disturbances of the permitted operation. The form and amount of surety must be approved by the Division for the transfer to be complete.

R647-3-117. Reports.

1. On or before January 31 of each year, unless waived in writing by the Division, each operator conducting small mining operations must file an operations and progress report (FORM MR-AR) describing its operations during the preceding calendar year, including:

1.11. The location of the operation and the number and date of the applicable Notice of Intention;

1.12. The gross amounts of ore and waste materials moved during the year, as well as the disposition of such materials;

1.13. New surface disturbances created during the year;

1.14. The reclamation work performed during the year.

2. The operator shall keep and maintain timely records relating to his performance under the Act and still make these records available to the Division upon request.

R647-3-118. Practices and Procedures; Appeals.

The Administrative Procedures, as outlined in the R647-5 Rules, shall be applicable to minerals regulatory proceedings.

R647-3-119. Confidential Information.

Information provided in the notice of intention relating to the location, size, and nature of the mineral deposit, and marked confidential by the operator, shall be protected as confidential information by the Board and the Division. The information will not be a matter of public record until a written release is received from the operator, or until the notice of intention is terminated.

R647-4. Large Mining Operations.

R647-4-101. Filing Requirements and Review Procedures.

Prior to commencement of operations, a Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations (FORM MR-LMO) containing all the required information must be filed with and approved by the Division

and the Division shall have approved the form and amount of reclamation surety.

1. Within 30 days after receipt of a Notice of Intention, or within 30 days after receipt of any subsequent submittal, the Division will complete its review and notify the operator in writing:

1.11. That the notice of intention is complete; or

1.12. That the notice of intention is incomplete, and that additional information as identified by the Division will be required.

2. Within 30 days after receipt of the notice of intention or within 30 days following the last action of the operator or Division on the notice of intention, the Division shall reach a tentative decision with respect to the approval or denial of the notice of intention.

Notice of the tentative decision will then be published in accordance with Rule R647-4-116.

3. Division approval of the notice of intention and execution of the Reclamation Contract (FORM MR-RC) by the operator shall bind the Division and the operator in accordance with the Act and implementing regulations; and, shall enable the operator to conduct mining and reclamation activities in accordance therewith.

4. The operator must notify the Division within 30 days of beginning mining operations.

5. A permittee's retention of an approved notice of intention shall require the paying of permit fees as authorized by the Utah Legislature. The procedures for paying the permit fees are as follows:

5.11. The Division shall notify the operators of record annually of the amount of permit fees authorized by the Utah Legislature for the following notices of intention.

5.11.11. Large Mining Operations (less than 50 acres) (fees calculated on the disturbed acreage permitted/bonded).

5.11.12. Large Mining Operations (greater than 50 acres) (fees calculated on the disturbed acreage permitted/bonded).

5.12. Fees are due annually by the deadline in R647-4-121 for reports.

5.13. A permittee may avoid payment of the fee by complying with the following requirements:

5.13.11. A permittee will notify the Division of a desire to close out a notice of intention by checking the appropriate box of the permit fees billing form.

5.13.12. The permittee will then arrange with the Division for an onsite inspection of the site to assure that all required reclamation has been performed. If an inspection reveals that an area is not yet suitably reclaimed, then a new billing notice will be issued and the permittee will be given 30 days from the date of the onsite inspection to pay the fee.

R647-4-102. Duration of the Notice of Intention.

The approved notice of intention, including any subsequently approved amendments or revisions, shall remain in effect for the life of the mine. However, the Division may review the permit and require updated information and modifications when warranted. Additionally, failure by the operator to pay permit fees required by R647-4-101(5) or maintain and update reclamation surety as required may, after notice

and opportunity for Board hearing result in a withdrawal of the approved notice of intention.

R647-4-103. Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations.

The notice of intention shall address the requirements of the following rules:

TABLE

RULE #	SUBJECT
R647-4-104	Operator(s), Surface and Mineral Owner(s)
R647-4-105	Maps, Drawings and Photographs
R647-4-106	Operation Plan
R647-4-108	Hole Plugging Requirements
R647-4-109	Impact Assessment
R647-4-110	Reclamation Plan
R647-4-112	Variance

R647-4-104. Operator(s), Surface and Mineral Owner(s).

1. The name, permanent mailing address, and telephone number of the operator responsible for the mining operations and reclamation of the site.

2. The name, permanent mailing address, and telephone number of the surface landowner(s) and mineral owner(s) of all land to be affected by the operations.

3. The federal mining claim number(s), lease number(s), or permit number(s) of any mining claims, or federal or state leases or permits included in the lands affected.

R647-4-105. Maps, Drawings and Photographs.

1. A topographic base map must be submitted with the notice of intention. The scale should be approximately 1 inch = 2,000 feet, preferably a USGS 7.5 minute series or equivalent topographic map where available. The following information shall be included on the map:

1.11. Property boundaries of surface ownership of all lands which are to be affected by the mining operations;

1.12. Perennial streams, springs and other bodies of water, roads, buildings, landing strips, electrical transmission lines, water wells, oil and gas pipelines, existing wells, boreholes, or other existing surface or subsurface facilities within 500 feet of the proposed mining operations;

1.13. Proposed route of access to the mining operations from nearest publicly maintained highway. The map scale will be appropriate to show access.

1.14. Known areas which have been previously impacted by mining or exploration activities within the proposed disturbed area.

2. A surface facilities map shall be provided at a scale of approximately 1" = 200' or other scale as determined necessary by the Division. The following information shall be included on the surface facilities map:

2.11. Proposed surface facilities, including but not limited to buildings, stationary mining/processing equipment, roads,

utilities, power lines, proposed drainage control structures, and, the location of topsoil storage areas, tailings or processed waste facilities, disposal areas for overburden, solid and liquid wastes and wastewater discharge treatment and containment facilities;

2.12. A border clearly outlining the acreage proposed to be disturbed by mining operations.

3. The following maps, drawings or cross sections may be required by the Division:

3.11. Regraded Slopes to be left at steeper than 2h:1v;

3.12. Plans, profiles and cross sections of roads, pads or other earthen structures to be left as part of the postmining land use;

3.13. Water impounding structures with embankments greater than 20 feet in height from the upstream toe of the embankment or greater than 20 acre feet in storage capacity;

3.14. Maps identifying surface areas which will be disturbed by the operator but will not be reclaimed, such as solid rock slopes, cuts, roads, or sites of buildings or surface facilities to be left as part of the postmining land use;

3.15. Sediment ponds, diversion channels, culvert size and locations, and other hydrologic designs and features to be incorporated into the mining and reclamation plan;

3.16. Baseline information maps and drawings including soils, vegetation, watershed(s), geologic formations and structure, contour and other such maps which may be required for determination of existing conditions, operations, reclamation and postmining land use;

3.17. A reclamation activities and treatment map to identify the location and the extent of the reclamation work to be accomplished by the operator upon cessation of mining operations. This drawing shall be utilized to determine adequate bonding and reclamation practices for the site;

3.18. Other maps, plans, or cross sections as may reasonably be required by the Division.

4. The operator may submit photographs (prints) of the site sufficient to show existing vegetation and surface conditions. These photographs should show the general appearance and condition of the land to be affected and should be clearly marked as to the location, orientation and the date that the pictures were taken.

5. Copies of the underground and surface mine development maps.

R647-4-106. Operation Plan.

The operator shall provide a narrative description referencing maps or drawings as necessary, of the proposed operations including:

1. Type of mineral(s) to be mined;

2. Type of operations to be conducted, including the mining/processing methods to be used on-site, and the identification of any deleterious or acid forming materials present or to be left on the site as a result of mining or mineral processing;

3. Estimated acreages proposed to be disturbed and/or reclaimed annually or sequentially;

4. A description of the nature of the materials to be mined or processed including waste/overburden materials and the estimated annual tonnages of ore and waste materials to be mined;

5. A description of existing soil types, including the location and extent of topsoil or suitable plant growth material. If no

suitable soil material exists, an explanation of the conditions shall be given;

6. A description of the plan for protecting and redepositing existing soils;

7. A description of existing vegetative communities and cover levels, sufficient to establish revegetation success standards in accordance with Rule R647-4-111;

8. Depth to groundwater, extent of overburden material and geologic setting;

9. Proposed location and size of ore and waste stockpiles, tailings facilities and water storage/treatment ponds.

10. Information regarding the amount of material (including mineral deposit, topsoil, subsoil, overburden, waste rock, or core hole material) extracted, moved or proposed to be moved.

R647-4-107. Operation Practices.

During operations, the operator shall conform to the following practices unless the Division grants a variance in writing:

1. Public Safety and Welfare - The operator shall minimize hazards to the public safety and welfare during operations. Methods to minimize hazards shall include but not be limited to:

1.11. The closing or guarding of shafts and tunnels to prevent unauthorized or accidental entry in accordance with MSHA regulations;

1.12. The disposal of trash, scrap metal and wood, and extraneous debris;

1.13. The plugging or capping of drill, core, or other exploratory holes as set forth in Rule R647-4-108;

1.14. The posting of appropriate warning signs in locations where public access to operations is readily available;

1.15. The construction of berms, fences and/or barriers above highwalls or other excavations when required by the Division.

2. Drainages - If natural channels are to be affected by the mining operation, then the operator shall take appropriate measures to avoid or minimize environmental damage.

3. Erosion Control - Operations shall be conducted in a manner such that sediment from disturbed areas is adequately controlled. The degree of erosion control shall be appropriate for the site-specific and regional conditions of topography, soil, drainage, water quality or other characteristics.

4. Deleterious Materials - All deleterious or potentially deleterious material shall be safely removed from the site or kept in an isolated condition such that adverse environmental effects are eliminated or controlled.

5. Soils - Suitable soil material shall be removed and stored in a stable condition where practical so as to be available for reclamation.

6. Concurrent Reclamation - During operations, disturbed areas shall be reclaimed when no longer needed, except to the extent necessary to preserve evidence of mineralization for proof of discovery. Areas which have been disturbed but are not routinely or currently utilized shall be kept in a safe, environmentally stable condition.

R647-4-108. Hole Plugging Requirements.

Drill holes shall be properly plugged as soon as practical and shall not be left unplugged for more than 30 days without approval of the Division. The procedures outlined below are required for the surface and subsurface plugging of drill holes. The Division may approve an alternate plan, if the operator can prove to the satisfaction of the Division that another method will provide adequate protection to the groundwater resources and long term stability of the land. Dry holes and nonartesian holes which do not produce significant amounts of water may be temporarily plugged with a surface cap to permit the operator to re-enter the hole for the duration of operations.

1. Surface plugging of drill holes shall be accomplished by:

1.11. Setting a nonmetallic permaplug at a minimum of five (5) feet below the surface, or returning the cuttings to the hole and tamping the returned cuttings to within five (5) feet of ground level.

The hole above the permaplug or tamped cuttings will be filled with a cement plug. If cemented casing is to be left in place, a concrete surface plug is not required provided that a permanent cap is secured on top of the casing.

1.12. If the area is tilled farmland, a five (5) foot cement plug must be placed above a permaplug or tamped cuttings so that the top of the cement plug is a minimum of three (3) feet below the ground surface. The hole above the cement plug is to be filled with soil.

If cemented casing is to be left in place, a concrete surface plug is not required provided that a permanent cap is secured on top of the casing. The top of the casing and cap must be a minimum of three (3) feet below the ground surface.

2. Drill holes that encounter water, oil, gas or other potential migratory substances and are 2-1/2 inches or greater in surface diameter shall be plugged in the subsurface to prevent the migration of fluid from one strata to another. If water is encountered, plugging shall be accomplished as outlined below:

2.11. If artesian flow (i.e., water flowing to the surface from the hole) is encountered during or upon cessation of drilling, a cement plug shall be placed to prevent water from flowing between geologic formations and at the surface. The cement mix should consist of API Class A or H cement with additives as needed. It should weigh at least 13.5 lbs./gal., and be placed under the supervision of a person qualified in proper drill hole cementing of artesian flow. Artesian bore holes must be plugged in the described manner, prior to removal of the drilling equipment from the well site. If the surface owner of the land affected desires to convert an artesian drill hole to a water well, he must notify the Division in writing that he accepts responsibility for the ultimate plugging of the drill hole.

2.12. Holes that encounter significant amounts of nonartesian water shall be plugged by:

2.12.111 Placing a 50 foot cement plug immediately above and below the aquifer(s); or

2.12.112 Filling from the bottom up (through the drill stem) with a high grade bentonite/water slurry mixture. The slurry shall have a Marsh funnel viscosity of at least 50 seconds per quart prior to the adding of any cuttings.

The operator shall provide a general narrative description identifying potential surface and/or subsurface impacts. This description will include, at a minimum:

1. Projected impacts to surface and groundwater systems;
2. Potential impacts to state and federal threatened and endangered species or their critical habitats;
3. Projected impacts of the mining operation on existing soil resources;
4. Projected impacts of mining operations on slope stability, erosion control, air quality, and public health and safety;
5. Actions which are proposed to mitigate any of the above referenced impacts.

R647-4-110. Reclamation Plan.

Each notice of intention shall include a reclamation plan, including maps or drawings as necessary, consisting of a narrative description of the proposed reclamation including, but not limited to:

1. A statement of the current land use and the proposed postmining land use for the disturbed area;
2. A description of the manner and the extent to which roads, highwalls, slopes, impoundments, drainages, pits and ponds, piles, shafts and adits, drill holes, and similar structures will be reclaimed;
3. A detailed description of any surface facilities to be left as part of the postmining land use, including but not limited to buildings, utilities, roads, pads, ponds, pits and surface equipment;
4. A description of the treatment, location and disposition of any deleterious or acid-forming materials generated and left on-site, including a map showing the location of such materials upon the completion of reclamation;
5. A planting program as best calculated to revegetate the disturbed area.
 - 5.11. Plans shall include, at a minimum, grading and/or stabilization procedures, topsoil replacement, seed bed preparation, seed mixture(s) and rate(s), and timing of seeding (fall seeding is preferred timing);
 - 5.12. Where there is no original protective cover, an alternate practical procedure must be proposed to minimize or control erosion or siltation.
6. A statement that the operator will conduct reclamation as required by these rules.

R647-4-111. Reclamation Practices.

During reclamation, the operator shall conform to the following practices unless the Division grants a variance in writing:

1. Public Safety and Welfare - The operator shall minimize hazards to the public safety and welfare following completion of operations. Methods to minimize hazards shall include but not be limited to:
 - 1.11. The permanent sealing of shafts and tunnels;
 - 1.12. The disposal of trash, scrap metal and wood, buildings, extraneous debris, and other materials incident to mining;
 - 1.13. The plugging of drill, core, or other exploratory holes

as set forth in Rule R647-4-108;

1.14. The posting of appropriate warning signs in locations where public access to operations is readily available;

1.15. The construction of berms, fences and/or barriers above highwalls or other excavations when required by the Division.

2. Drainages - If natural channels have been affected by mining operations, then reclamation must be performed such that the channels will be left in a stable condition with respect to actual and reasonably expected water flow so as to avoid or minimize future damage to the hydrologic system.

3. Erosion Control - Reclamation shall be conducted in a manner such that sediment from disturbed areas is adequately controlled. The degree of erosion control shall be appropriate for the site-specific and regional conditions of topography, soil, drainage, water quality or other characteristics.

4. Deleterious Materials - All deleterious or potentially deleterious material shall be safely removed from the site or left in an isolated or neutralized condition such that adverse environmental effects are eliminated or controlled.

5. Land Use - The operator shall leave the on-site area in a condition which is capable of supporting the postmining land use.

6. Slopes - Waste piles, spoil piles and fills shall be regraded to a stable configuration and shall be sloped to minimize safety hazards and erosion while providing for successful revegetation.

7. Highwalls - In surface mining and in open cuts for pads or roadways, highwalls shall be reclaimed and stabilized by backfilling against them or by cutting the wall back to achieve a slope angle of 45 degrees or less.

8. Roads and Pads - On-site roads and pads shall be reclaimed when they are no longer needed for operations. When a road or pad is to be turned over to the property owner or managing agency for continuing use, the operator shall turn over the property with adequate surface drainage structures and in a condition suitable for continued use.

9. Dams and Impoundments - Water impounding structures shall be reclaimed so as to be self-draining and mechanically stable unless shown to have sound hydrologic design and to be beneficial to the postmining land use.

10. Trenches and Pits - Trenches and small pits shall be reclaimed.

11. Structures and Equipment - Structures, rail lines, utility connections, equipment, and debris shall be buried or removed.

12. Topsoil Redistribution - After final grading, soil materials shall be redistributed on a stable surface, so as to minimize erosion, prevent undue compaction and promote revegetation.

13. Revegetation - The species seeded shall include adaptable perennial species that will grow on the site, provide basic soil and watershed protection, and support the postmining land use.

Revegetation shall be considered accomplished when:

13.11. The revegetation has achieved 70 percent of the premining vegetative ground cover. If the premining vegetative ground cover is unknown, the ground cover of an adjacent undisturbed area that is representative of the premining ground cover will be used as a standard. Also, the vegetation has survived three growing seasons

following the last seeding, fertilization or irrigation, unless such practices are to continue as part of the postmining land use; or

13.12. The Division determines that the revegetation work has been satisfactorily completed within practical limits.

R647-4-112. Variance.

1. The operator may request a variance from Rule R647-4-107, 108, or 111, by submitting the following information which will be considered by the Division on a site-specific basis:

1.11. The rule(s) as to which a variance is requested;

1.12. The variance requested and a description of the area that would be affected by the variance;

1.13. Justification for the variance;

1.14. Alternate methods or measures to be utilized.

2. A variance shall be granted if the alternative method or measure proposed will be consistent with the Act.

3. Any variance must be specifically approved by the Division in writing.

R647-4-113. Surety.

1. After receiving notification that the notice of intention has been approved, but prior to commencement of operations, the operator shall provide the reclamation surety to the Division. Failure to furnish and maintain reclamation surety may, after notice and opportunity for Board hearing, result in a withdrawal of the approved notice of intention as provided for in Section 40-8-16.

2. The Division will not require a separate surety when a reclamation surety in a form and amount acceptable to the Division is held by other governmental entities, provided that the cost estimate is accurate and the Division is named as co-beneficiary. Cooperative Agreements will be developed and entered into according to Section 40-8-22.

3. As part of the review of the notice of intention, the Division shall determine the final amount of surety required to reclaim the mine site. The surety amount will be based upon (a) the technical details of the approved mining and reclamation plan, (b) the proposed post mining land use, and (c) projected third party engineering and administrative costs to cover Division expenses incurred under a bond forfeiture circumstance. An operator's surety estimate will be accepted if it is accurate and verifiable. The Division may accept surety estimates based upon the Minerals Reclamation Program's average dollars per acre reclamation costs, if comparable to site specific cost estimates for similar operations.

4. The operator shall submit a completed Reclamation Contract (FORM MR-RC) with the required surety. The form and amount of the surety must be approved by the Division, except as provided in subpart 4.16. Acceptable forms may include:

4.11. A corporate surety bond from a surety company that is licensed to do business in Utah, that is listed in "A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide" at a rating of A- or better or a Financial Performance Rating (FPR) of 8 or better, according to the "A.M. Best's Guide".

All surety companies also will be continuously listed in the current issue of the U.S. Department of the Treasury Circular 570. Operators who do not have a surety bond with a company that meets the standards

of subsection 4.11 will have 120 days from the date of Division notification after enactment of the changes to subsection 4.11 to achieve compliance or face enforcement action. When the Division in the course of examining surety bonds, notifies an operator that a surety company guaranteeing its performance does not meet the standards of subsection 4.11., the operator has 120 days after notice from the Division by mail to correct the deficiency, or face enforcement action;

4.12. Federally-insured certificate of deposit payable to the State of Utah, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining;

4.13. Cash;

4.14. An irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank organized to do business in the United States;

4.15. Escrow accounts.

4.16. The Board may approve a written self-bonding agreement in the case of operators showing sufficient financial strength.

5. Surety shall be required until such time as reclamation is deemed complete by the Division. The Division shall promptly conduct an inspection when notified by the operator that reclamation is complete. The full release of surety shall be evidence that the operator has reclaimed as required by the Act.

5.11. A partial release of surety can be made by the Division if it determines that a substantial phase or segment of reclamation such as demolition, backfilling, regrading or vegetation establishment has been successfully performed and the residual amount of retained surety is determined adequate to insure completion of reclamation.

6. The amount of reclamation surety may be adjusted:

6.11. If required to address changes in the reclamation plan due to an amendment or revision to the Notice of Intention under R647-4-118 and R647-4-119;

6.12. As the result of a periodic review by the Division conducted no more frequently than at 5 year intervals unless agreed to by the operator; which shall take into account inflation/deflation based upon an acceptable Costs Index; or

6.13. At the request of the operator.

7. Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, for operations where the surety is in the form of a Board-approved agreement under Section 40-8-14(3), the Board shall retain the sole authority over the release, partial release, revision or adjustment of the surety amount, if any, which shall be in accordance with the agreement and the Act.

R647-4-114. Failure to Reclaim.

If the operator fails or refuses to conduct reclamation as outlined in the approved notice of intention, the Board may, after notice and hearing, order that reclamation be conducted by the Division and that:

1. The costs and expenses of reclamation, together with costs of collection including attorney's fees, be recovered in a civil action brought by the attorney general against the operator in any appropriate court; or

2. Any surety filed for this purpose be forfeited. With respect to the surety filed with the Division, the Board shall request the

Attorney General to take the necessary legal action to enforce and collect the amount of liability. Where surety or a bond has been filed with other governmental agencies, the Board shall notify such agency of the hearing findings, and seek forfeiture concurrence as necessary.

R647-4-115. Confidential Information.

Information provided in the notice of intention relating to the location, size, and nature of the mineral deposit, and marked confidential by the operator, shall be protected as confidential information by the Board and the Division. The information will not be a matter of public record until a written release is received from the operator, or until the notice of intention is terminated.

R647-4-116. Public Notice and Appeals.

1. Public notice will be deemed complete when the following actions have been taken:

(1.) A description of the disturbed area and the tentative decision to approve or disapprove the notice of intention shall be published by the Division in abbreviated form, one time only, in all newspapers of general circulation published in the county or counties where the land affected is situated, and in a daily newspaper of general circulation in Salt Lake City, Utah.

(2.) A copy of the abbreviated information and tentative decision shall also be mailed by the Division to the zoning authority of the county or counties in which the land affected is situated and to the owner or owners of record of the land affected, as described in the notice of intention.

2. Any person or agency aggrieved by the tentative decision may file a written protest with the Division, during the public comment period identified in the notice, setting forth factual reasons for the complaint.

3. If no responsive written protests are received by the Division within 30 days after the last date of publication, the tentative decision of the Division on the notice of intention shall be final and the operator will be so notified.

4. If written objections of substance are received by the Division during the public comment period, a hearing shall be held before the Division in accordance with UCA 40-8-13, following which hearing the Division shall issue its decision.

R647-4-117. Notification of Suspension or Termination of Operations.

1. The operator need not notify the Division of the temporary suspension of mining operations.

2. In the case of a termination or a suspension of mining operations that has exceeded, or is expected to exceed two (2) years, the operator shall, upon request, furnish the Division with such data as it may require to evaluate the status of the mining operation, the status of compliance with these rules, and the probable future status of the land affected. Upon review of such data, the Division will take such action as may be appropriate. The Division may grant an extended suspension period if warranted by a showing of good cause by the operator.

3. The operator shall give the Division prompt written notice

of a termination or suspension of large mining operations expected to exceed five (5) years. Upon receipt of notification, the Division shall, within 30 days, make an inspection of the property.

4. Large mining operations that have been approved for an extended suspension period will be reevaluated on a regular basis. Additional interim reclamation or stabilization measures may be required in order for a large mining operation to remain in a continued state of suspension. Reclamation of a large mining operation may be required after five (5) years of continued suspension. The Division will require complete reclamation of the mine site when the suspension period exceeds 10 years, unless the operator appeals to the Board prior to the expiration of the 10-year period and shows good cause for a longer suspension period.

R647-4-118. Revisions.

1. In order to revise a notice of intention, an operator shall file a Notice of Intention to Revise Large Mining Operations (FORM MR-REV). This notice of intention will include all information concerning the revision that would have been required in the original notice of intention.

2. A Notice of Intention to Revise Large Mining Operations (FORM MR-REV) will be processed and considered for approval by the Division in the same manner as an original notice of intention. The operator will be authorized and bound by the requirements of the existing approved notice until the revision is acted upon and any revised surety requirements are satisfied. Those portions of the approved notice of intention not subject to the revision will not be subject to review under this provision.

3. Large mining operations which have a disturbed area of five acres or less in an incorporated area of a county or ten acres or less in an unincorporated area of a county may refile as a small mining operation. Reclaimed areas must meet full bond release requirements before they can be excluded from the disturbed acreage.

R647-4-119. Amendments.

1. An amendment is an insignificant change to the approved notice of intention. The Division will review the change and make the determination of significance on a case-by-case basis.

2. A request for an amendment should be filed on the Notice of Intention to Revise Large Mining Operations (FORM MR-REV). An amendment of a large mining operation requires Division approval but does not require public notice.

R647-4-120. Transfer of Notice of Intention.

If an operator wishes to transfer a mining operation to another party, an application for Transfer of Notice of Intention - Large Mining Operations (FORM MR-TRL), must be completed and filed with the Division. The new mine operator will be required to post a new reclamation surety and must assume full responsibility for continued mining operations and reclamation.

R647-4-121. Reports.

1. On or before January 31 of each year, unless waived in writing by the Division, each operator conducting large mining operations

must file an Annual Report of Mining Operations (FORM MR-AR) describing its operations during the preceding calendar year. Form MR-AR, includes:

1.11. The location of the operation and file number of the approved notice of intention;

1.12. The gross amounts of ore and waste materials moved during the year, as well as the disposition of such materials;

1.13. The reclamation work performed during the year and new surface disturbances created during the year.

2. The operator shall include an updated map depicting surface disturbance and reclamation performed during the year, prepared in accordance with Rule R647-4-105.

3. The operator shall keep and maintain timely records relating to his performance under the Act, and shall make these records available to the Division upon request.

R647-4-122. Practices and Procedures; Appeals.

The Administrative Procedures, as outlined in the R647-5 Rules, shall be applicable to minerals regulatory proceedings.

R647-5. Administrative Procedures.

R647-5-101. Formal and Informal Proceeding.

1. Adjudicative proceedings which shall commence formally before the Board in accordance with the "Rules of Practice and Procedure Before the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining", the R641 rules, include the following: R647-2-112, Failure to Reclaim, Forfeiture of Surety; R647-3-112, Failure to Reclaim, Forfeiture of Surety; R647-3-113.5, Over 10-Year Suspension; R647-4-114, Failure to Reclaim, Forfeiture of Surety; R647-4-117.4, Over 10-Year Suspension.

2. Adjudicative proceedings which shall commence informally before the Division in accordance with this Rule R647-5 include the following: R647-2-101, Notice of Intent to Commence Mining Operations; R647-2-102, Extension; R647-2-107, Operation Practices; R647-2-108, Unplugged Over 30 Days/Alternative Plan; R647-2-109, Reclamation Practices Variance; R647-2-109.13, Revegetation Approval; R647-2-110, Variance, Revocation or Adjustment of Variance; R647-2-111, Release of Surety; R647-2-114, New or Revised Notice of Intention; R647-3-101, Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations; R647-3-107, Operation Practices; R647-3-108, Unplugged over 30 Days/Alternate Plan; R647-3-109, Reclamation Practices Variance; R647-3-109.13, Revegetation Approval; R647-3-110, Variance, Revocation, or Adjustment of Variance; R647-3-111, Release of Surety; R647-3-113.1, Waiver, Annual Report; R647-3-113.3 and R647-3-113.4, Termination or Suspension; R647-3-113.5, Reevaluations, Reclamation; R647-3-114, Mine Enlargement; R647-3-115, Revisions; R647-3-117, Report Waiver; R647-4-101, Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operation; R647-4-102, Updated Information or Modifications; R647-4-107, Operation Practices; R647-4-108, Unplugged over 30 Days/Alternate Plan; R647-4-111, Reclamation Practice, Variance; R647-4-111.13, Revegetation Approval; R647-4-112, Variances, Revocation or Adjustment; R647-4-113, Release of Surety; R647-4-117.3 and R647-4-117.4, Termination or Suspension; R647-4-118, Revisions; R647-4-119, Amendments; R647-4-121, Annual Report, Waiver.

3. Adjudicative proceedings which shall commence before the Board but follow the procedures for the informal process in this Rule R647-5 include the following:

R647-2-111, Surety, Form and Amount; R647-3-111, Surety, Form and Amount; and R647-4-113, Surety, Form and Amount.

R647-5-102. Informal Process.

Adjudicative proceedings declared by these rules hereinabove to commence in the informal phase shall be processed according to Rule R647-5 et seq. below. All other requirements of the Mineral Rules shall apply when they supplement these rules governing the informal phase and when not in conflict with any of the rules of R647-5.

Notwithstanding this, any longer time periods provided for in the Mineral Rules shall apply.

R647-5-103. Definitions.

Definitions as used in these rules may be found under R647-1-106.

R647-5-104. Commencement of Adjudicative Proceedings.

1. Except for emergency orders described further in these rules, all adjudicative proceedings that commence in the informal phase shall be commenced by either:

1.11. A Notice of Agency Action, if proceedings are commenced by the Board or Division; or

1.12. A Request for Agency Action, if proceedings are commenced by persons other than the Board or Division.

2. A Notice of Agency Action shall be filed and served according to the following requirements:

2.11. The Notice of Agency Action shall be in writing and shall be signed on behalf of the Board if the proceedings are commenced by the Board, or by or on behalf of the Division Director if the proceedings are commenced by the Division. A Notice shall include:

2.11.111 The names and mailing addresses of all persons to whom notice is being given by the Board or Division, and the name, title, and mailing address of any attorney or employee who has been designated to appear for the Board or Division;

2.11.112 The Division's file number or other reference number;

2.11.113 The name of the adjudicative proceeding;

2.11.114 The date that the Notice of Agency Action was mailed;

2.11.115 A statement that the adjudicative proceeding is to be conducted informally according to the provisions of these Rules and Sections 63G-4-202 and 63G-4-203 of the Utah Code Annotated (1953, as amended), if applicable;

2.11.116 A statement that the parties may request an informal hearing before the Division within ten (10) days of the date of mailing or publication and that failure to make such a request for hearing may preclude that party from any further participation, appeal or judicial review in regard to the subject adjudicative proceeding;

2.11.117 A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the adjudicative proceeding is to be maintained;

2.11.118 The name, title, mailing address, and telephone number of the Division Director; and

2.11.119 A statement of the purpose of the adjudicative proceeding and, to the extent known by the Division Director, the

questions to be decided.

2.12. Unless waived, the Division shall:

2.12.111 Mail the Notice of Agency Action to each party and any other person who has a right to notice under statute or rule; and

2.12.112 Publish the Notice of Agency Action if required by statute or by the Mineral Rules.

2.13. All the listed adjudicative processes that commence informally may be petitioned for by a person other than the Division or Board. That person's Request for Agency Action shall be in writing and signed by the person invoking the jurisdiction of the Division or by his or her attorney, and shall include:

2.13.111 The names and addresses of all persons to whom a copy of the Request for Agency Action is being sent;

2.13.112 A space for the Division's file number or other reference number;

2.13.113 Certificate of mailing of the Request for Agency Action;

2.13.114 A statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which Division action is requested;

2.13.115 A statement of the relief or action sought from the Division; and

2.13.116 A statement of the facts and reasons forming the basis for relief or action.

2.14. The person requesting the Division action shall use the forms of the Division with the additional information required by Rule R647-5-104.2.13 above. The Division is hereby authorized to codify said forms in conformance with this rule. Said forms shall be deemed a Request for Agency Action. The person requesting agency action shall file the request with the Division and shall, unless waived, send a copy by mail to each person known to have a direct interest in the requested agency action.

2.15. In the case of a Request for Agency Action, the Division shall, unless waived, ensure that notice by mail has been promptly given to all parties, or by publication when required by statute or the Mineral Rules. The written notice shall:

2.15.111 Give the Division's file number or other reference number;

2.15.112 Give the name of the proceeding;

2.15.113 Designate that the proceeding is to be conducted informally according to the provisions of these Rules and Section 63G-4-202 and 63G-4-203 of Utah Code Annotated (1953, as amended), if applicable;

2.15.114 A statement that the parties may request an informal hearing before the Division within ten (10) days of the date of mailing or publication and that failure to make such a request may preclude that party from any further participation, appeal or judicial review in regard to the subject adjudicative proceeding;

2.15.115 Give the name, title, mailing address, and telephone number of the Division Director; and

2.15.116 If the purpose of the adjudicative proceeding is to award a license or other privilege as to which there are multiple competing applicants, the Division may, by rule or order, conduct a single adjudicative proceeding to determine the award of that license

or privilege.

R647-5-105. Conversion of Informal to Formal Phase.

1. Any time before a final order is issued in any adjudicative proceeding before the Division, the Division Director may convert an informal adjudicative proceeding to a formal adjudicative proceeding if:

1.11. Conversion of the proceeding is in the public interest; and

1.12. Conversion of the proceeding does not unfairly prejudice the rights of any party.

2. An adjudicative proceeding which commences informally shall also be processed formally if an appeal to the Board is filed under the rules hereinbelow. Such an appeal changes the character of the adjudicative process to a contested case which requires a formal hearing process before the Board or its designated Hearing Examiner to best protect the interests of the public as well as the parties involved.

R647-5-106. Procedures for Informal Phase.

1. A Request for Agency Action or Notice of Agency Action shall be the method of commencement of an adjudicative process as previously discussed in these rules.

2. The mailing requirements of Rule R647-5-104.2.12.111 and R647-5-104.2.14, whichever is applicable, shall be met.

3. The Notice of Agency Action shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation likely to give notice to interested persons when required by statute or by these Mineral Rules.

4. All notices required herein shall indicate the date of publication or mailing and specify that any affected person may file with the Division within ten (10) days of said date, a written objection and request for informal hearing before the Division and that failure to make such a request may preclude that person from further participation, appeal or judicial review in regard to the subject adjudicative proceeding. Said ten (10) day period shall be waived if the Division receives a waiver signed by those entitled to notice under these rules.

5. In any hearing, the parties named in the Notice of Agency Action or in the Request for Agency action shall be permitted to testify, present evidence, and comment on the issues.

6. Hearings will be held only after timely notice to all parties.

7. Discovery is prohibited, but the Division Director may issue subpoenas or other orders to compel production of necessary evidence.

8. All parties shall have access to information contained in the Division's files and to all materials and information gathered in by investigation, or to the extent permitted by law.

9. Intervention is prohibited, except where required by federal statute or rule.

10. All hearings shall be open to all parties.

11. Within a reasonable time after the close of the hearing, or after the parties' failure to request a hearing within said ten (10) day period, the Division Director shall issue a written, signed order that states the following:

11.11 The decision;

- 11.12 The reasons for the decision;
- 11.13 A notice of the right to appeal to the Board;
- 11.14 The time limits for filing an appeal.

12. The Division Director's order shall be based on the facts appearing in the Division's files and on the facts presented in evidence at any hearings.

13. Unless waived by the intended recipient of the order, a copy of the Division Director's order shall be promptly mailed to each of the parties.

14. The Division may record any hearing. Any party, at his or her own expense, may have a reporter approved by the Division prepare a transcript from the Division's record of the hearing.

15. Nothing in this section restricts or precludes any investigative right or power given to the Division by another statute.

16. Default. The Division Director may enter an order of default against a party if the party fails to participate in the adjudicative proceeding. The order of default shall include a statement of the grounds for default and shall be mailed to all parties.

A defaulted party may seek to have the Division Director set aside the default order and any order in the adjudicative proceeding issued subsequent to the default order, by following the procedures outlined in the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure. After issuing the order of default, the Division shall conduct any further proceedings necessary to complete the adjudicative proceeding without the participation of the party in default and shall determine all issues in the adjudicative proceeding, including those affecting the defaulting party. Notwithstanding this, in an adjudicative proceeding that has no parties other than the Division and the party in default, the Division Director shall, after issuing the order of default, dismiss the proceeding.

17. Appeal of Division Order. Any aggrieved party that participated at a hearing before the Division or an applicant who is aggrieved by a denial or approval with conditions, may file a written appeal to the Board within ten (10) days of the issuance of the order.

The written appeal shall be in the form of a Request for Agency Action for a formal hearing before the Board or its designated Hearing Examiner in conformance with the Rules of Practice and Procedure before the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining, and shall also state the grounds for the appeal and the relief requested.

18. Emergency Orders. Notwithstanding the other provisions of these rules, the Division Director or any member of the Board is authorized to issue an emergency order without notice and hearing in accordance with Section 40-8-6. The emergency order shall remain in effect no longer than until the next regular meeting of the Board, or such shorter period of time as shall be prescribed by statute.

18.11. Prerequisites for Emergency Order. The following must exist to allow an emergency order:

18.11.111 The facts known to the Division Director or Board member or presented to the Division Director or Board member show that an immediate and significant danger of waste or other danger to the public health, safety, or welfare exists; and

18.11.112 The threat requires immediate action by the Division Director or Board member.

18.12. Limitations. In issuing its Emergency Order, the

Division Director or Board member shall:

18.12.111 Limit its order to require only the action necessary to prevent or avoid the danger to the public health, safety, or welfare;

18.12.112 Issue promptly a written order, effective immediately, that includes a brief statement of findings of fact, conclusions of law, and reasons for the Division Director's or Board member's utilization of emergency adjudicative proceedings;

18.12.113 Give immediate notice to the persons who are required to comply with the order;

18.12.114 If the emergency order issued under this section will result in the continued infringement or impairment of any legal right or interest of any party, the Division shall commence a formal adjudicative proceeding before the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining.

R647-5-107. Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies.

1. Persons must exhaust their administrative remedies in accordance with Section 63G-4-401, Utah Code Annotated (1953, as amended), prior to seeking judicial review.

2. In any informal proceeding before the Division, there is an opportunity given to request an informal hearing before the Division. If a timely request is made, the Division will conduct an informal hearing and issue a decision thereafter. Only those aggrieved parties that participated in any hearing or an applicant who is aggrieved by a denial or an approval with conditions will then be entitled to appeal such Division decision to the Board within ten (10) days of issuance of the Division order. Such appeal shall be treated as a contested case which is processed as a formal proceeding under the Rules of Practice and Procedure before the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining. Such rights to request an informal hearing before the Division or to appeal the Division order and have the matter be contested and processed formally are available and adequate administrative remedies and should be exercised prior to seeking judicial review.

R647-5-108. Waivers.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, any procedural matter, including any right to notice or hearing, may be waived by the affected person(s) by a signed, written waiver in a form acceptable to the Division.

R647-5-109. Severability.

In the event that any provision, section, subsection or phrase of these rules is determined by a court or body of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, other remaining provisions, sections, subsections or phrases shall remain in full force and effect.

R647-5-110. Construction.

The Utah Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 63G, Chapter 4 of the Utah Code Annotated (1953, as amended) shall supersede any conflicting provision of these rules. These rules should be construed to be in compliance with said Act.

R647-5-111. Time Periods.

Nothing in these rules may be interpreted to restrict the Division Director, for good cause shown, from lengthening or shortening any time period prescribed herein.

R647-6. Inspection and Enforcement: Division Authority and Procedures.

R647-6-101. General Information on Authority and Procedures.

(1) Enforcement Authority. Nothing in the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act will be construed as eliminating any additional enforcement rights or procedures which are available under State law to the Division, but which are not specifically enumerated in Sections 40-8-8, 40-8-9 and 40-8-9.1 of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act.

(2) Inspection Program. The Division will conduct inspections of each mining operation and reclamation under its jurisdiction for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of Title 40, Chapter 8.

2.11. Division representatives shall be allowed to enter upon and through any minerals mining operation and reclamation without advance notice. Division Representatives need to check in on site or make an attempt to contact the permittee or operator, if available, prior to proceeding through the site.

2.12. Division representatives shall be allowed to inspect any monitoring equipment or method of exploration, operation or reclamation and have access to and may copy any records required under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act.

(3) Compliance Conference.

3.11. A permittee or operator may request an on-site compliance conference with an authorized representative of the Division to review the compliance status of any condition or practice at any mining operation and reclamation. Any such conference will not constitute an inspection within the meaning of Section 40-8-9 and R647-6-101.2.

3.12. The Division may accept or refuse any request to conduct a compliance conference under R647-6-101.3.11. A conference will be considered an inspection if a condition or practice exists which is described in R647-6-102.1.11.111 or 1.11.112.

3.13. The authorized representative at any compliance conference will review such conditions and practices in order to advise whether any such condition or practice is, or may become a violation of any requirement of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act or any applicable permit or exploration approval.

3.14. Neither the holding of a compliance conference under this section nor any statement given by the authorized representative at such a conference will affect:

3.14.111. Any rights or obligations of the Division or of the permittee or operator with respect to any inspection, notice of violation or cessation order, whether prior or subsequent to such compliance conference; or

3.14.112. The validity of any notice of violation or cessation order issued with respect to any condition or practice reviewed at the compliance conference.

R647-6-102. Provisions of State Enforcement.

1. Cessation Orders.

1.11. The Division will immediately order a cessation of mining operations and reclamation or of the relevant portion thereof, if

it finds, on the basis of any Division inspection, any violation of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, or any condition of a permit under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, which:

1.11.111. Creates an imminent danger to the health or safety of the public; or

1.11.112. Is causing or can reasonably be expected to cause significant, imminent environmental harm to land, air, or water resources.

1.12. Mining operations and reclamation conducted by any person without a valid permit constitute a condition or practice described in R647-6-102.1.111 or 1.11.112.

1.13. If the cessation ordered under R647-6-102.1.11 will not completely abate the conditions described in R647-6-102.1.11.111 or 1.11.112 in the most expeditious manner physically possible, the Division will impose affirmative obligations on the permittee or operator to abate the violation. The order will specify the time by which abatement will be accomplished.

1.14. When a notice of violation has been issued under R647-6-102.2 and the permittee or operator fails to abate the violation within the abatement period fixed or subsequently extended by the Division then the Division will immediately order a cessation of mining operations and reclamation, or of the portion relevant to the violation. A cessation order issued under R647-6-102.1.14 will require the permittee or operator to take all steps the Division deems necessary to abate the violations covered by the order in the most expeditious manner physically possible.

1.15. A cessation order issued under R647-6-102.1.11 or R647-6-102.1.14 will be in writing, signed by the authorized representative of the Division who issued it, and will set forth with reasonable specificity:

1.15.111. The nature of the violation;

1.15.112. The remedial action or affirmative obligation required, if any, including interim steps, if appropriate;

1.15.113. The time established for abatement, if appropriate, including the time for meeting any interim steps;

1.15.114. A reasonable description of the portion of the mining operation and reclamation to which it applies; and

1.15.115. That the order will remain in effect until the violation has been abated or until vacated, modified or terminated in writing by the Division.

1.16. Reclamation and other activities intended to protect public health and safety and the environment will continue during the period of any order unless otherwise provided.

1.17. The Division may modify, terminate or vacate a cessation order for good cause and may extend the time for abatement if the failure to abate within the time previously set was not caused by lack of diligence on the part of the permittee or operator.

1.18. The Division will terminate a cessation order by written notice to the permittee or operator, when it is determined that all conditions, practices or violations listed in the order have been abated. Termination will not affect the right of the Division to assess civil penalties for those violations under R647-7.

2. Notices of Violation.

2.11. When on the basis of any Division inspection the Division

determines that there exists a violation of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act or any condition of a permit required by the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, which does not create an imminent danger or harm for which a cessation order must be issued under R647-6-102.1, the Division will issue a notice of violation to the permittee or operator fixing a reasonable time not to exceed 90 days for the abatement of the violation and providing opportunity for a conference before the Division.

2.12. A notice of violation issued under R647-6-102.2 will be in writing, signed by the authorized representative of the Division, and will set forth with reasonable specificity:

2.12.111. The nature of the violation;

2.12.112. The remedial action required, which may include interim steps;

2.12.113. A reasonable time for abatement, which may include time for accomplishment of interim steps; and

2.12.114. A reasonable description of the portion of the mining operation or reclamation to which it applies.

2.13. The Division may extend the time set for abatement or for accomplishment of an interim step, if the failure to meet the time previously set was not caused by lack of diligence on the part of the permittee or operator. The total time for abatement under a notice of violation, including all extensions, will not exceed 90 days from the date of issuance except upon a showing by the permittee or operator that it is not feasible to abate the violation within 90 calendar days due to one or more of the circumstances in R647-6-102.2.16. An extended abatement date pursuant to this section will not be granted when the permittee or operator's failure to abate within 90 days has been caused by lack of diligence or intentional delay by the permittee or operator in completing the remedial action required.

2.14. If the permittee or operator fails to meet any time set for abatement or for accomplishment of an interim step, the Division will issue a cessation order under R647-6-102.1.14.

2.15. The Division will terminate a notice of violation by written notice to the permittee or operator, when the Division determines that all violations listed in the notice of violation have been abated. Termination will not affect the right of the Division to assess civil penalties for those violations which have been abated, nor will termination affect the right of the Division to assess civil penalties for those violations under R647-7.

2.16. Circumstances which may qualify a mining operation and reclamation for an abatement period of more than 90 days are:

2.16.111. Where good cause is shown by the permittee or operator;

2.16.112. Where climatic conditions preclude complete abatement within 90 days;

2.16.113. Where due to climatic conditions, abatement within 90 days would clearly cause more environmental harm than it would prevent; or

2.16.114. Where the permittee's or operator's action to abate the violation within 90 days would violate safety standards established by the Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

2.17. Other requirements on abatement times extended beyond

90 days.

2.17.111. Whenever an abatement time in excess of 90 days is permitted, interim abatement measures will be imposed to the extent necessary to minimize harm to the public or the environment.

2.17.112. The permittee or operator will have the burden of establishing by clear and convincing proof that he or she is entitled to an extension under R647-6-102.2.16 and R647-6-102.2.17.

2.17.113. Any determination made under R647-6-102.2.13 will contain a right of appeal pursuant to R647-5.

3. Service of Notices of Violation, Cessation Orders and Show Cause Orders.

3.11. A notice of violation, cessation order, or order to show cause will be served on the permittee or operator promptly after issuance by one of the following methods:

3.11.111. Personal service, in accordance with the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure. Service shall be effective on the date of personal service.

3.11.112. Delivery by United States mail or by courier service, provided the person being served signs a document indicating receipt. Service shall be complete on the date the receipt is signed.

3.11.113. First posting a copy of the notice at a conspicuous location at the mine site or offices of the place of violation, and thereafter by personally delivering or mailing a copy by certified mail to the permittee or operator at the last address provided to the Division. Service shall be complete upon personal delivery or three days after the date of mailing.

3.12. Service on the permittee or operator shall be sufficient if service is made upon:

3.12.111. an officer of a corporation,

3.12.112. the person designated by law for service of process, or the registered agent for the corporation,

3.12.113. an owner, or partner of an entity other than a corporation, or

3.12.114. a person designated in writing by the permittee or operator as a person authorized to receive notice from the Division for matters pertaining to the mining operation and reclamation.

3.13. Proof of Service.

3.13.111. Proof of personal service shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure,

3.13.112. Proof of service by certified mail or courier shall be made by obtaining a copy of the receipt signed by the recipient.

3.13.113. Proof of posting, or personal delivery may be made by a signed written statement of the person effecting posting, or personal delivery stating the date, time, and place of posting. In addition, if personal delivery, the person to whom the notice was delivered.

4. Stop Work Conference.

4.11. Except as provided in R647-6-102.4.12 a notice of violation or cessation order which requires cessation of mining, will expire within 30 days after it is served unless a Stop Work Conference, under the rules of informal process (R645-5), has been held within that time. The Stop Work Conference will be held within 5 days of request, at or reasonably close to the mine site so that the site may be viewed during the conference or at any other location acceptable

to the Division and the permittee or operator. The Division office nearest to the mine site will be deemed to be reasonably close to the mine site unless a closer location is requested and agreed to by the Division and permittee or operator. Expiration of a notice or order will not affect the Division's right to assess civil penalties for the violations mentioned in the notice or order under R647-7.

4.12. A notice of violation or cessation order will not expire as provided in R647-6-4.11, if the condition, practice or violation in question has been abated or if the Stop Work Conference has been waived, or if, with the consent of the permittee or operator, the conference is held upon agreement later than 30 days after the notice or order was served. For purposes of R647-6-4.12:

4.12.111. The conference will be deemed waived if the permittee or operator:

4.12.111.A. Is informed, by written notice served in the manner provided in R647-6-102.3, that he or she will be deemed to have waived a conference unless he or she requests one within 30 days after service of the notice; and

4.12.111.B. Fails to request a conference within that time;

4.12.112. The written notice referred to in R647-6-4.12.111.A., will be served no later than five days after the notice or order is served on the permittee or operator; and

4.12.113. The permittee or operator will be deemed to have consented to an extension of the time for holding the conference if his or her request is received on or after the 21st day after service of the notice or order. The extension of time will be equal to the number of days elapsed after the 21st day.

4.13. The Division will give as much advance notice as is practicable of the time, place, and subject matter of the Stop Work Conference to the permittee or operator.

4.14. The Division will also post notice of the conference at the Division office closest to the mine site.

4.15. A Stop Work Conference will be conducted by a representative of the Division who may accept oral or written arguments and any other relevant information from any person attending.

4.16. Within five days after the close of the conference, the Division will affirm, modify or vacate the notice or order in writing. The decision will be sent to the permittee or operator.

4.17. The granting or waiver of a conference will not affect the right of any person to have a conference in R647-7-106 or to have a formal review under Subsection 40-8-9(5). No evidence as to statements made or evidence produced at a Stop Work Conference will be introduced as evidence or to impeach a witness at formal review proceedings of that matter before the Board.

4.17.111. Any order or decision issued by the Division as a result of a conference as provided for under Subsection 40-8-9(5) and R647-6-102 including an order upholding the cessation order shall be a modification of the cessation order.

5. Inability to Comply.

5.11. No cessation order or notice of violation issued under R647-6 may be vacated because of inability to comply.

5.12. Unless caused by lack of diligence, inability to comply may be considered only in mitigation of the amount of civil penalty under R647-7 and of the duration of the suspension of a permit under

R647-6.

R647-7. Inspection and Enforcement: Civil Penalties.

R647-7-101. Information on Civil Penalties.

1. Objectives. Civil penalties are assessed under Section 40-8-9.1 of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act and R647-7 to deter violations and to ensure maximum compliance with the terms and purposes of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act on the part of the minerals mining industry.

2. How Assessments Are Made. The Division will appoint an assessment officer to review each notice of violation and cessation order in accordance with the assessment procedures described in R647-7 to determine whether a civil penalty will be assessed and the amount of the penalty.

R647-7-102. Penalty To Be Assessed.

1. The assessment officer will assess a penalty for each cessation order.

2. The assessment officer may assess a penalty for each notice of violation under the point system described in R647-7-103. In determining whether to assess a penalty, the assessment officer will consider the factors listed in R647-7-103.

3. Within 15 days of service of a notice of violation or cessation order, the permittee or operator may submit written information about the violation to the assessment officer at the Division offices. The assessment officer will consider any information so submitted in determining the facts surrounding the violation and the amount of the penalty.

R647-7-103. Point System for Penalties.

1. Amount of Penalty. In determining the amount of the penalty, if any, to be assessed, consideration will be given to:

1.11. The permittee or operator's history of previous violations at the particular mining operation and reclamation, regardless of whether any led to a civil penalty assessment. However, a violation will not be considered if the notice or order containing the violation meets the conditions described in R647-7-103.2.11.111 or R647-7-103.2.11.112.

1.12. The seriousness of the violation based on the likelihood and extent of the potential or actual impact on the public or environment, both within and outside the permit area.

1.13. The degree of fault of the permittee or operator in causing or failing to correct the violation, either through act or omission. Such degree will range from inadvertent action causing an event which was unavoidable by the exercise of reasonable care to reckless, knowing or intentional conduct.

1.14. The permittee or operator's demonstrated good faith, by considering whether he took extraordinary measures to abate the violation in the shortest possible time, or merely abated the violation within the time given for abatement.

1.15. Consideration will also be given to whether the permittee or operator gained any economic benefit as a result of a failure to comply.

2. Assessment of Points.

2.11. History of Previous Violations. The assessment officer will assign up to 25 points based on the history of previous violations. One point will be assigned for each past violation contained in a notice of violation. Five points may be assigned for each violation contained in a cessation order. The history of previous violations, for the purpose of assigning points, will be determined and the points assigned with respect to the particular mining operation and reclamation. Points will be assigned as follows:

2.11.111. A violation will not be counted, if the notice or order is the subject of pending administrative or judicial review, or if the time to request such review, or to appeal any administrative or judicial decision has not expired, and thereafter, it will be counted for only three years;

2.11.112. No violation for which the notice or order has been vacated will be counted; and

2.11.113. Each violation will be counted without regard to whether it led to a civil penalty assessment.

2.12. Seriousness. The assessment officer will assign up to 45 points based on the seriousness of the violation as follows:

2.12.111. Probability of occurrence. The assessment officer will assign up to 20 points based on the probability of the occurrence of the event which a violated standard is designed to prevent. Points will be assessed according to the following table:

TABLE 1

PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE	POINTS
None	0
Insignificant	1 - 4
Unlikely	5 - 9
Likely	10 - 19
Occurred	20

2.12.112. Extent of potential or actual damage. The assessment officer will assign up to 25 points, based on the extent of the potential or actual damage to the public health and safety or the environment, in terms of duration, area and impact of such damage.

2.12.113. Alternative to R647-7-103.2.12.111 and R647-7-103.2.12.112, in the case of a violation of an administrative requirement, such as a requirement to keep records, the assessment officer will, in lieu of R647-7-103.2.12.111 and R647-7-103.2.12.112, assign up to 25 points for seriousness, based upon the extent to which enforcement is hindered by the violation.

2.13. Degree of Fault.

2.13.111. The assessment officer will assign up to 30 points based on the degree of fault of the permittee or operator in causing or failing to correct the violation, condition, or practice which led to the notice or order, either through act or omission. Points will be assessed as follows:

2.13.111.A. A violation which occurs through no fault of the permittee or operator, or by inadvertence which was unavoidable by the exercise of reasonable care, will be assigned no penalty points

for degree of fault;

2.13.111.B. A violation which is caused by fault of the operator will be assigned 15 points or less, depending on the degree of fault. Fault means the failure of a permittee or operator to prevent the occurrence of any violation of his or her permit or any requirement of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act due to indifference, lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care, or the failure to abate any violation of such permit or the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act due to indifference, lack of diligence, or lack of reasonable care; and

2.13.111.C. A violation which occurs through a greater degree of fault, meaning reckless, knowing or intentional conduct will be assigned 16 to 30 points, depending on the degree of fault.

2.13.112. In calculating points to be assigned for degree of fault, the acts of all persons working at the mining operations on the mine site will be attributed to the permittee or operator, unless that permittee or operator establishes that they were acts of deliberate sabotage or acts of a third-party otherwise authorized to occupy the same lands.

2.14. Good Faith in Attempting to Achieve Compliance. The assessment officer will subtract points based on the degree of good faith of the permittee or operator. Points will be assigned as follows:

2.14.111. Easy Abatement Situation. An easy abatement situation is one in which the operator has on-site the resources necessary to achieve compliance of the violated standard within the permit area.

TABLE 2

DEGREE OF GOOD FAITH	POINTS
Immediate Compliance	-11 to -20
Rapid Compliance	- 1 to -10
Normal Compliance	0

2.14.112. Difficult Abatement Situation. A difficult abatement situation is one which requires submission of plans prior to physical activity to achieve compliance, or the permittee or operator does not have the resources at hand to achieve compliance of the violated standard.

TABLE 3

DEGREE OF GOOD FAITH	POINTS
Rapid Compliance	-11 to -20
Normal Compliance	- 1 to -10
Extended Compliance	0

2.15. Definition of Compliance.

2.15.111. Immediate Compliance requires evidence that the violation has been abated immediately (which is a question of fact) following issuance of the notice of violation.

2.15.112. Rapid Compliance requires evidence that the permittee

or operator used diligence to abate the violation.

2.15.113. Normal Compliance means that the operator complied within the abatement period required under the notice of violation or by the violated standards.

2.15.114. Extended Compliance means that the permittee or operator took minimal actions for abatement to stay within the limits of the notice of violation or the violated standard; or that the plan submitted for abatement was incomplete.

2.16. The Effect on the permittee or operator's Ability to Continue in Business. Initially, it will be presumed that the permittee or operator's ability to continue in business will not be affected by the order of assessment. The permittee or operator may submit to the assessment officer information concerning the operator's financial status to show that payment of the civil penalty will affect the permittee or operator's ability to continue in business. A reduction of the penalty, work in kind, or a special payment plan may be ordered if the information provided by the permittee or operator demonstrates that the civil penalty will substantially reduce the likelihood of the permittee or operator's ability to continue in business.

3. Determination of Amount of Penalty. The assessment officer will determine the amount of any civil penalty converting the total number of points assigned under R647-7-103.3 to a dollar amount, according to the following table:

TABLE 4

Points	Dollars
1	22
2	44
3	66
4	88
5	110
6	132
7	154
8	176
9	198
10	220
11	242
12	264
13	286
14	308
15	330
16	352
17	374
18	396
19	418
20	440
21	462
22	484
23	506
24	528
25	550
26	660
27	770

28	880
29	990
30	1,100
31	1,210
32	1,320
33	1,430
34	1,540
35	1,650
36	1,760
37	1,870
38	1,980
39	2,090
40	2,200
41	2,310
42	2,420
43	2,530
44	2,640
45	2,750
46	2,860
47	2,970
48	3,080
49	3,190
50	3,300
51	3,410
52	3,520
53	3,630
54	3,740
55	3,850
56	3,960
57	4,070
58	4,180
59	4,290
60	4,400
61	4,510
62	4,620
63	4,730
64	4,840
65	4,950

4. Whenever a violation contained in a cessation order has not been abated, a civil penalty of not less than \$750.00 will be assessed for each day during which such failure continues, except that, if the permittee or operator initiates review proceedings with respect to the violation, the abatement period will be extended as follows:

4.11. If suspension of the abatement requirements of the notice or order is ordered in a temporary relief proceeding under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, after determination that the permittee or operator will suffer irreparable loss or damage from the application of the requirements, the extended period permitted for abatement will not end until the date specified in the Board final order; and a penalty will not be assessed until the time allowed for abatement by the order has expired.

4.12. If the permittee or operator initiates review proceedings under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act with respect to the

violation, in which the obligations to abate are suspended by the court pursuant to the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, the extended period permitted for abatement will not end until the date specified in the court final order; and a penalty will not be assessed until the time allowed for abatement by the order has expired.

R647-7-104. Waiver of Use of Formula to Determine Civil Penalty.

1. The assessment officer upon his or her own initiative or upon written request received by the Division within 15 days of receipt of a notice of violation or a cessation order, may waive the use of the formula contained in R647-7-103 to set the civil penalty, if they determine that, taking into account exceptional factors present in the particular case, the penalty is demonstrably unjust.

R647-7-105. Procedures for Assessment of Civil Penalties - Proposed Assessment.

1. The assessment officer will serve a copy of the proposed assessment and of the worksheet showing the computation of the proposed assessment on the permittee or operator, by certified mail, within 30 days of the issuance of the notice or order.

1.11. If the mail is tendered at the address of the permittee or operator set forth in the permit application or at any address at which that permittee or operator is in fact located, and he or she refuses to accept delivery of or to collect such mail, the requirements of R647-7-105.1 will be deemed to have been complied with upon such tender.

1.12. Failure by the Division to serve any proposed assessment within 30 days will not be grounds for dismissal of all or any part of such assessment unless the permittee or operator:

1.12.111. Proves actual prejudice as a result of the delay; and

1.12.112. Makes a timely objection to the delay.

2. Unless a conference has been requested, the assessment officer will review and reassess any penalty if necessary to consider facts which were not reasonably available on the date of issuance of the proposed assessment. The assessment officer will serve a copy of any such reassessment and of the worksheet showing the computation of the reassessment in the manner provided in R647-7-105.1, within 30 days after the date the violation is abated.

R647-7-106. Procedures for Informal Conference.

1. The Division will arrange for a conference to review the fact of the violation and/or the proposed assessment or reassessment, upon written request of the permittee or operator, if the request is received within 30 days from the date the proposed assessment or reassessment is received by the permittee or operator.

2. Informal Conference Scheduling and Findings.

2.11. The Division will assign a conference officer to hold conferences. The conference will be informal. The conference will be held within 60 days from the date of issuance of the proposed assessment or the end of the abatement period, whichever is later.

PROVIDED: That a failure by the Division to hold such a conference within 60 days will not be grounds for dismissal of all or part of an assessment unless the permittee or operator proves actual prejudice

as a result of the delay.

2.12. The Division will provide notice of the time and place of the conference to the operator or permittee and post notice of the conference at the main Division office at least five days before the conference. Any person may attend the conference.

2.13. The conference officer will consider all relevant information on the violation. Within 30 days after the conference is held, the conference officer will either:

2.13.111. Settle the issues, in which case a settlement agreement will be prepared and signed by the conference officer on behalf of the Division and by the permittee or operator;

2.13.112. Affirm, raise, lower, or vacate the penalty; or

2.13.113. Affirm, deny, modify or vacate the violation.

3. The conference officer will promptly serve the permittee or operator with a notice of his or her action in the manner provided in R647-7-105.1, and will include a worksheet if the penalty has been raised or lowered. The reasons for the conference officer's action will be fully documented in the file.

4. Informal Conference Settlement Agreement.

4.11. If a settlement agreement is entered into, the permittee or operator will be deemed to have waived all rights to further review of the violation or penalty in question, except as otherwise expressly provided for in the settlement agreement. The settlement agreement will contain a clause to this effect.

4.12. If full payment of the amount specified in the settlement agreement is not received by the Division within 30 days after the date of signing, the Division may enforce the agreement or rescind it and proceed according to R647-7-106.2.13.112 within 30 days from the date of the rescission.

5. The conference officer may terminate the conference when he or she determines that the issues cannot be resolved or that the permittee or operator is not diligently working toward resolution of the issues.

6. At formal review proceedings of the matter before the Board, no evidence as to statements made or evidence produced by one party at a conference will be introduced as evidence by another party or to impeach a witness.

R647-7-107. Requests for Formal Hearing.

1. A permittee or operator charged with a violation may contest the proposed penalty or the fact of the violation by submitting: (a) a petition to the Board; and (b) an amount equal to the proposed penalty (or, if a conference has been held, the reassessed or affirmed penalty) to the Division (to be held in escrow as provided in R647-7-107.2) within 30 days of receipt of the proposed assessment or reassessment, or 30 days from the date of service of the conference officer's action, whichever is later, but in every case, the penalty must be escrowed prior to commencement of the formal hearing.

2. The Division will transfer all funds submitted under R647-7-107.1 to an escrow account pending completion of the administrative and judicial review process, at which time it will disburse them as provided in R647-7-108.2 or R647-7-108.3.

3. Formal review of the violation fact or penalty will be conducted by the Board under the provisions of R641, rules of practice

and procedure before the Board.

R647-7-108. Final Assessment and Payment of Penalty.

1. If the permittee or operator fails to request a hearing as provided in R647-7-107, the proposed assessment or reassessment will become a final order of the Division and the penalty assessed will become due and payable upon expiration of the time allowed to request a hearing and upon the Division fulfilling its responsibilities under Subsection 40-8-9.1(3) (e).

2. If any party requests judicial review of a final order of the Board, the proposed penalty will be held in escrow until completion of the review. Otherwise, subject to R647-7-108.3, the escrowed funds will be transferred to the Division in payment of the penalty, and the escrow will end.

3. If the final decision of the administrative and judicial review results in an order reducing or eliminating the proposed penalty assessed under R647-7, the Division will within 30 days of receipt of the order refund to the permittee or operator all or part of the escrowed amount and interest accumulated, if any.

4. If the review results in an order increasing the penalty, the permittee or operator will pay the difference to the Division within 15 days after the order is received by such permittee or operator.

R647-8. Inspection and Enforcement: Individual Civil Penalties.

R647-8-101. Information on Individual Civil Penalties.

1. The rules in R647-8 provide guidance to exercise the authority set forth in Subsection 40-8-9.1(6).

2. Individual civil penalties will be assessed by a Division-appointed assessment officer using the process described in R647-8.

R647-8-102. When an Individual Civil Penalty May Be Assessed.

1. Except as provided in R647-8-102.2, the assessment officer may assess an individual civil penalty against any corporate director, officer, or agent of a permittee or operator, or any other person who may be liable under Section 40-8-9.1 who knowingly and willfully authorized, ordered or carried out a violation, failure, or refusal.

2. The assessment officer will not assess an individual civil penalty in situations resulting from a permit violation by a corporate permittee or operator until a cessation order has been issued by the Division to the corporate permittee or operator for the violation, and the cessation order has remained unabated for 30 days.

R647-8-103. Amount of the Individual Civil Penalty.

1. In determining the amount of an individual civil penalty assessed under R647-8-102, the assessment officer will consider the criteria specified in Section 40-8-9.1, including:

1.11. The individual's history of authorizing, ordering or carrying out previous violations, failures or refusals at the particular mining operation and reclamation;

1.12. The seriousness of the violation failure or refusal (as indicated by the extent of damage and/or the cost of reclamation), including any irreparable harm to the environment and any hazard to

the health or safety of the public; and

1.13. The demonstrated good faith of the individual charged in attempting to achieve rapid compliance after notice of the violation, failure, or refusal.

2. The individual civil penalty will not exceed \$5,000 for each violation. Each day of continuing violation may be deemed a separate violation and the assessment officer may assess a separate individual civil penalty for each day the violation, failure or refusal continues, from the date of service of the underlying notice of violation, cessation order, or other order incorporated in a final decision issued by the Board, until abatement or compliance is achieved.

R647-8-104. Procedure for Assessment of Individual Civil Penalty.

1. Notice. The Division will serve on each individual to be assessed an individual civil penalty a notice of proposed individual civil penalty assessment, including a narrative explanation of the reasons for the penalty, the amount to be assessed, and a copy of any underlying notice of violation and cessation order.

2. Final order and opportunity for review. The notice of proposed individual civil penalty assessment shall become a final order of the Division 30 days after service upon the individual unless:

2.11. The individual files within 30 days of service of the notice of proposed individual civil penalty assessment a petition for review with the Board; or

2.12. The Division and the individual or responsible corporate permittee or operator agree within 30 days of service of the notice of proposed individual civil penalty assessment to a schedule or plan for the abatement or correction of the violation, failure or refusal.

3. Service. Service of notice under R647-8-104 will satisfy the standard of R641, concerning the rules of practice and procedure before the Board.

R647-8-105. Payment of Penalty.

1. No abatement or appeal. If a notice of proposed individual civil penalty assessment becomes a final order in the absence of a petition for review or abatement agreement, the penalty will be due upon issuance of the final order.

2. Appeal. If an individual named in a notice of proposed individual civil penalty assessment files a petition for review in accordance with R641, the penalty will be due upon issuance of a final Board order affirming, increasing, or decreasing the proposed penalty.

3. Abatement agreement. Where the Board and the corporate permittee, operator, or individual have agreed in writing on a plan for the abatement of or compliance with the unabated order, an individual named in a notice of proposed individual civil penalty assessment may postpone payment until receiving either a final order from the Board stating that the penalty is due on the date of such final order, or written notice that abatement or compliance is satisfactory and the penalty has been withdrawn.

4. Delinquent payment. Following the expiration of 30 days after the issuance of a final order assessing an individual civil penalty, any delinquent penalty will be subject to interest at the rate established quarterly by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for use in applying late charges on late payments to the Federal

Government, pursuant to Treasury Financial Manual 6-8020.20. The Treasury current value of funds rate is published by the Fiscal Service in the notices section of the Federal Register. Interest on unpaid penalties will run from the date payment first was due until the date of payment. Failure to pay overdue penalties will result in referral to the Utah Attorney General for appropriate collection action.