



**Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation**  
**GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**  
**FACILITIES FOR WHICH A MINING PERMIT IS REQUIRED**

**Mining Facilities that Require a Water Pollution Control Permit (WPCP) per Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.350 through 445A.447:**

1. Any mining operation, including, but not limited to, the mine, waste rock piles, ore piles, beneficiation process components, processed ore disposal sites, and all associated buildings and structures that have the potential to degrade waters of the State.
2. Placer mining, the extraction and processing of ores solely by gravity separation methods.
3. Any placer mining activity that uses any amount of mechanized equipment such as a loader, bobcat, dozer, and backhoe of any size to extract ore bearing material.
4. Any dredging activity that uses a nozzle size greater than four inches and/or disturbs over 50 cubic yards of material in a 12-month period.

**WPCP Exemptions:**

1. Surface disturbance activities such as stripping and stockpiling of ore when conducted in a manner which presents an insignificant potential to degrade waters of the State. However, the BMRR requires characterization of the ore and waste rock to make a determination.
2. Facilities involved solely in the mining and processing of sand and gravel, cinders, diatomaceous earth, slate, shale, gypsum, clay, or crushed stone. However, if any of these facilities include a recovery circuit for metallic minerals, a WPCP will be required for that portion of the facility.
3. Hobby level placer mining using only hand tools such as picks and shovels to extract precious metal bearing material.
4. Hobby level placer dredging utilizing a nozzle size of 4 inches or less and disturbing less than 50 cubic yards in a 12-month period.

**Exploration Projects and Mining Facilities that Require a Reclamation Permit per NAC 519A.010 through 519A.415:**

1. Any exploration, mining, milling, or other beneficiation process activity that proposes to create disturbance of 5 acres or greater.
  - In determining the proposed surface area disturbance, an operator must account for all land proposed to be disturbed as well as existing disturbances that will be part of the project.
  - Land shall be considered disturbed until all reclamation activities have been completed to establish a productive post mining use of the land.

**Reclamation Permit Exemptions:**

1. A small mining operation that is limited to a surface disturbance of not more than 5 acres in any calendar year. (Note: a small mining operation is not exempt from the WPCP requirements).
  - Per NAC 519A.410, the operator of a small mining operation must file with the BMRR a “Small Mining Operations Information and Documentation” form (a.k.a., “Small Miner’s Form”).
2. Aggregate or sand pit operations.