

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

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; R647-4-102, Over 10-Year Suspension; R647-4-114, Failure to Reclaim, Forfeiture of Surety.

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.

KEY: minerals reclamation

Date of Last Change: February 10, 2020

Notice of Continuation: April 27, 2023

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 40-8-1 et seq.