CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Surface Coal Mining & Exploration Program

• Evaluate coal mining permit applications and mining operation and reclamation plans to ensure that: permittees comply with the Texas Coal Mining Regulations; and, coal mines are operated in a manner that protects the public and the environment during mining and reclamation. Inspects coal mine & reclamation sites monthly.

• Assure that the mined land is restored to a beneficial use following mining through inspection and enforcement activities and effective evaluation of applications for release of reclamation liability.

• Review permittee’s proof of financial assurance to ensure it is equal to the estimated cost of reclamation.

Abandoned Mine Land Program

• Reclamation of pre-law (prior to August 3, 1977) abandoned mines is funded by a production tax on existing coal mining operations in Texas.

• Reclaims abandoned mines through earthwork, burial or treatment of spoil, installation of erosion and water control structures, and revegetation.

• Closes dangerous abandoned underground mine openings by backfilling, capping with concrete or metal grating or installing metal gates.

Uranium Exploration Program

• Reviews permittees’ uranium exploration and mining permit applications to assure compliance with applicable regulations.

• Regulates uranium surface mining (note there no current Texas uranium surface mining operations in existence).

• Regulates uranium exploration activities conducted for in-situ uranium mining (regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality), which uses in-situ leaching or solution mining to recover uranium.

• Inspects active uranium exploration sites monthly.

PUBLIC DATA & RECORDS

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

Contact Information

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