

The office of financial management ((may)) shall direct the state treasurer to transfer to the ((general)) motor vehicle fund an amount not to exceed ((~~\$1,200,000~~)) \$1,331,000 from the grade crossing protective fund for the ((~~1983-85~~)) 1987-89 fiscal biennium.

Passed the House March 19, 1987.

Passed the Senate April 15, 1987.

Approved by the Governor May 5, 1987.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 5, 1987.

CHAPTER 258

[Substitute House Bill No. 56]

SURFACE MINING

AN ACT Relating to surface mining; amending RCW 78.44.030 and 78.44.110; and adding a new section to chapter 78.44 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 4, chapter 64, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. as amended by section 1, chapter 215, Laws of 1984 and RCW 78.44.030 are each amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) "Surface mining" shall mean all or any part of the process involved in mining of minerals by removing the overburden and mining directly from the mineral deposits thereby exposed, including open-pit mining of minerals naturally exposed at the surface of the earth, mining by the auger method, and including the production of surface mining refuse. Surface mining shall not include on-site processing of minerals such as concrete batching or rock crushing operations. For the purpose of this chapter surface mining shall mean those operations described in this paragraph ((from)) which ((~~more than ten thousand tons of minerals are produced or more than two acres of land is newly disturbed within a period of twelve consecutive calendar months~~)) collectively result in more than three acres of land being disturbed or that result in pit walls more than thirty feet high and steeper than one horizontal to one vertical. Surface mining shall not include disturbances of greater than three acres of land during any time period if the cumulative area that has not been rehabilitated according to the reclamation requirements outlined in this chapter is less than three acres. Surface mining shall not include excavation or removal of sand, gravel, clay, rock, top soil, or other materials in remote areas by an owner or holder of a possessory interest in land for the primary purpose of construction or maintenance of access roads to or on such landowner's property. Surface mining shall not include excavation or grading conducted for farming, on-site road construction or other on-site construction, but shall include adjacent or off-site borrow pits except those on landowner's property for use on access roads on

such property. Prospecting and exploration activities shall be included within the definition of surface mining when they are of such nature and extent as to exceed the qualifying sizes listed above or when collectively they disturb more than one acre per eight acres of land area.

(2) "Unit of surface mined area" shall mean the area of land and water covered by each operating permit that is actually newly disturbed by surface mining during each twelve-month period of time, beginning at the date of issuance of the permit, and shall comprise the area from which overburden and/or minerals have been removed, the area covered by spoil banks, and all additional areas used in surface mining operations which by virtue of such use are thereafter susceptible to excessive erosion.

(3) "Abandonment of surface mining" shall mean a cessation of surface mining, not set forth in an operator's plan of operation or by any other sufficient written notice, extending for more than six consecutive months or when, by reason of examination of the premises or by any other means, it becomes the opinion of the department of natural resources that the operation has in fact been abandoned by the operator: PROVIDED, That the operator does not, within thirty days of receipt of written notification from the department of his intent to declare the operation abandoned, submit evidence to the department's satisfaction that the operation is in fact not abandoned.

(4) "Minerals" shall mean coal, clay, stone, sand, gravel, metallic ore, and any other similar solid material or substance to be excavated from natural deposits on or in the earth for commercial, industrial, or construction uses.

(5) "Overburden" shall mean the earth, rock, and other materials that lie above a natural deposit of mineral.

(6) "Surface mining refuse" shall mean all waste soil, rock, mineral, liquid, vegetation, and other material directly resulting from or displaced by the mining, cleaning, or preparation of minerals during the surface mining operations on the operating permit area, and shall include all waste materials deposited on or in the permit area from other sources.

(7) "Spoil bank" shall mean a deposit of excavated overburden or mining refuse.

(8) "Operator" shall mean any person or persons, any partnership, limited partnership, or corporation, or any association of persons, either natural or artificial, including every public or governmental agency engaged in surface mining operations, whether individually, jointly, or through subsidiaries, agents, employees, or contractors.

(9) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(10) "Reclamation" shall mean the reasonable protection of all surface resources subject to disruption from surface mining and rehabilitation of the surface resources affected by surface mining including the area under stockpiled materials. Although both the need for and the practicability of

reclamation will control the type and degree of reclamation in any specific instance, the basic objective will be to reestablish on a continuing basis the vegetative cover, soil stability, water conditions, and safety conditions appropriate to the intended subsequent use of the area.

(11) "Reclamation plan" shall mean the operator's written proposal, as required and approved by the department, for reclamation of the affected resources which shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) A statement of the proposed subsequent use of the land after reclamation ((and satisfactory evidence that all owners of)) which is signed by all individuals with a possessory interest in the land ((concur with this proposed use)), or a copy of the conveyance that expressly grants or reserves the right to extract the mineral by surface mining methods, or if the conveyance does not expressly grant the right to extract the mineral by surface mining methods, then documentation that under applicable state law, the operator has the legal authority to extract the mineral by those methods: PROVIDED, That the applicant must provide notice reasonably calculated to advise all individuals with a possessory interest of the intent to remove minerals and the proposed subsequent use. If any individual with a possessory interest does not respond to the notice within sixty days, that person's signature shall not be required;

(b) Evidence that this subsequent use would not be illegal under local zoning regulations;

(c) Proposed practices to protect adjacent surface resources;

(d) Specifications for surface gradient restoration to a surface suitable for the proposed subsequent use of the land after reclamation is completed, and proposed method of accomplishment;

(e) Manner and type of revegetation or other surface treatment of disturbed areas;

(f) Method of prevention or elimination of conditions that will create a public nuisance, endanger public safety, damage property, or be hazardous to vegetative, animal, fish, or human life in or adjacent to the area;

(g) Method of control of contaminants and disposal of surface mining refuse;

(h) Method of diverting surface waters around the disturbed areas;

(i) Method of restoration of stream channels and stream banks to a condition minimizing erosion and siltation and other pollution;

(j) Such maps and other supporting documents as reasonably required by the department; and

(k) A time schedule for reclamation that meets the requirements of RCW 78.44.090.

Sec. 2. Section 12, chapter 64, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. as amended by section 4, chapter 215, Laws of 1984 and RCW 78.44.110 are each amended to read as follows:

The permit fees required under this chapter shall be as follows:

(1) The basic fee for the permit shall be two hundred fifty dollars per permit year for each separate location, payable with submission of the application and annually thereafter with submission of the report required in RCW 78.44.130: PROVIDED, That a person who has held a valid surface mining permit and whose property has never been disturbed for surface mining may keep such permit in effect by paying an annual fee of fifty dollars. Before a person holding a fifty dollar permit begins surface mining during any permit year, that person shall pay the remainder of the two hundred fifty dollar fee.

(2) In addition, there shall be a five dollar per acre fee for all acreage exceeding ten acres which was newly disturbed by surface mining during the previous permit year, which acreage fee shall be paid at the time of submission of the report required in RCW 78.44.130.

(3) All fees collected shall be deposited in the general fund.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 78.44 RCW to read as follows:

The department shall by rule define the term "segment" as used in RCW 78.44.090 and 78.44.140 to establish the depth or extent of the operation covered.

Passed the House April 20, 1987.

Passed the Senate April 8, 1987.

Approved by the Governor May 5, 1987.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 5, 1987.

CHAPTER 259

[Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5501]

AQUATIC LAND DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE ACCOUNT— MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF SITES

AN ACT Relating to aquatic land dredged material disposal sites; adding new sections to chapter 79.90 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that the department of natural resources provides, manages, and monitors aquatic land disposal sites on state-owned aquatic lands for materials dredged from rivers, harbors, and shipping lanes. These disposal sites are approved through a cooperative planning process by the departments of natural resources and ecology, the United States corps of engineers, and the United States environmental protection agency in cooperation with the Puget Sound water quality authority. These disposal sites are essential to the commerce and well being of the citizens of the state of Washington. Management and environmental monitoring of these sites are necessary to protect environmental quality and to assure appropriate use of state-owned aquatic lands. The