with and advise the chief of the state patrol in the administration of this act.

(3) The advisory committee shall review this act and the administration thereof, shall consult with the legislative municipal committee, which committee shall report its recommendations for any changes of assignment of authority or any other matters pertaining to this act to the forty-second session of the legislature of the state of Washington in January, 1971.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. To carry out the provisions of this act there is appropriated to the Washington state patrol from the general fund for the biennium ending June 30, 1971, the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars, or so much there of as shall be necessary.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate February 12, 1970
Passed the House February 12, 1970
Approved by the Governor February 20, 1970
Filed in Office of Secretary of State February 24, 1970

CHAPTER 64
[Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 139]
SURFACE MINING

AN ACT Relating to mining; requiring reclamation of surface mining sites; requiring a permit; requiring site inspection; prescribing powers, duties and functions of the board of natural resources in relation thereto; adding a new chapter to Title 76 RCW; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Sections 2 through 25 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 76 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The legislature recognizes that the extraction of minerals by surface mining is a basic and essential activity making an important contribution to the economic well-being
of the state and nation. At the same time, proper reclamation of surface mined land is necessary to prevent undesirable land and water conditions that would be detrimental to the general welfare, health, safety, and property rights of the citizens of the state. Surface mining takes place in diverse areas where the geologic, topographic, climatic, biologic, and social conditions are significantly different, and reclamation specifications must vary accordingly. It is not practical to extract minerals required by our society without disturbing the surface of the earth and producing waste materials, and the very character of many types of surface mining operations precludes complete restoration of the land to its original condition. However, the legislature finds that reclamation of surface mined lands as provided in this act will allow the mining of valuable minerals and will provide for the protection and subsequent beneficial use of the mined and reclaimed land.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The purpose of this act is to provide that the usefulness, productivity, and scenic values of all lands and waters involved in surface mining within the state will receive the greatest practical degree of protection and restoration. It is a further purpose of this act to provide a means of cooperation between private and governmental entities in carrying this act into effect.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. As used in this act, 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. For the purpose of this act 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. Surface mining shall not include excavation or [603]
removal of sand, gravel, clay, rock 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 sized 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" shall mean the board 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. 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 a possessory interest in the land concur with this proposed use;

(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 section 10 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. The board of natural resources is charged with the administration of this act by utilizing the services of the department of natural resources. In order to implement the act's terms and provisions, the department of natural resources, under the provisions of the administrative procedure act (chapter 34.04 RCW), as now or hereafter amended, may from time to time promulgate those rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this act. Such rules and regulations, together with the administrative provisions set forth in this act, shall be carried out and enforced by the department, which may establish a separate division within the department for that purpose. The assistant director in charge of this division shall be exempt from the provisions of the
state civil service law in accordance with the terms of RCW 41.06-.070. The staff of the department shall include mining engineers and/or geologists.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act shall not affect any of the provisions of the state fisheries laws (Title 75 RCW), the state water pollution control laws (Title 90 RCW), the state game laws (Title 77 RCW), or any other state laws, and shall be cumulative and nonexclusive.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. The department shall have the authority to conduct or authorize investigations, research, experiments and demonstrations, and to collect and disseminate information relating to surface mining and reclamation of surface mined lands.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. The department may cooperate with other governmental and private agencies in this state and other states and agencies of the federal government, and may reasonably reimburse them for any services the department requests that they provide. The department may also receive any federal funds, state funds and any other funds and expend them for reclamation of land affected by surface mining and for purposes enumerated in section 7 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. After the effective date of this act, no operator shall engage in surface mining without having first obtained an operating permit from the department. Except as otherwise permitted in section 9 of this act a separate permit shall be required for each separate surface mining operation. Prior to receiving an operating permit from the department an operator must submit an application on a form provided by the department, which shall contain the following information and any other pertinent data required by the department:

(1) Name and address of the legal landowner, any purchaser of the land under a real estate contract, and the operator and, if any of these are corporations or other business entities, the names and addresses of their principal officers and resident agent for service of process;

(2) Materials to be surface mined;
(3) Type of surface mining to be performed;
(4) Expected starting date of surface mining;
(5) Anticipated termination date of the surface mining project;
(6) Expected amount of mineral to be surface mined;
(7) Maximum depth of surface mining;
(8) Size and legal description of the area that will be disturbed by surface mining. If more than ten acres will be disturbed by surface mining or, regardless of the amount of land to be disturbed, if the department finds that conditions warrant it and so requests, a map of the area to be surface mined shall be submitted. The map shall show the boundaries of the area of land which will be affected; topographic detail; the location and names of all streams, roads, railroads, and utility lines on or immediately adjacent to the area; location of proposed access roads to be built in conjunction with the surface mining operation; and the names of the surface and mineral owners of all lands within the surface mining area;
(9) A plan of surface mining that will provide, within limits of normal operational procedure of the industry, for completion of surface mining and associated disturbances on each segment of the area for which a permit is requested so that reclamation can be initiated at the earliest possible time on those portions of the surface mined area that will not be subject to further disturbance by the mining operation. Whenever feasible, visual screening, vegetative or otherwise, will be maintained or established on the property containing the surface mining to screen the view of the operation from public highways, public parks, and residential areas.
(10) A reclamation plan that must be acceptable to and approved by the department, except as provided in section 11 of this act. An operator may not depart from an approved plan without having previously obtained from the department written approval of his proposed change.

The department may adopt rules and regulations permitting an
operator of more than one surface mining operation to submit a single application for a combined operating permit covering all of his surface mining operations. Such application may require detailing of information required by section 9 of this act for each separate location. An operator operating under such a combined permit may submit a consolidated reclamation program covering all his operations under rules and regulations prescribed by the department, but may be required to furnish specific information relative to reclamation of any single operating area if the department determines that such is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. The reclamation plan shall provide that reclamation activities, particularly those relating to control of erosion, shall, to the extent feasible, be conducted simultaneously with surface mining and in any case shall be initiated at the earliest possible time after completion or abandonment of mining on any segment of the permit area. The plan shall provide that reclamation activities shall be completed not more than two years after completion or abandonment of surface mining on each segment of the area for which a permit is requested.

A reclamation plan will be approved by the department if it adequately provides for the accomplishment of the activities specified in the definition of "reclamation plan", section 4(11) of this act, and meets those of the following minimum standards that are applicable:

(1) Excavations made to a depth not less than two feet below the low groundwater mark, which will result in the establishment of a lake of sufficient area and depth of water to be useful for residential, recreational, game, or wildlife purposes, shall be reclaimed in the following manner:

(a) All banks in soil, sand, gravel, and other unconsolidated materials shall be sloped to two feet below the low groundwater line at a slope no steeper than one and one-half feet horizontal to one foot vertical;
(b) Portions of solid rock banks shall be stepped or other measures be taken to permit a person to escape from the water.

(2) In all other excavations in soil, sand, gravel, and other unconsolidated materials, the side slopes and the slopes between successive benches shall be no steeper than one and one-half feet horizontal to one foot vertical for their entire length.

(3) The sides of all strip pits and open pits in rock and other consolidated materials shall be no steeper than one foot horizontal to one foot vertical, or other precautions must be taken to provide adequate safety.

(4) The slopes of quarry walls in rock or other consolidated materials shall have no prescribed angle of slope, but where a hazardous condition is created that is not indigenous to the immediate area, the quarry shall be either graded or backfilled to a slope of one foot horizontal to one foot vertical or other precautions must be taken to provide adequate safety.

(5) In strip mining operations the peaks and depressions of the spoil banks shall be reduced to a gently rolling topography which will minimize erosion and which will be in substantial conformity with the immediately surrounding land area.

(6) In no event shall any provision of this section be construed to allow stagnant water to collect or remain on the surface mined area. Suitable drainage systems shall be constructed or installed to avoid such conditions if natural drainage is not possible.

(7) All grading and backfilling shall be made with nonnoxious, nonflammable, noncombustible solids unless approval has been granted by the director for a supervised sanitary fill.

(8) In all types of surface mining, in order to prevent water pollution, all acid-forming surface mining refuse shall be disposed of by covering all acid-forming materials with at least two feet of clean fill. The final surface covering shall be graded so that surface water will drain away from the disposal area.

(9) Vegetative cover will be required in the reclamation plan.
as appropriate to the future use of the land.

(10) All surface mining that will disturb streams must comply with the requirements of the state fisheries laws (Title 75 RCW), and every application for an operating permit for such operations must have a reclamation plan that shall have been approved by the department of fisheries with regard to operations in streams as required by Title 75 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. Upon receipt of an application for a permit, the surface mining site must be inspected by a representative of the department. Within twenty-five days of receipt of the application and reclamation plan by the department and receipt of the permit fee, the department shall either issue an operating permit to the applicant or return any incomplete or inadequate application to the applicant along with a description of the deficiencies.

Failure to act within the twenty-five day period on the reclamation plan shall not be cause for a denial of a permit. The department shall set the amount of the bond or other security required for a provisional permit governing the surface mining operation set forth in the application. A provisional permit shall be granted pursuant to conditions prescribed by the department until a plan is approved as long as the operator complies with the bond or security requirements established by the department: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That a provisional permit shall not be granted if the department considers the site unsuitable for surface mining.

If the department refuses to approve a reclamation plan in the form submitted by the operator, it shall notify the operator, in writing, stating the reasons for its refusal and listing such additional requirements to the operator's reclamation plan as are necessary for the approval of the plan by the department. Within thirty days, the operator shall either accept such additional requirements as part of the reclamation plan or file notice of appeal. If notice of appeal is filed by the operator, a provisional permit shall be granted as herein specified.
The operating permit shall be granted for the period required to mine the land covered by the plan and shall be valid until the surface mining authorized by the permit is completed or abandoned, unless the permit is suspended by the department as provided in this act. The operating permit shall provide that the reclamation plan may be modified, after timely notice and opportunity for hearing, at any time during the term of the permit for any of the following reasons:

1. To modify the requirements so that they will not conflict with existing laws;
2. The department determines that the previously adopted reclamation plan is clearly impossible or impracticable to implement and maintain;
3. The department determines that the previously adopted reclamation plan is obviously not accomplishing the intent of this act; or
4. The operator and the department mutually agree to change the reclamation plan.

When one operator succeeds to the interest of another in any uncompleted surface mining operation by sale, assignment, lease, or otherwise, the department may release the first operator from the duties imposed upon him by this act as to such operation: PROVIDED, That both operators have complied with the requirements of this act and the successor operator assumes the duty of the former operator to complete the reclamation of the land, in which case the department shall transfer the permit to the successor operator and the successor operator's bond as required under this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. The permit fees required under this act shall be as follows:

1. The basic fee for the permit shall be twenty-five dollars per permit year for each separate location, payable with submission of the application and annually thereafter with submission of the report required in section 14 of this act.
(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 section 14 of this act.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 13. Upon receipt of an operating permit an operator other than a public or governmental agency shall not commence surface mining until the operator has deposited with the department an acceptable performance bond on forms prescribed and furnished by the department. This performance bond shall be a corporate surety bond executed in favor of the department by a corporation authorized to do business in the state of Washington under the provisions of chapter 48.28 RCW and approved by the department. The bond shall be filed and maintained in an amount equal to the estimated cost of completing the reclamation plan for the area to be surface mined during the next twelve-month period and any previously surface mined area for which a permit has been issued and on which the reclamation has not been satisfactorily completed and approved. The department shall have the authority to determine the amount of the bond that shall be required, and for any reason may refuse any bond not deemed adequate. In no case shall the amount of the bond be less than one hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars per acre or fraction thereof.

The bond shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the requirements set forth in this act and of the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

In lieu of the surety bond required by this section the operator may file with the department a cash deposit, negotiable securities acceptable to the department, or an assignment of a savings account in a Washington bank on an assignment form prescribed by the department.

Liability under the bond shall be maintained as long as reclamation is not completed in compliance with the approved reclamation plan unless released prior thereto as hereinafter provided. Liability
under the bond may be released only upon written notification from the department. Notification shall be given upon completion of compliance or acceptance by the department of a substitute bond. In no event shall the liability of the surety exceed the amount of the surety bond required by this section.

A public or governmental agency shall not be required to post a bond under the terms of this act.

A blanket performance bond covering two or more surface mining operations may be submitted by an operator in lieu of separate bonds for each separate operation.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 14. Within thirty days after completion or abandonment of mining on an area under permit or within thirty days after each annual anniversary date of the operating permit, whichever is earlier, or at such later date as may be provided by department rules and regulations, and each year thereafter until reclamation is completed and approved, the operator shall file a report of activities completed during the preceding year on a form prescribed by the department, which report shall:

(1) Identify the operator and permit number;

(2) Locate the operation by subdivision, section, township, and range, and with relation to the nearest town or other well known geographic feature;

(3) Estimate acreage to be newly disturbed by surface mining in the next twelve-month period; and

(4) Update any maps previously submitted or provide such maps as may be specifically requested by the department. Such maps shall show:

(a) The operating permit area;

(b) The unit of surface mined area;

(c) The area to be surface mined during the next twelve-month period;

(d) If completed, the date of completion of surface mining;

(e) If not completed, the area that will not be further dis-
turbed by the mining operations; and

(f) The date of beginning, amount, and current status of reclamation performed during the previous twelve months. An operator operating under a combined operating permit may submit a single annual report, but such report shall include the data required in section 14 of this act for each separate operating area.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 15. Upon receipt of the operator's report, and at any other reasonable time the department may elect, the department shall cause the permit area to be inspected to determine if the operator has complied with the reclamation plan and the department's rules and regulations.

The operator shall proceed with reclamation as scheduled in his reclamation plan. Following any written notice by the department noting deficiencies, the operator shall commence action within thirty days to rectify these deficiencies and shall diligently proceed until the deficiencies are corrected: PROVIDED, That deficiencies that also violate other laws that require earlier rectification shall be corrected in accordance with the applicable time provisions of such laws.

The department may extend performance periods referred to in this section and in section 10 of this act, for delays clearly beyond the operator's control, but only when the operator is, in the opinion of the department, making every reasonable effort to comply.

Within thirty days after notification by the operator and when in the judgment of the department reclamation of a unit of surface mined area is properly completed, the mining operator shall be notified in writing and his bond on said area shall be released or decreased proportionately.

If reclamation of surface mined land is not proceeding in accordance with the reclamation plan and the operator has not commenced action to rectify deficiencies within thirty days after notification by the department, or if reclamation is not properly completed in conformance with the reclamation plan within two years after completion or abandonment of surface mining on any segment of the permit area,
the department is authorized, with the staff, equipment and material under his control, or by contract with others, to take such actions as are necessary for the reclamation of the surface mined areas. The department shall keep a record of all necessary expenses incurred in carrying out any project or activity authorized under this section, including a reasonable charge for the services performed by the state's personnel and the state's equipment and materials utilized.

The department shall notify the operator and his surety by order. The order shall state the amount of necessary expenses incurred by the department in reclaiming the surface mined land and a notice that the amount is due and payable to the department by the operator and the surety.

If the amount specified in the order is not paid within thirty days after receipt of the notice, the attorney general, upon request of the department, shall bring an action on behalf of the state in the superior court for Thurston county or any county in which the persons to whom the order is directed do business to recover the amount specified in the final order of the department. The surety shall be liable to the state to the extent of the bond.

The amount owed the department by the operator for the reclamation performed by the state may be recovered by a lien against the reclaimed property, which may be enforced in the same manner and with the same effect as a mechanic's lien.

In addition to the other liabilities imposed by this act, failure to commence action to rectify deficiencies in reclamation within thirty days after notification by the department or failure satisfactorily to complete reclamation work on any segment of the permit area within two years after completion or abandonment of surface mining on any segment of the permit area shall constitute sufficient grounds for cancellation of a permit and refusal to issue another permit to the delinquent operator until such deficiencies are corrected by the operator.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 16. Any operator conducting surface mining
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within the state of Washington without a valid operating permit shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. Each day of operation shall constitute a separate offense.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. When the department finds that an operator is conducting surface mining on an area for which a valid operating permit is not in effect, or is conducting surface mining in any manner not authorized by his operating permit or by the rules and regulations adopted by the department, the department may forthwith order such operator to suspend all such operations until compliance is effected or assured to the satisfaction of the department. In the event the operator fails or declines to obey such order, the facts may be reported by the department to the attorney general. The attorney general shall forthwith take the necessary legal action to enjoin, or otherwise cause to be stopped, such conduct of surface mining.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 18. Appeals from determinations made under this act shall be made under the provisions of the administrative procedure act (chapter 34.04 RCW), as now or hereafter amended and shall be considered a contested case within the meaning of the administrative procedure act (chapter 34.04 RCW).

NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. Operators of surface mines in operation on the effective date of this act shall have ninety days thereafter to submit an application for an operating permit. Any such operator who has timely filed an application for an operating permit but for reasons beyond his control has neither received an operating permit nor had his application denied within twenty-five days after his application has been submitted as provided in section 9 of this act, shall have issued to him by the department a temporary operating permit, which, if the applicant is diligently pursuing his application, shall be effective until a regular operating permit is either issued or denied.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 20. All reclamation plans, operators' reports and other required information under this act shall be for the
confidential use of the department which shall by rule or regulation provide for the release thereof to proper interested persons.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 21. The provisions of this act shall be administered by the department of natural resources.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 22. This act shall not direct itself to the reclamation of land mined prior to the effective date of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 23. This act shall become effective January 1, 1971.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 24. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

Passed the Senate February 12, 1970
Passed the House February 6, 1970
Approved by the Governor February 23, 1970, with the exception of certain items in section 5 and all of section 21, which are vetoed.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State February 24, 1970

NOTE: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows: 
"...This act provides for the reclamation of surface-mined lands. It is an important part of the program adopted by the 41st Legislature to preserve our environmental resources and scenic beauty.

The fundamental responsibility for its administration is given to the Board of Natural Resources consisting of the commissioner of public lands, the superintendent of public instruction, the deans of the schools of forestry of the University of Washington and Washington State University, and the governor. The staff functions will be performed by the Department of Natural Resources.

Provisions of section 5 and section 21 are inconsistent with this allocation of responsibilities. Thus, these provisions, as now before me, would apparently require the rule-making authority to be delegated to the Department of Natural Resources while the responsibility for the act is assigned to the Board of Natural Resources. It is my belief that the legislature intended to make the Board of Natural Resources responsible for the policies of the act by utilizing the staff and technical ability of the Department of Natural Resources.

Because I believe the citizens of this state are best served by this allocation of functions, I have vetoed certain items from sec-
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Section 1. Section 28A.45.010, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 1st
ex. sess. and RCW 28A.45.010 are each amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter, the term "sale" shall have its ordi-