

HB 2350 -- Mining Permits

Sponsor: Schad

This bill requires the Land Reclamation Commission within the Department of Natural Resources to deny a surface mining application if it is incomplete or inaccurate and make the applicant repeat the entire application process. If public utilities are reported in an application, the applicant must submit a plan specifying safe operations in proximity to the utility and a plan for remediation if operations disrupt the utility service. The commission must permanently deny any application that fails to report public utilities.

Currently, when the department director deems an application is complete, the operator must publish a notice of intent to operate a surface mine in any qualified newspaper in the county. The bill requires the notice to be printed and published in the qualified newspaper with the largest circulation of all qualified newspapers in the immediate area of the proposed mining operation. If no such newspaper is available, the notice must be published in a qualified newspaper in the county of the proposed mining operation. In addition to the information currently required, the notice must also include the name or number of the nearest public road, directions to the property from the nearest intersection of public roads, and a statement identifying the site as a new site or an expansion of an existing site.

No permit application in which the mine plan calls for blasting may be approved until the department director, or his or her designee, holds a public meeting with an opportunity to comment on the permit request.