

HB 2595 -- Surface Mines

Sponsor: Schad

This bill requires the Land Reclamation Commission to establish an administrative process to identify which land areas are unsuitable for all or certain types of surface mines. Any person may petition the commission to have a decision reviewed.

All new surface mining permit applications must contain an environmental impact assessment, and any explosives used by surface mining operations must be handled in accordance with existing state and federal laws and regulations established by the commission.

Any surface mine operator must send, by certified mail, a notice of intent to operate a surface mine to individuals who own property across a river or stream or on the other side of a right-of-way from the proposed mine plan area.

The provisions of the bill do not apply to any land where a surface mining operation was in existence or applied for before August 28, 2008.