

**Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)
Mineral Land Regulation & Reclamation (MLRR) Program**

Closing an Operating Permit – FAQs

When should I initiate permit closure?

Permit closure should be initiated once all reclamation obligations, as detailed in the DOGAMI approved reclamation plan, have been met, and at least 6 months in advance of the desired closure date.

When does my security get released or returned?

The reclamation security is released at the end of the closure process.

What steps do I need to take to initiate the permit closure process?

Following the [operating permit closure checklist](#), submit a completed [permit closure request form](#), current reclamation plan, and supporting documentation of reclamation success to DOGAMI for review. Upon receipt of adequate support information, DOGAMI will assign a Reclamationist to process the request for closure.

Where do I find my reclamation plan?

If you are not able to locate your approved reclamation plan, you may request a copy of your records. [Public records requests](#) must be made in writing, and include the requestor's first and last name, contact information, a detailed description of the records being requested, and (if applicable) the name of the organization or entity the requestor is representing.

What supporting documentation is needed to verify reclamation success?

Supporting documentation will vary depending on the post-mining beneficial use. DOGAMI accepts geolocated photographs, maps, receipts, written narratives, and other information to verify all reclamation obligations have been achieved. Additionally, a site inspection will be conducted by DOGAMI to verify reclamation has been completed in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan and permit conditions.

Why do I have to reclaim what the last operator did?

When a permit is transferred from one party to another, all reclamation obligations are assumed by the new permittee.

What if I want to change the post-mining beneficial use and change the reclamation plan?

To change the reclamation plan, you must first amend the permit. DOGAMI must approve of any revisions to a reclamation plan. The post-mining beneficial use must be compatible with the zoning and local government land use approvals.

Do I have to keep renewing my operating permit even though I'm in the reclamation phase and not actively producing?

Yes. Your DOGAMI permit must be kept in compliance, including paying the annual renewals, until the permit has been closed by DOGAMI and your reclamation security has been released.

How long do I have to wait for vegetation to establish?

DOGAMI will, in most instances, consider revegetation successful if it provides a similar plant density in terms of ground or canopy cover and it is comparable to undisturbed areas in similar landscapes. In arid or semi-arid regions, DOGAMI may require three years of growth prior to a revegetation evaluation.