



SC DEPARTMENT of
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

**Mining
Form
MR-200**

**S.C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
BUREAU OF LAND AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
DIVISION OF MINING AND SOLID WASTE PERMITTING**

2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 898-1362 Fax: (803) 898-1426 E-mail: AskMines@des.sc.gov

APPLICATION FOR AN EXPLORATION CERTIFICATE

The application packet, including maps, also needs to be submitted in pdf format

1. Name of Company: _____

Check form of business entity: Corporation _____ Partnership _____
Limited Partnership _____ Sole Proprietorship _____

2. Name of Exploration Tract: _____ County: _____

3. Home Office Address: _____
(Street and/or P.O. Box) (Telephone No.)

(City) (State) (Zip Code) (Fax. No.)

4. Local Office Address: _____
(Street and/or P.O. Box) (Telephone No.)

(City) (State) (Zip Code) (Fax. No.)

5. Designate to which office Official Mail is to be sent: Home Office _____ Local Office _____

6. Name/ title of exploration company personnel to be the contact for official business and correspondence:

7. Provide the U.S.G.S. Topographic Map name where the exploration site is located and give UTM coordinates for the approximate center of the exploration activity on this tract of land.

Topographic Map: _____ Northing: _____ Easting: _____

A. INFORMATION ON THE TRACT OF LAND TO BE EXPLORED

1. Name of Land Owner: _____

2. Land Owner Address: _____
(Street and/or P.O. Box) (Telephone No.)

(City) (State) (Zip Code) (Fax. No.)

3. Tax Map Number: _____ Number of Acres within Exploration Area: _____

4. If land is leased, provide date when lease terminates or any options that may prevent the applicant from having access to the tract of land.

Lease termination date: _____

5. Describe the present land use of the area under exploration and the general land use of neighboring property. Neighboring is defined as land adjacent to the tract of land under exploration.

B. METHOD OF EXPLORATION

Pursuant to Section 48-20-50, "A certificate of exploration issued by the department is required for exploration activities in an affected area of two acres or less and involving the development of open pits, trenches, open cuts, or tunneling. A certificate of exploration is not required for exploration activity on an area already covered by an operation permit or for (1) drilling core holes, (2) drilling bore holes, or (3) conducting geophysical and geochemical sampling and analysis."

1. Check the method(s) of exploration to be conducted on this tract of land for which a certificate of exploration is required.

Trenching: _____ Open pit: _____ Open cuts: _____ Tunneling: _____

2. Number of exploration excavations and approximate spacing between excavations to be dug on this tract of land.

3. What type of equipment will be used to conduct the exploration excavation(s)?

4. Will explosives be used in the exploration activity? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain.

C. MAPPING REQUIREMENTS

On a map(s) of sufficient scale, please show the following information:

1. A map should show the entire tract of land as identified by the tax map number given. The property lines on this map shall be taken from the most recent plat recorded in the tax assessor's office. If the explorer does not have access to the entire tract of land, then the map should delineate where the explorer does and does not have access for exploration.
2. Topographic information that adequately shows land relief and natural and manmade waterways/water bodies.
3. Location of individual exploration excavations, placement of spoil material from the excavations, sediment and erosion control structures (referenced in Reclamation Plan), access roads denoting roads existing before exploration activities and new roads constructed specifically to gain access for exploration.
4. Map(s) shall have a North arrow, locate reference point for UTM coordinates, title block with company name, name of person preparing map, date map prepared, scale and county of exploration site.

D. ESTIMATION OF ACRES AFFECTED BY EXPLORATION

1. Estimate the total area, in acres, that will be affected during exploration. The estimate submitted shall take into account all excavations, spoil material stockpiled during excavating and the area needed for sediment and erosion control structures. Affected area estimation shall be shown in the space below and should account for each excavation and spoil pile from each excavation.

2. On page 3, sketch a typical exploration excavation proposed for this site. The sketch shall show the dimensions of the excavations and placement of spoil materials.

Sketch of Exploration Site

E. RECLAMATION BOND

Pursuant to Section 48-20-50, "Upon approval of an application for a certificate of exploration, the department shall require a performance bond or other security in an amount, and pursuant to requirements, set forth in Section 48-20-110. Section 48-20-110 states, "The applicant may file a separate bond for each certificate of exploration or operating permit or may file a blanket bond covering all exploration activities or mining operations within the State for which he holds certificates or permits. The amount of bond required for a certificate of exploration must be two thousand, five hundred dollars."

The applicant will receive written notification that the application for the exploration certificate has been approved. The applicant may then post a performance bond with the SC Department of Environmental Services with one of the following: surety bond, cash deposit, registered securities acceptable to the department, an assignment of a savings, account in a South Carolina bank, Irrevocable letter of Credit, or other securities acceptable to the department on an assignment form prescribed by the department.

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Pursuant to Section 48-20-50, "The department shall treat the application for a certificate of exploration and the certificate, if any, and any materials submitted with the application, as confidential trade secrets and proprietary business information of the applicant. The application and the certificate, if any, and any material submitted with the application is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and is not part of the public record."

1. The information in this application and issued certificate of exploration will be treated as proprietary information by the SC Department of Environmental Services. In the space below, the applicant is directed to provide names of people and/or necessary identification for persons to present to the SCDES upon requesting to view the explorer's confidential files.

The explorer acknowledges that Section 48-20-130, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 provides in part:

"Upon receipt of the operator's annual report or report of completion of reclamation and at any other reasonable time the department may elect, the department shall inspect the permit area to determine if the operator has complied with the reclamation plan, the requirement of this chapter, regulations promulgated by its authority, and the terms and conditions of this permit. Accredited representatives of the department at all reasonable times may enter upon the land subject to the certificate of exploration or operating permit for the purpose of making the inspection."

Signature of Explorer or his Authorized Representative

Printed Name of Explorer or his Authorized Representative

Title of Explorer or his Authorized Representative

DATE

e-mail address of Explorer or his Authorized Representative