

Proposed Changes to the Mine Inspection Form

California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) requires lead agencies to inspect surface mining operations not less than once each calendar year. SMARA section 2774(b) states, "The lead agency shall conduct an inspection of a surface mining operation within six months of receipt by the lead agency of the surface mining operation's report submitted pursuant to section 2207, solely to determine whether the surface mining operation is in compliance with this chapter... . All inspections shall be conducted using a form developed by the department and approved by the board that shall include the professional licensing and disciplinary information of the person who conducted the inspection."

California Code of Regulations Section 3504.5(g) provides additional clarification:

"The inspection report to the lead agency shall consist of the inspection form MRRC-1 (4/97), developed by the department and approved by the board, and any other reports or documents prepared by the inspector or inspection team. The lead agency shall provide a copy of the completed inspection report along with the lead agency's statement regarding the status of compliance of the operation to the director within 30 days of completion of the inspection. A copy of the completed inspection report and lead agency statement of compliance shall also be provided to the mine operator within 30 days of completion of the inspection."

At the October 11, 2012 meeting of the State Mining and Geology Board's, Policy and Legislation Committee, the Department recommended changes to inspection form MRRC-1. The proposed changes reflect the process followed by the Board in conducting inspections of mining operations where the Board is lead agency.

At the request of the Department, the Policy and Legislation Committee initiated a 30-day public review and comment period. The comment period opened on October 11, 2012 and closes on November 9, 2012. The proposed revisions can be viewed by clicking the following link:

["Proposed revisions to MRRC-1"](#)

Written comments on the revised MRRC-1 form must be postmarked no later than November 9, 2012. Please mail written comments to:

Office of Mine Reclamation
Inspection Form Comments
801 K Street, Suite 09-06
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments can also be submitted via email to:

OMR@conservation.ca.gov (use subject line "Inspection Report Form Revision")