



STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD

Policy and Legislation Committee

Brian Baca, Chair; Erin Garner

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

For Meeting Date: March 8, 2012

Agenda Item No. 6: Consideration of the State Mining and Geology Board Information Report No. IR 2012-08.

INTRODUCTION: The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) conducts its business in public, and often considers policy topics of statewide interest. On occasion, the SMGB requests analysis from its Executive Officer prior to considering policy decisions. In the past, the SMGB's Executive Officer or his staff, has presented such analysis on topics of statewide interest to the SMGB in public meetings. Interest in these reports from industry, professional organizations, regulators, and other interested parties and stakeholders has been high, and they have approached the SMGB for copies of these reports in a user-friendly format. The Policy and Legislation Committee is considering approving a new report pertaining to a survey of Lead Agencies affected by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) for publication on the SMGB's website.

BACKGROUND: On occasion, the SMGB requests from its staff comprehensive or focused analysis for topics of interest to the SMGB, prior to making policy decisions. At the request of SMGB Policy and Legislation Committee during its meetings held on October 14 and November 10, 2010, an Information Report has recently been completed. Information Report 2012-08 is titled "A Survey of Lead Agencies Affected by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act". SMGB Information Report 2012-08 does not set forth policy, but rather presents information that the SMGB considers in setting policy.

SMARA provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy for the regulation of surface mining operations. SMARA encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the State's mineral resources, and assures that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition.

In evaluating ways the SMGB and Department of Conservation can better assist lead agencies affected by SMARA, and considering ways of streamlining the Act and /or SMGB's regulations, the SMGB conducted a survey of affected lead agencies between December 2010 and February 2011. A ten-question questionnaire was forwarded to all 115 lead agencies. Results received were compiled and tabulated. Results and recommendations for policy considerations are provided.



Executive Officer's Report

CONSIDERATION BEFORE THE COMMITTEE: Upon review and discussion, the SMGB may authorize the Executive Officer to make available SMGB's Information Report No. 2012-08 on the SMGB's web site.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDATION: At this time, the Executive Officer offers the following motion for the Committee's consideration.

Motion to approve publication of the SMGB's Information Reports 2012-08 on the SMGB's website:

Mr. Chairman, in light of the information before the Committee today, I move that the Committee approve finalization of the SMGB's Information Report 2012-08, and direct the Executive Officer to make available this report on the SMGB's website.

Respectfully submitted:



Stephen M. Testa
Executive Officer