

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE PEOPLE OF MAINE

The laws creating and later dissolving the Maine Mining Commission made no provisions and set no requirements for reports to the Governor, the Legislature or the people. However, State funds were expended by the Commission and staff and results were accomplished in the short history of the department. It is believed appropriate to make some record of these activities available to the people of Maine.

This is the first and last report of the Commission. It will attempt to summarize the two years of the department's existence and indicate the future disposition of the programs and results obtained.

Very truly yours,

John A. Bader

Director

JAB:mct

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MAINE MINING COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Maine Mining Commission was created by the 104th Legislature under the provisions of M.R.S.A. Title 10, Part 5-A, Chapter 472 of 1969. Under provisions of this law a five man Commission, to be appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Executive Council, was charged with providing for the reclamation of lands affected by mining. The Commission was to be made up of one representative of mining interests, one representative of conservation interests, and three public representatives. Two of the public members were to be trained in the fields of either geology, planning biological science or civil engineering.

In the winter months of 1969-70 the Governor appointed the original five man Commission. In July of 1970, the Commission hired a Director as the first full time employee and the organization and operation of the department began.

The 105th Legislature, meeting in regular session in 1971, passed several State government reorganization bills. These bills were implemented by enabling legislation during the Special Session of the 105th early in 1972. One of the results of this reorganization was the creation of a new Department of Environmental Protection which assumed all the duties and responsibilities of the Maine Mining Commission on July 1, 1972, and the Commission ceased to exist as of that date.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Peter Kelley, Caribou	1970-	(Chairman 1970)
Richard B. Anderson, Gorham	1970-72	(Chairman 1971)
David M. Cohen, Portland	1971-72	(Chairman 1972)
James Nesbitt, Brunswick	1970-72	(Vice Chairman 1970-72)
Jack B. Malcolm, Sedgewick	1970	
Robert G. Doyle, Gardiner	1970-72	
Frederick M. Beck	1971-72	

ACTIVITIES

The first few months of the Department's staff activities were filled with acquisition of space, equipment and personnel, while assembling information and drafting rules and regulations to make the law effective. The Director hired a secretary in August of 1970, and in December 1970 obtained the services of a Civil Engineer and a Landscape Architect. Budget reductions forced the release of the Civil Engineer in July 1971, and the Department performed its duties during its last year with a total of three full time personnel.

Complete rules and regulations were adopted in March 1971 with an effective date of June 1, 1971. By this time all known operators of mines as defined in the law had been advised of the existence of the Commission and were already fairly familiar with the law and its requirements. Compliance with the law and the regulations began at once.

In the thirteen months from effective date of regulations to expiration of the Commission, every active mining operation in the State was brought into compliance with the law. Other than sand, gravel and borrow pits which were exempt, this included all openings in the ground surface for extraction of materials for construction or processing. The results of Department operations are tabulated below.

MINING OPERATIONS IN MAINE

Type	Number Recorded	Number Inactive	Number Active	Mining Plans
Quarries	19	8	11	Approved 11 active
Slate Mine	1	0	1	Exempt by size
Clay Pits	5	0	5	All approved
Peat Bogs	4	0	4	2 approved 2 exempt
Heavy Metal Mines	2	0	2	Approved
Marl Pit	1	0	1	Approved
Totals	32	8	24	21 Approved 3 Exempt

As mining and reclamation plans and schedules were approved a schedule of field inspections was set up by the Department staff. These inspections have been regularly made and reports sent to the operators to insure complete and on schedule fulfillment of the obligations set out in the plans.

In addition to the primary obligation of the Commission to register and approve mining and reclamation plans, some other activities are considered worthy of note.

After several months of preliminary testing and consultation the Commission entered into a small research contract to determine suitable means of revegetation of mine tailings and spoil piles at the site of the Callahan zinc and copper mine. This project was financed fifty percent by the Commission out of the reclamation fund built up by application fees, and twenty-five percent each by Callahan Mining Corp. and Leon E. Gordon, Inc., a reclamation contractor. This project is continuing and the final results should be of considerable benefit to Callahan's final reclamation program as well as all future metal mining operations in Maine.

The Commission and staff cooperated fully with all relevant State agencies and with many other organizations such as conservation groups, municipal organizations, service clubs and technical societies. Two of the noteworthy results of this cooperation were a slide presentation on sand and gravel pits sponsored by the Audubon Society and the Associated General Contractors of Maine and a brief guide put out by the Commission titled "A Citizens Guide to Gravel Pit Reclamation and Beautification".

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURES

Given below is a tabulation of the money expended by the Mining Commission during its short life.

Category	Fiscal Year			Total
	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 27,014	\$ 27,946.51	\$ 54,960.51
All Other	216	4,768	4,836.39	9,604.39
Capital	0	2,280	126.54	2,406.54
Totals •	216	34,062	32,909.44	66,971.44

CONCLUSIONS

The duties, obligations and work accomplished by the Maine Mining Commission were not abandoned with the elimination of the department. All phases of the law and the work were taken over by the Department of Environmental Protection, along with the records, equipment and personnel. Reclamation and rehabilitation of mined land will continue in Maine.