

MONROE COUNTY NONMETALLIC MINING ORDINANCE SUMMARY

PURPOSE:

The Monroe County Nonmetallic Mining Ordinance is written to meet the requirements of Chapter 295, Wisconsin Statutes. It will be administered according to Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code. NR 135 is intended to create a framework for statewide regulation of nonmetallic mining reclamation. All counties are required to adopt an ordinance that establishes a reclamation program capable of ensuring compliance with the uniform state reclamation standards contained in NR135.

WHO DOES THIS APPLY TO?

The ordinance applies to all operators of nonmetallic mining sites within Monroe County operating after August 1st, 2001.

WHAT IS A NONMETALLIC MINE?

Extraction from the earth of mineral aggregates or nonmetallic minerals for sale or use by the operator. Nonmetallic minerals include, but are not limited to, stone, sand, gravel, clay, peat, and topsoil.

WHAT THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- excavations by a person solely for domestic or farm use at that person's residence or farm
- nonmetallic mining sites that affect less than 1 acre of total area over the life of the mine
- excavations for building construction purposes conducted on the building site

STANDARDS:

All nonmetallic mining sites shall be reclaimed in conformance with these standards:

- general standards including reuse of refuse, minimizing disturbed areas, meeting public health and safety standards, habitat restoration, and compliance with environmental regulations
- surface and wetland protection
- groundwater protection
- topsoil management and redistribution
- final grading and slopes
- revegetation and site stabilization

PERMITS:

All operators of nonmetallic mining sites operating on August 1, 2001 must apply for a reclamation permit from Monroe County. Existing mines will be granted an automatic permit if application is received by August 1. New mines, or those applying after August 1 will not be allowed to operate until the permit process is complete.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:

Operators must submit an annual permit fee to Monroe County (see table on back). All mining sites must have a reclamation plan. Those applying for automatic permits will be given from 1-3 years to submit their plan. Those applying for new permits will need to submit their reclamation plan before a permit is granted. All sites will require the submittal of financial assurance to guarantee satisfactory implementation of the reclamation plan. Automatic permits will be given 1-3 years to submit financial assurance. New applications will need to include financial assurance before a permit is granted. Financial assurance will be released to the permit holder when successful reclamation is completed.

RECLAMATION PLAN REQUIREMENTS:

The reclamation plan must include the following items:

- maps of the site showing location, property boundaries, geologic composition, depth and distribution of mineral deposit, type of topsoil, approximate elevation of ground water, and location of surface waters and drainage patterns
- information on biological resources, plant communities, and wildlife use
- existing topography
- a plan view showing land previously affected by mining
- a description of the post-mining land use
- a description of the proposed reclamation, including final slopes, methods of topsoil removal and conservation, a revegetation plan, and erosion control measures needed
- the estimated costs of the reclamation for each stage of the project

ANNUAL FEES:



Mine Size in Unreclaimed Acres	Monroe County's Share of Annual Fee	Wisconsin DNR's Share of Annual Fee	
1 to 5 acres Does not include < 1 acre	\$150	\$30	\$180
6 to 10 acres	\$300	\$60	\$360
11 to 15 acres	\$450	\$90	\$540
16 to 25 acres	\$600	\$120	\$720
26 to 50 acres	\$700	\$140	\$840
51 acres or larger	\$750	\$150	\$900

ANNUAL REPORTS:

Mine operators must submit annual reports to Monroe County containing information on the reclamation status of their mines. They must also provide written certification that the reclamation plan is being followed.