



**DIVISION OF MINERAL & GEOLOGIC RESOURCES
MINING SECTION**

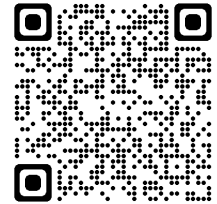
**Public Participation Opportunities
Request for Public Comments
Draft Permit Actions**

October 2, 2023

Public Notice: MA2023-02

Last Day to Comment: November 3, 2023

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public of the following draft environmental permits and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed activities on human health and the environment. The draft permits are available on the Department's Data Viewer by entering the permit number for each action in this notice at the following web address: <https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/dataviewers/f?p=2005>. The Data Viewer may also be accessed by scanning the QR code to the right with your smartphone.



The Division has made the determination that the following ARAP permit applications are complete as required by *Rule 0400-40-03-.06(1)(c)* and *Rule 0400-40-07-.04*.

Individual ARAP Permits

Stream Alterations

Permit Number: NR23MS.015 **Permit Writer/Division Contact Initials:** DRM

Applicant: Trevor Martin, Environmental Program Manager

Address: 3711 Middlebrook Pike

Phone: (865) 594-6035

Facility: Ramsey Lake AML Project

Division Contact: Dan Murray

Address: Knoxville Environmental Field Office
3711 Middlebrook Pike

Knoxville, TN 37921-6538

Phone: (865) 770-9473

Email: Dan.Murray@tn.gov

Project: Ramsey Lake AML Project

Description of Activity: Reclamation of pre-SMCRA mine pits

Receiving Stream: Unnamed Tributaries to Corn Branch

Facility Location: Latitude: 35.3325 Longitude: -85.7518
Street Address: Ramsey Lake Road
County: Grundy EFO Name: Chattanooga

List of Permit Writers-Mining Section

CMP	Chris Pracheil	865-696-0211	Christopher.Pracheil@tn.gov
DKC	Dennis Conger	865-606-1746	Dennis.Conger@tn.gov
DPL	Daniel Lawrence	865-803-1206	Daniel.Lawrence@tn.gov
DRM	Dan Murray	865-770-9473	Dan.Murray@tn.gov
GEK	Geoff Klein	865-441-4773	Geoff.Klein@tn.gov
LCK	Logan Kennedy	865-771-9102	Logan.Kennedy@tn.gov

Environmental Field Offices

Chattanooga Environmental Field Office
1301 Riverfront Parkway Suite 206
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2233
(423) 634-5745 or 1-888-891-8332

Columbia Environmental Field Office
1421 Hampshire Pike
Columbia, TN 38401-5611
(931) 380-3371 or 1-888-891-8332

Cookeville Environmental Field Office
1221 South Willow Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38506-4107
(931) 520-6688 or 1-888-891-8332

Jackson Environmental Field Office
1625 Hollywood Drive
Jackson, TN 38305-4316
(731) 512-1300 or 1-888-891-8332

Johnson City Environmental Field Office
2305 Silverdale Road
Johnson City, TN 37601-4322
(423) 854-5400 or 1-888-891-8332

Knoxville Environmental Field Office
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, TN 37921-6538
(865) 594-6035 or 1-888-891-8332

Nashville Environmental Field Office
711 R. S. Gass Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37216-2637
(615) 687-7000 or 1-888-891-8332

Memphis Environmental Field Office
8383 Wolf Lake Drive
Bartlett, TN 38133-4119
(901) 371-3000 or 1-888-891-8332

How to Comment

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is requesting public comments on the permit actions. Obtaining a broad range of facts and opinions on Agency actions is one of the best ways to ensure quality decisions. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed permit actions may submit comments in writing to the Mining Section at the Knoxville Environmental Field Office, Attn: ARAP-Mining Public Notice; by fax to (865) 594-6105; by e-mail to TDEC.Mining@tn.gov, or by e-mail to the permit writer listed for the permit action. The Division must receive your comments before the close of the comment period (see page 1).

How to Request a Public Hearing

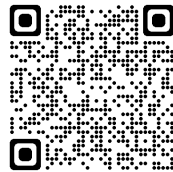
Interested persons may request in writing that the Division hold a public hearing on any application. Said request from interested persons must be filed as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the period allowed for public comment, and must indicate the interest of the party filing it, must concisely state the water quality issues being raised, and the reasons why a hearing is warranted. When there is significant public interest for a hearing, the Division will hold a hearing in accordance with *Rule 0400-40-07-.04(4)(f)*. A separate public notice will announce the public hearing.

How the Department Will Proceed

The Director of the Division of Mineral & Geologic Resources will determine the final permit action after considering comments submitted during the comment period, the hearing record, if any, and the requirements of Federal and State acts and regulations.

To Obtain Permit Details

Draft permits contain Antidegradation Determinations and Rationales that address information concerning the foundation for the Division's decisions. Copies of the applications, draft permits, and supporting documentation are in the permit files maintained at the Knoxville Environmental Field Office, Mining Section. This information is available on the Division's Data Viewer by entering the permit number for each action that you interested in into the search box at the following web address: <https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/dataviewers/f?p=2005>. The Data Viewer may also be accessed by scanning the QR code to the right with your smartphone. Files are also available for in-person public inspection during normal visiting hours. Please email Kara.Blevins@tn.gov or call (865) 594-5460 to schedule an appointment for the review. There is a nominal fee for copying.



State of Tennessee Antidegradation Policy

Tennessee's Antidegradation Statement is in Rule 0400-40-03-.06 of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. It is the purpose of Tennessee's standards to fully protect existing uses of all surface waters as established under the Act. Where the quality of Tennessee waters is better than the level necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, or recreation in and on the water, that quality will be maintained and protected unless the Department finds, after intergovernmental coordination and public participation, that lowering water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located.

Generally, there are two types of high quality waters. Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs) receive the greatest level of protection. The Board of Water Quality, Oil and Gas designate these waters. New or expanded water withdrawals in ONRWs must result in no measurable degradation. New or expanded habitat alterations in ONRWs can result in no more than de minimis degradation.

The Department identifies other high quality waters known as Exceptional Tennessee Waters (ETWs) and protects against their degradation. New or increased water withdrawals that would cause degradation of any available parameter above the level of de minimis will only be authorized if the applicant has demonstrated to the Department that there are no practicable alternatives to prevent or lessen degradation associated with the proposed activity and the degradation is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area and will not violate the water quality criteria for uses existing in the receiving waters. Activities that would cause degradation of habitat above the level of de minimis will only be authorized if the applicant has demonstrated to the

Department that there are no practicable alternatives to prevent or lessen degradation associated with the proposed activity, and the degradation is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area and will not violate the water quality criteria for uses existing in the receiving waters.

All Tennessee waters even when not designated as high quality are classified as having unavailable parameters or available parameters. In waters with unavailable parameters no new or increased water withdrawals that will cause additional measurable degradation of the unavailable parameter shall be authorized. In waters with unavailable parameters habitat alterations that cause significant degradation shall not be authorized. In waters with available parameters an activity that would cause degradation above the level of de minimis will only be authorized if the applicant has demonstrated to the Department that there are no practicable alternatives to prevent or lessen degradation associated with the proposed activity and the degradation is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area and will not violate the water quality criteria for uses existing in the receiving waters. These waters must achieve and maintain Tennessee's Water Quality Standards.

State of Tennessee Policy of Non-Discrimination

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's policy of non-discrimination, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its policies, or in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, services or activities. You may direct any Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action inquiries or complaints to the EEO/AA Coordinator, Office of General Counsel, William R. Snodgrass - TN Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Nashville, TN 37243-1102 or telephone 1-888-867-7455. Direct any Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) inquiries or complaints to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Division, William R. Snodgrass - TN Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor, Nashville, TN 37243-1102 or telephone 1-888-867-7455. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (1-800-848-0298).

If it is hard for you to read, speak, or understand English, TDEC can provide translation or interpretation services free of charge by contacting Christa Morphew at 615-360-0382 or Christa.Morphew@tn.gov.

Si le resulta difícil leer, hablar o comprender inglés, TDEC puede proporcionarle servicios de traducción o interpretación sin cargo comunicándose con Christa Morphew al 615-360-0382 o Christa.Morphew@tn.gov.