



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

Land Protection Branch

4244 International Parkway

Suite 104

Atlanta, Georgia 30354

404-362-2537

Guidance Document Obtaining Inactive Status for Surface Mines

Each Surface Mining Permit contains the following provision:

“This Permit shall be rendered null and void should the mining activity not commence within twelve (12) months from the date this Permit becomes final, or should cessation of mining occur for a period of eighteen (18) months without the Operator **obtaining an inactive status** classification through an Approved Amendment of the Surface Mining Land Use Plan”.

Surface Mines that plan on not conducting any mining activity or have not conducted any surface mining activities within the last 18 months shall apply for inactive status.

In order to maintain Active Status, the Operator shall conduct “mining activity” no less frequently than every 18 months. Examples of “mining activity” include, but are not limited to:

- Activities within the definition of “Surface mining” at O.C.G.A. § 12-4-72(15)
- Maintenance of berms, roads, storm water, etc.
- Maintenance of E&S measures and controls

In order to obtain Inactive Status, a mine must meet the following criteria:

- Valid Surface Mining Permit
- Unless an exemption has been granted, financial assurance is in good standing
- Site must be stabilized and have E&S measures in place
*Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia require that “Mulch and/or temporary grassing may be used up to six months; permanent vegetation shall be planted if the area is to be left undisturbed for greater than six months.”
- No current surface mining violations

How do you obtain Inactive Status?

- Submit an Amendment applying for inactive status. Please include estimated time to be inactive with a date to return active. If more than two (2) years is proposed, please provide adequate information to support proposed time. Inactive status will not be approved for more than five (5) years.

How do you go back to Active Status?

- Submit an Amendment applying for active status. Please include updated reclamation dates if necessary. *New plans are not required to return to active status if no changes have been made to approved plans.

Throughout Inactive Status, a mine must meet the following criteria:

- Unless an exemption has been granted, maintain financial assurance
- Submit Annual Status Report

If you have any questions, please contact the Surface Mining Unit at 404-362-2692.

William Cook

William Cook
Solid Waste Management Program Manager

11/8/2017

Date