



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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**4 VAC 25-35 – Certification Requirements for Mineral Miners**  
**Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy**  
September 11, 2012

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### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

The Board of Mineral Mining Examiners (Board) proposes to amend these regulations to allow mineral miners to file for their required certifications, pay fees and take examinations electronically. Additionally, the Board proposes several amendments for clarity, which do not change policy or requirements.

### **Result of Analysis**

The benefits likely exceed the costs for all proposed changes.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Allowing mineral miners to file for their required certifications, pay fees and take examinations electronically may moderately reduce costs through saved time and postage. To the extent that the clarifying amendments reduce confusion, these proposed changes will be beneficial as well.

### **Businesses and Entities Affected**

The proposed amendments potentially affect the 433 mineral operations currently in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Approximately 90% of these (roughly 390) would qualify as small businesses.

### **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed amendments apply to all localities, but may particularly impact areas with relatively greater mineral mining. According to the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy,

the Division of Mineral Mining has issued active permits in over 90 localities in the Commonwealth.

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposal amendments are unlikely to significantly affect employment.

### **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposed amendments may moderately reduce costs by permitting the use of electronic submission of documents.

### **Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects**

The proposed amendments may moderately reduce costs by permitting the use of electronic submission of documents.

### **Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact**

The proposed amendments do not adversely affect small businesses.

### **Real Estate Development Costs**

The proposed amendments are unlikely to significantly affect real estate development costs.

### **Legal Mandate**

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.04 of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 14 (10). Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the

type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.