



# Office of Geological Survey

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor • Steven E. Chester, Director

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

**OFFICE OF GEOLOGICAL  
SURVEY**  
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Compliance  
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Hearings  
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Maps and Publications  
517-241-1520

Mineral Wells, Mining  
517-241-1544

Oil & Gas or Mineral Well  
Permits  
517-241-1528

Orphan Wells  
517-241-1544

Petroleum Geology and  
Production  
517-241-1509

**DEQ Internet Home Page:**  
[www.michigan.gov/deqogs](http://www.michigan.gov/deqogs)  
**Environmental Assistance  
Center:**  
800-662-9278  
**Pollution Emergencies:**  
800-292-4706

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*The Office of Geological Survey (OGS), established in 1837, is Michigan's oldest state agency. The OGS is responsible for assuring that the development of fossil fuel and mineral resources follows sound conservation principles and incorporates proper protection for other natural resources, the environment, property, and public health and safety. The OGS regulates the drilling and operation of wells used for oil and gas production, exploration and production of brine and other minerals, and underground storage and disposal. The OGS regulates the operation and reclamation of mines for industrial sand, metals, and other minerals. The OGS also develops and distributes a variety of maps, publications, and data on fossil fuels, minerals, and groundwater for industry and public use.*

## [Oil and Gas Program](#)

The OGS regulates the locating, spacing, drilling, operating, and plugging of oil and gas wells and the operation of associated storage and disposal facilities. Staff reviews applications and issues permits to drill and operate; conducts inspections; and enforces well construction, spill prevention, and cleanup requirements. The OGS also regulates production rates for wells to assure the conservation and efficient recovery of oil and gas. There are over 14,700 active oil and gas wells and 3,150 gas storage wells in Michigan. Another 35,000 wells have been plugged as nonproductive or depleted. If the owner of a nonproductive well no longer exists, or simply refuses to plug the well, the OGS utilizes money from oil and gas industry fees and taxes to plug the well and restore the site and takes action to recover the state's costs.

## [Mineral Wells Program](#)

The OGS regulates the location, drilling, operation, and closure of mineral wells, which includes wells for waste disposal, brine production, solution mining, storage, and mineral exploration. Staff evaluates applications, issues permits, carries out inspections, and enforces requirements for construction and operation of mineral wells and associated facilities. There are approximately 175 permitted mineral wells in Michigan, with an average of 30 to 40 new wells permitted and drilled per year.

## [Mining and Minerals Program](#)

The OGS regulates mining in designated coastal sand dune areas. Staff reviews sand dune mining applications and issues permits, evaluates mining and regulation plans, determines financial responsibility requirements, conducts inspections, and enforces regulatory requirements. Approximately 1.9 million tons of dune sand are mined in Michigan each year, providing 30 percent of the nation's foundry sand. The OGS also regulates mining and reclamation at metallic mineral mines. Currently, this includes only two iron mines located in the Upper Peninsula; however, there is the potential for additional mines for iron and other metals. Staff conducts permitting, inspection, and enforcement of reclamation requirements at these operations.

## [Geologic Mapping and Information](#)

The OGS develops and disseminates information on oil and gas, minerals, groundwater, and other earth resources for use in resource development, environmental protection, and public information. This information includes topographic maps, geologic maps, publications on Michigan geology, oil and gas well records, and mine records. An increasing amount of information is available in digital format and can be accessed over the internet.

### Where To Go For Assistance

OGS staff located in several district and field offices carry out the field activities associated with OGS programs. This includes responding to complaints, conducting compliance inspections, processing permit applications, and providing local customer service contact points. Field staff is located throughout the state:

Cadillac District Office .....	231-775-3960	Saginaw Bay District Office .....	989-686-8025
Gaylord Field Office .....	989-731-4920	Southeast Michigan District Office .....	586-753-3700
Kalamazoo District Office .....	269-567-3500	Upper Peninsula District Office .....	906-346-8300
Lansing District Office .....	517-335-6010		

Copies of the laws and rules for OGS programs, as well as other geological resource information and publications, are available by contacting OGS at 517-241-1515 or by accessing our website at [www.michigan.gov/deqogs](http://www.michigan.gov/deqogs).