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Mining Permit Application Process Streamlined

Mining project applications seeking non-ferrous mining permits have involved nearly 14 months of review time by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Not anymore.

Over the past two years, Michigan's Interagency Collaboration Committee (ICC) on Mining – a multi-agency team led by the DEQ – restructured the submittal process for permit applications to the DEQ for establishing a mining operation in Michigan.

After making the process more efficient, it is expected that the permitting process could be completed in half the time, or seven months. This new process will be available for the next mining project. Michigan has had three applications over the past 10 years and could have up to two more applications during the next two years.

With a shortened timeframe for investors to compile their application and receive an answer, the state will have an economic advantage in helping the mining industry invest in Michigan.

For future permit applications, a DEQ-led multi-agency team will guide applicants by providing technical assistance and ensure information about proposed mining operations is available for public comment.

This new process showcases how state government can partner with the mining industry, stakeholders and tribal governments by helping them navigate the regulatory process, while fully maintaining the public review and comment periods, along with a thorough environmental review as required by law.

According to Keith Creagh with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Mining ICC has done great work for the state.

“We appreciate how the ICC has removed barriers to collaboration and is playing an instrumental role in the reinvention of our great state,” said Creagh.



An image of the Eagle Mine in Marquette County.