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# BLUESTONE EXPLORATION AUTHORIZATION

## Department Processing of Bluestone Exploration Applications

### Within 15 days following receipt of the application:

- ▶ MLR staff will review project to determine if other permits are required (e.g. stormwater).
- ▶ MLR staff will review project with regard to New York State Archaeology Site Locations (Cultural Resources Activity Map), Wild, Scenic and Recreation River program concerns and Endangered Species Act applicability (Natural Heritage Maps).
- ▶ Provide copies of Bluestone Exploration Authorization Application to other program staff (DEP, DOW, Fish & Wildlife).
- ▶ Regional MLR staff will review Bluestone Exploration Authorization Application for application completeness.
- ▶ Regional MLR staff to notify applicant if Bluestone Exploration Authorization Application is determined to be incomplete.

### Within 45 days following receipt of the application:

- ▶ Site inspection by MLR staff.
- ▶ Applicant to provide financial security. This is required prior to authorization approval.
- ▶ When Bluestone Exploration Authorization Application is considered complete, MLR staff will send a letter and a copy of the application package to the local Chief Administrative Officer. (~16-45 days from receipt)

- ▶ If site is located within the NYC watershed area, regional MLR staff will send a copy of the completed application to NYC DEP. (~16-45 days from receipt)
- ▶ If application is approved, MLR staff signs the application package, provides authorization dates and returns a copy of the completed application to the applicant. (~45 days from receipt)

## Renewals

- ▶ An operator may seek a one-time, one-year renewal if it is determined that additional exploration is required to evaluate the resource.
- ▶ Renewals expire at the two-year anniversary date of the original authorization.

### **Example:**

Original Authorization Period:  
May 20, 2008 to May 20, 2009

One-Year Renewal:  
May 20, 2009 to May 20, 2010

- ▶ Renewals are to be submitted 30 days before the expiration date of the authorization.
- ▶ If renewal is submitted in a timely manner (i.e. 30 days before the expiration date) the applicant will be allowed to continue uninterrupted exploration until the renewal is issued.
- ▶ Late applications received less than 30 days before the expiration date may be considered without ordering reclamation. In this case, exploration must not continue past the expiration date. Exploration may only take place after receipt of a renewal authorization.
- ▶ The Department will not process renewals received after the initial bluestone authorization has expired. Reclamation must be completed.

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## Transition from Bluestone Exploration Authorization to a DEC Mined Land Reclamation Permit

- ▶ When does a bluestone miner need a DEC Mining Permit instead of an Exploration Authorization?
  - bluestone exploration activities involve removing more than 500 tons/year from the authorization site.
  - bluestone exploration /mining activities will disturb an area greater than 1 acre.
  - resource extraction is projected beyond the term of the initial exploration authorization, or beyond the one-year renewal.
- ▶ An application for a mining permit should be submitted at least 120 days prior to the expiration date of the bluestone exploration authorization to avoid unnecessary interruption of exploration or mining activities.
- ▶ Procedural requirements of UPA and SEQR will apply to mining permit applications.
- ▶ If a mining permit application is pending when the exploration authorization expires, reclamation will not be ordered until a decision has been made on the mining permit application.
- ▶ No mining or bluestone exploration activities will be allowed after the expiration date of the bluestone exploration authorization, unless a mining permit has been issued.

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## Mined Land Reclamation Specialists

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### Region 3

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4/3/08

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# BLUESTONE EXPLORATION AUTHORIZATION



## Authorization Processing, Renewal Information and Transition to Mined Land Reclamation Permit

For More Information Contact

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Or visit our website at

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