

5.15.7.9 Mining and Reclamation (PD-MR)

Characteristics and intent: It is the intent of the PD-MR district to accommodate development of commercial surface mining operations that meet the requirements of GA Rule 391-3-3 Surface Mining. The surface mine operations shall not adversely affect the ecology of the area; the use and enjoyment of surrounding properties; or the condition or safety of county roads used in connection with surface mine operations. Upon a timely conclusion of surface mine operations, the site shall be permanently reclaimed pursuant to the approved Mining Land Use Plan (MLUP), and established as a lake.

Surface mining operations shall comply with all relevant guidance from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), including submission of the Surety Bond, Annual Status Reports, and amendments, as necessary, to the approved permit or MLUP. Maintenance of both active and inactive surface mining sites is required. Copies of all submittals shall be submitted to Development Services at the same they are submitted to DNR.

In advance of an application for a permit from the DNR, an applicant shall meet with Development Services and develop a PD-MR document. The completed PD-MR document shall be submitted to Effingham County, along with an application for rezoning. The application must also include a draft mining permit application and MLUP; a site plan; a statement granting an authorized representative of Effingham County the right of entry and travel upon affected lands; and such other information as is requested by Development Services. Following rezoning approval, the approved mining permit shall be submitted to Development Services before mining operations commence. The Annual Status Report shall be submitted each year to Development Services at the same time that it is submitted to DNR. Any approvals for permit or MLUP amendments, or changes in active status, shall be submitted to Development Services before amended mining operations proceed.

Requirements: Commercial surface mine operations are subject to Section 5.12.4 Performance Standards, section 3.17.5 Surface Mine Operations—Road Maintenance Requirements, and section 74-8 Designated Truck Routes. A Traffic Impact Assessment may be required by the county engineer. The property on which the surface mine is proposed shall have frontage on a paved roads built to county or GDOT standards. No surface mine operators or transportation partners, customers, etc., shall damage any portion of a county road or right-of-way or cause a road to become impassable or unsafe to normal passenger traffic.