



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Mining Programs

Final Rulemaking: Handling and Use of Explosives (25 Pa. Code Chapters 210 and 211)

Environmental Quality Board Meeting
February 20, 2018

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

Purpose

- Seismic exploration
- Eliminate outdated requirements
- Provide consistency and clarity for the use of explosives
- Updates

Seismic Exploration

- Loaded hole security
- Mapping
- Product specifications
- Blast records
- Best technology detonators
- Location limitations
 - Mine sites
 - Buildings or other structures

Outdated Requirements

- Eliminate permits to purchase
- Eliminate permits to sell
- Allow more than 1 year for magazine license renewals
- Revise air blast regulatory limit

Updates

- Blasting activity application requirements
- Blast records
- Gases
- Highway precautions
- Seismographs and their use
- Blasting near utilities

Comments

- Seven commentators and IRRC
- Clarify some of the definitions
- Use of the words “toxic” and “noxious” for gases
- Signage for the blasting area
- Fees
- Potential conflicts with federal requirements
- Authority and process for civil penalties

Revisions

- Definitions
 - Removed references to ATF terms
 - Eliminated the definition and reference to “nuisance”
 - Added a definition for “at-the-hole communication”
 - Revised the definition of “flyrock”
 - Added FMCSA Inspection
 - Explosives
 - Scaled distance

Revisions

- Signage for the blasting area
- Federal references
- Removed “toxic” and “noxious” relating to gases
- Removed new or increased fees
- Eliminated Proposed Subchapter J about Civil Penalties

Advisory Board Collaboration

- Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board recommendation
 - Jul 21, 2016
- Aggregate Advisory Board recommendation
 - November 2, 2016

Recommendation

DEP recommends that the Board adopt the final-form regulation for the handling and use of explosives.



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Bureau of Mining Programs

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