

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0026

Limited mining operations-amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Minerals, Business & Economic Development  
Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to environmental quality; revising  
2 requirements for the continuation, termination and  
3 abandonment of limited mining operations as specified;  
4 providing for renewal of limited mining operations as  
5 specified; and providing for an effective date.

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7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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9 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-11-401(e)(vi)(intro), (C) and by  
10 creating new subparagraphs (E) and (F) is amended to read:

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12 **35-11-401. Compliance generally; exceptions.**

13

14 (e) The provisions of this article shall not apply to  
15 any of the following activities:

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2 (vi) Limited mining operations, whether  
3 commercial or noncommercial, for the removal of sand, gravel,  
4 scoria, limestone, dolomite, shale, ballast or feldspar from  
5 an area of fifteen (15) acres or less of affected land,  
6 excluding roads used to access the mining operation, if the  
7 operator has written permission for the operation from the  
8 owner and lessee, if any, of the surface. The operator shall  
9 notify the land quality division of the department of  
10 environmental quality and the inspector of mines within the  
11 department of workforce services of the location of the land  
12 to be mined and the postal address of the operator at least  
13 thirty (30) days before commencing operations. A copy of the  
14 notice shall also be mailed to all surface owners located  
15 within one (1) mile of the proposed boundary of the limited  
16 mining operation at least thirty (30) days before commencing  
17 operations. The operator shall notify the land quality  
18 division of the department of environmental quality of the  
19 date of commencement of limited mining operations within  
20 thirty (30) days of commencing operations. Limited mining  
21 operations authorized under this paragraph are subject to the  
22 following:

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1                   (C) After the limited mining operations have  
2 ceased, ~~or within thirty (30) days after abandonment of the~~  
3 ~~limited mining operation,~~ the operator shall notify the  
4 administrator of such fact in the operator's next annual  
5 report and commence reclamation and restoration in compliance  
6 with the rules and regulations of the land quality division  
7 of the department of environmental quality. The rules and  
8 regulations for reclamation shall at all times be reasonable;  
9 ~~and~~

10  
11                   (E) The limited mining operations shall be  
12 terminated if the operator does not commence operations  
13 within five (5) years from the date the land quality division  
14 of the department of environmental quality first receives  
15 notice of commencement from the operator under paragraph (vi)  
16 of this subsection;

17  
18                   (F) Limited mining operations may continue  
19 for not more than five (5) years from the date of commencing  
20 operations unless a notification to extend operations is  
21 submitted to the land quality division administrator.  
22 Operators shall submit a notification of extension for every  
23 subsequent five (5) year period with the annual report.

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**Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

(END)