

## ADEQ's Mission

To protect, enhance and restore the natural environment for the well-being of all Arkansans



## Other Contacts

- **US Department of the Interior  
Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement**  
1951 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20240
- **Mine Safety and Health Admin.**  
700 W. Capitol, Room 2420  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
telephone 501-324-5281
- **Water Division, ADEQ**  
telephone 501-682-0656

## ADEQ: What We Do

The Department of Environmental Quality is an agency of the state of Arkansas. We are headquartered in North Little Rock and have offices and inspectors throughout the state.



Our regulatory programs for air, water, solid waste, hazardous waste, regulated storage tanks and mining help protect the environment. We issue operating permits for businesses and farms and monitor for compliance.

We also manage many proactive programs to assist businesses, educators and the public with regulatory, recycling and other issues. ADEQ offers loans and tax credits for environmental improvement projects.

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# Open Cut Mining and Reclamation



*The Arkansas Open Cut Land  
Reclamation Act*

*The Arkansas Open Cut Mining  
and Land Reclamation Code*

**ADEQ**  
A R K A N S A S  
Department of Environmental Quality

# Introduction

In 1971, the Arkansas General Assembly passed the Arkansas Open Cut Land Reclamation Act. The current version of the law, Act 827, was passed in 1991.

The act deals with the reclamation of land affected by the mining of non-coal minerals, such as bauxite, clay, sand and gravel, using open cut mining methods.



An amendment to the law passed in 1995 authorized the regulation of the practice of removing sand and gravel from the beds of streams within Arkansas. A 1999 amendment authorized the regulation of soil and shale pits with some exemptions based on the on the size of the pit and the distance from adjacent property lines.

Pursuant to Act 827 of 1991, as amended , the Pollution Control and Ecology Commission adopted Regulation No. 15, the Arkansas Open Cut Mining and Land Reclamation Code. These regulations provide the non-coal mining operations in the state with a set of performance standards that must be followed during mining and during the process of reclaiming the land to a beneficial use.

## Key Elements of the Act

- A permit to engage in open-cut mining in Arkansas has a maximum permit period of five years and is renewable.
- Inspections are conducted annually at permitted sites to see if performance standards are being met.
- Regulation No. 15, The Arkansas Open Cut Mining and Land Reclamation Code, sets performance standards.
- Operators can request one year extensions for up to 3 years to complete reclamation after permit has expired.
- A reclamation bond is posted to cover the reclamation cost if operator fails to reclaim the site to standards set forth in Regulation No. 15.
- Mine Safety and Health Administration regulates safety and health issues for mine site employees.
- The Water Division of ADEQ regulates the discharge of stormwater and process water.



*An open-cut mining operation in Wilton*

## Mining Contacts

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The **ADEQ Helpline** can serve as a helpful first contact with the agency. Call (501) 682-0923.