

## ADEQ's Mission

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



## 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.

**Helpline: (501) 682-0923**

**E-mail: [info@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:info@adeq.state.ar.us)**

Arkansas Department of  
Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72218

# Quarry Operation and Closure



*Act 1166 of 1997,  
as amended*

*The Quarry Operation,  
Reclamation and Safe  
Closure Act*

## Other Contacts

- **Arkansas Department of Labor**  
10421 West Markham  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
Main: 501-682-4500  
Safety: 501-682-4523
- **Water Division, ADEQ**  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118  
Main: 501-682-0744  
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# Introduction

The Quarry Operation, Reclamation and Safe Closure Act was passed by the Arkansas General Assembly and went into effect on August 1, 1997. The law applies to new quarries or land purchased or leased for a quarry after January 1, 1997. In 1999, the act was amended to increase the bonding amount and make it possible for landowners within half a mile of the quarry site to ask the company for a public meeting before beginning operations at the site.



*An active quarry in Rose Bud*

The primary purpose of this legislation is to ensure that future quarry sites will be provided with a safe closure at the conclusion of the operation. The law includes requirements to prevent unauthorized access to the site and reclamation of certain areas to prevent erosion.

Quarries have long term operational lives. Therefore, sometimes circumstances require temporary cessation of activity. The law provides for this necessity so that the public health and safety is protected even during periods of temporary closure.

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Division of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is charged with the enforcement of the quarry act.

## Key Elements of the Act

- Notification of Intent—No permit.
- Quarry operations can begin after the public meeting, if one is held, and after receiving required federal, state, and local permits or authorizations.
- No regulations—everything is in the law.
- During temporary shutdown or completion of quarry activities, the site is to maintain operational safeguards.
- A reclamation bond of \$1,100.00 per acre must be posted to ensure final safe closure of the quarry when exhausted.
- The Arkansas Labor Department regulates blasting at quarries.
- The ADEQ's Air Division regulates fugitive dust and emissions from the crusher at quarry sites.
- The Water Division of ADEQ regulates the discharge of stormwater and process waste through its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.



*A quarry in Quitman*

## Mining Contacts

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