

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2014-15 Performance Report

Oklahoma Department of Mines

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Mines (ODM) is to protect the environment of the state, to protect the health and safety of the miners and to protect the life, health, and property of the citizens who are affected by mining through enforcement of the state mining and reclamation laws.

The mission statement was formalized in October 2000. This was developed by the current Director and the supporting administrative staff of the major program divisions.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

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GOVERNANCE:

Title 45, Section 1 establishes the Oklahoma Mining Commission as the “policy-determining entity for the Oklahoma Department of Mines” and “determines the broad plans and programs for the accomplishment of duties and responsibilities vested by law in said Commission, the Chief Mine Inspector and the Department of Mines”. There are 9 Governor appointed positions that rotate on a seven year schedule. The members are comprised of the following:

George Fraley, Chairman, for the position of Agriculture/Conservation
J. Clement Burdick, III, Vice Chairman, for the position of Engineering/Geology
Thomas J. Knight, Secretary, for the position of Labor/Worker’s Safety
Dave Donoley, for the position of Transportation
Jed Winters, for the position of Banking/Economic Development
Tommy Caldwell, for the position of Public Utilities
Larry Ennis, for the position of Natural Resources
Ronald Cunningham, for the at-large position
Tim Lochridge, for the at-large position.
The Commission meets 6 times annually.

There are not any committees or subgroups appointed at this time for the Oklahoma Mining Commission. A task force is in place that is reviewing funding for the operation of the Oklahoma Miner Training Institute.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

There are not any rules or standards regarding attendance of the mining commissioners at regularly scheduled meetings.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

The agency continues to engage in a contractual agreement with OMES for the “shared services” of payroll processing. Losing our Human Resource Management Specialist FTE resulted in some new assignments of duties and contracting with OMES for these services.

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Overall, the agency has seen cost savings. ODM is meeting with OMES to determine if there are other shared services that would benefit the agency.

The Department continues to utilize the OK.gov portal for efforts to maximize client access for information, forms and reporting requirements. The Department of Mines web page (www.mines.ok.gov) has been designed to assist the industry in utilizing the online forms for reporting monthly and quarterly the required information to be filed by each mine. All forms needed for permitting activities on mining, reclamation, bonding and blasting are found on-line to assist in ease of permit application filings. The citizens can utilize the web page for filing complaints, accessing information such as the Annual Report, tonnage reporting, and public participation notifications. While this is helpful for many of our customers, there are a considerable number of the agency's clients which are "mom and pop" operations and the increased technology access is not really of benefit to them. The agency continues to provide customer support in paper formats as requested. The savings for the agency is primarily in printing the reports and mailing them on an annual basis. It has also cut down printing costs for the annual report and mailing costs associated with those.

One modernization effort by the agency was obtaining a large format scanner that is being utilized to scan the maps on record at the Department. The scanner will allow us to make those maps (and current surface and underground mining maps) available to the public through our website. These maps provide a historical record of the activity of underground mining in the state. Once the maps are online, the public can access the information to determine site location and, in some instances, determine the safety of a location that was mined underground. The agency obtained the dedicated computer for the scanner's use and acquired fireproof storage equipment to keep the maps protected.

CORE MISSION:

The Department of Mines is currently not providing services outside of the core mission. All processes are directly attributed to the constitutional and statutory requirements of the agency. There are not any services duplicated by other agencies. There are not any non-core services performed by our agency.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

There are not any services that can be obtained in the private sector. Since the Department is regulatory, the services are not "for sale" in other states or available by other vendors. There have not been any privatization efforts involving the agency services.