



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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**Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on the Reclamation Commission
Provided by ODNR Deputy Director of Mineral Resources Management Robert Boyles
February 23, 2016**

Good afternoon Chairman Jordan and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Bob Boyles and I am the Deputy Director over the Division of Mineral Resources Management within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present testimony on the Reclamation Commission for your consideration.

Purpose of the Reclamation Commission

The Reclamation Commission is an adjudicatory board established to provide an administrative appeal to any person claiming to be aggrieved or adversely affected by a decision of the ODNR's Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management. A quasi-judicial board, the Commission is a distinct and separate entity from the Division and operates in a similar manner as a court of law.

Composition of the Reclamation Commission

Appointed by the Governor to serve five-year terms, the Commission is comprised of 10 members.

While there are 10 seats on the Commission, only 7 members are seated on any particular appeal. Depending on the type of appeal, the coal and industrial minerals representatives interchange participation.

In addition, one member of the Commission must be an attorney who is admitted to practice in the State of Ohio and familiar with mining issues. Members are required to recuse themselves from any matters that might pose a conflict of interest.

Reclamation Commission Summary and Recommendation

The Reclamation Commission is a valuable tool for any person who feels that he or she has been aggrieved or adversely affected by a decision of ODNR's Chief of the Division Mineral Resources Management relating to mining and reclamation issues.

ODNR recommends that the Reclamation Commission be renewed by the Sunset Review Committee. Further, we would like to suggest that the 4 Revised Code sections pertaining to the Commission (1513.05, 1513.13, 1513.131, and 1513.14) be consolidated into 1 section for ease of public use.