

CHAPTER 20

NON-METALLIC MINING RECLAMATION ORDINANCE

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PART I - GENERAL

20.01 TITLE

Nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance for the County of Marinette.

20.02 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a local program to ensure the effective reclamation of nonmetallic mining sites on which nonmetallic mining takes place in the County of Marinette after the effective date of this chapter, in compliance with Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code and Subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wis. Stats.

20.03 STATUTORY AUTHORITY

This chapter is adopted under authority of Section NR135.32, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and §59.51, Wis. Stats.

20.04 RESTRICTIONS ADOPTED UNDER OTHER AUTHORITY

The purpose of this chapter is to adopt and implement the uniform statewide standards for nonmetallic mining required by §295.12(1)(a), Wis. Stats., and contained in Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code. It is not intended that this chapter repeal, abrogate, annul, impair or interfere with any existing rules, regulations, ordinances or permits not concerning nonmetallic mining reclamation previously adopted pursuant to other Wisconsin law.

20.05 INTERPRETATION

In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this chapter shall be held to be the applicable requirements for nonmetallic mining reclamation and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other power granted by the Wisconsin Statutes outside the reclamation requirements for nonmetallic mining sites required by subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wis. Stats., and Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Where any terms or requirements of this chapter may be inconsistent or conflicting, the more restrictive requirements or interpretation shall apply. Where a provision of this chapter is required by Wisconsin Statutes, or by a standard in Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and where the provision is unclear, the provision shall be interpreted to be consistent with the Wisconsin Statutes and the provisions of Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

20.06 SEVERABILITY

Should any portion of this chapter be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this chapter shall not be affected.

20.07 APPLICABILITY

(1) Overall Applicability. The requirements of this chapter apply to all operators of nonmetallic mining sites within the County of Marinette except as exempted in sub. 20.07(2) of this chapter, and for nonmetallic mining sites

located in a city, village or town within Marinette County that has adopted an ordinance pursuant to §295.14, Wis. Stats., and Chapter NR135.32(2), Wisconsin Administrative Code. This chapter does not apply to nonmetallic mining sites where nonmetallic mining permanently ceased before August 1, 2001. This chapter applies to nonmetallic mining conducted by or on behalf of the State of Wisconsin, by or on behalf of a County, a municipality or for the benefit or use of the state or any state agency, board, commission or department, except for the waiver of financial assurance in sub. 20.14(4) of this chapter.

- (2) Exemptions.** This chapter does not apply to the following activities:
- (a) Nonmetallic mining at a site or that portion of a site that is subject to permit and reclamation requirements of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under §30.19, §30.195 or §30.20, Wis. Stats., and complies with Chapter NR340, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - (b) Excavations subject to the permit and reclamation requirements of §30.30 or §30.31, Wis. Stats.
 - (c) Excavations or grading by a person solely for domestic or farm use at that person's residence or farm.
 - (d) Excavations or grading conducted for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair of a highway, railroad, airport facility, or any other transportation facility where the excavation or grading is entirely within the property boundaries of the transportation facility.
 - (e) Grading conducted for preparing a construction site or restoring land following a flood or natural disaster.
 - (f) Excavations for building construction purposes conducted on the building site.
 - (g) Nonmetallic mining at nonmetallic mining sites where less than one (1) acre of total affected acreage occurs over the life of the mine.
 - (h) Any mining operation, the reclamation of which is required in a permit obtained under Chapter 293, Wis. Stats.
 - (i) Any activities required to prepare, operate or close a solid waste disposal facility under Chapter 289, Wis. Stats., or a hazardous waste disposal facility under Chapter 291, Wis. Stats., that are conducted on the property where the facility is located, but an applicable nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance and the standards established in this chapter apply to activities related to solid waste or hazardous waste disposal that are conducted at a nonmetallic mining site that is not on the property where the solid waste or hazardous waste disposal facility is located, such as activities to obtain nonmetallic minerals to be used for lining, capping, covering or constructing berms, dikes or roads.
 - (j) (1) Nonmetallic mining conducted to obtain stone, soil, sand or gravel or construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair of a highway, railroad, airport, or any other transportation facility or part thereof, if the nonmetallic mining is subject to the requirements of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation concerning the restoration of the nonmetallic mining site.

- (2) This exemption only applies to a nonmetallic mining operation with limited purpose and duration where the Wisconsin Department of Transportation actively imposes reclamation requirements and the operator reclaims the nonmetallic mining site in accordance with these requirements. The duration of the exemption shall be specific to the length of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation contract for construction of a specific transportation project.
- (3) If a nonmetallic mining site covered under pars. 1 and 2 is used to concurrently supply materials for projects unrelated to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation project, the exemption in this paragraph still applies, provided that the site is fully reclaimed under Wisconsin Department of Transportation contract and supervision.
- (k) Dredging for navigational purposes, to construct or maintain farm drainage ditches and for the remediation of environmental contamination and the disposal of spoils from these activities.
- (l) Removal of material from the bed of Lake Michigan or waters of Green Bay by a public utility pursuant to a permit under §30.21, Wis. Stats.

20.08 ADMINISTRATION

The provisions of this chapter shall be administered by the Marinette County Land Information Department.

20.09 EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this chapter shall take effect upon passage and publication.

20.10 DEFINITIONS

In this chapter:

- (1) Alternative Requirements.** Means an alternative to the reclamation standards of this chapter provided through a written authorization granted by Marinette County pursuant to Section 20.18 of this chapter.
- (2) Applicable Reclamation Ordinance.** Means a nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance, including this chapter, that applies to a particular nonmetallic mining site and complies with the requirements of Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code and subchapter 1 of Chapter 295, Wis. Stats., unless the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the regulatory authority as defined in sub. 20.10(23) c, of this chapter. If the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the regulatory authority, “applicable reclamation ordinance” means the relevant and applicable provisions of Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- (3) Borrow Site.** Means an area outside of a transportation project site from which stone, soil, sand or gravel is excavated for use at the project site, except the term does not include commercial sources.
- (4) Contemporaneous Reclamation.** Means the sequential or progressive reclamation of portions of the nonmetallic mining site affected by mining operations that are performed in advance of final site reclamation, but which

may or may not be final reclamation, performed to minimize the area exposed to erosion, at any one time, by nonmetallic mining activities.

- (5) **Days.** Means calendar days.
- (6) **Department.** Means the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- (7) **Environmental Pollution.** Has the meaning in §295.11 (2), Wis. Stats.
- (8) **Financial Assurance.** Means a commitment of funds or resources by an operator to a regulatory authority that satisfies the requirements in Section 20.14 of this chapter, and is sufficient to pay for reclamation activities required by this chapter.
- (9) **Highwall.** Means a vertical or nearly vertical face in solid rock or a slope of consolidated or unconsolidated material that exceeds 3:1.
- (10) **Landowner.** Means the person who has title to land in fee simple or who holds a land contract for the land. A landowner is not a person who owns nonmetallic mineral rights to land, if a different person possesses title to that land in fee simple or holds a land contract for that land.
- (11) **Licensed Professional Geologist.** Means a person who is licensed as a professional pursuant to ch. 470, Stats.
- (12) **Marinette County.** Means the Marinette County Land Information Department.
- (13) **Municipality.** Means any city, town or village.
- (14) **Nonmetallic Mineral.** Means a product, commodity or material consisting principally of naturally occurring, organic or inorganic, nonmetallic, nonrenewable material. Nonmetallic minerals include, but are not limited to, stone, sand, gravel, asbestos, beryl, diamond, clay, coal, feldspar, peat, talc and topsoil.
- (15) **Nonmetallic Mining or Mining.** Means all of the following:
 - (a) Operations or activities at a nonmetallic mining site for the extraction from the earth of mineral aggregates or nonmetallic minerals for sale or use by the operator. Nonmetallic mining includes use of mining equipment or techniques to remove materials from the in-place nonmetallic mineral deposit, including drilling and blasting, as well as associated activities such as excavation, grading and dredging. Nonmetallic mining does not include removal from the earth of products or commodities that contain only minor or incidental amounts of nonmetallic minerals, such as commercial sod, agricultural crops, ornamental or garden plants, forest products, Christmas trees or plant nursery stock.
 - (b) Processes carried out at a nonmetallic mining site that are related to the preparation or processing of the mineral aggregates or nonmetallic minerals obtained from the nonmetallic mining site. These processes include, but are not limited to, stockpiling of materials, blending mineral aggregates or nonmetallic minerals with other mineral aggregates or nonmetallic minerals, blasting, grading, crushing, screening, scalping and dewatering.
- (16) **Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation or Reclamation.** Means the rehabilitation of a nonmetallic mining site to achieve a land use specified in a nonmetallic

mining reclamation plan approved under this chapter, including removal or reuse of nonmetallic mining refuse, grading of the nonmetallic mining site, removal, storage and replacement of topsoil, stabilization of soil conditions, reestablishment of vegetative cover, control of surface water and groundwater, prevention of environmental pollution and, if practicable, the restoration of plant, fish and wildlife habitat.

(17) Nonmetallic Mining Refuse. Means waste soil, rock and mineral, as well as other natural site material resulting from nonmetallic mining. Nonmetallic mining refuse does not include marketable by-products resulting directly from or displaced by the nonmetallic mining that are scheduled to be removed from the nonmetallic mining site within a reasonable period of time after extraction.

(18) Nonmetallic Mining Site or Site. Means all contiguous area of present or proposed mining described in par. (a), subject to the qualifications in par. (b).

(a) Nonmetallic mining site means the following:

- (1) The location where nonmetallic mining is proposed or conducted.
- (2) Storage and processing areas that are in or contiguous to areas excavated for nonmetallic mining.
- (3) Areas where nonmetallic mining refuse is deposited.
- (4) Areas affected by activities such as the construction or improvement of private roads or haulage ways for nonmetallic mining.
- (5) Areas where grading or regarding is necessary
- (6) Areas where nonmetallic mining reclamation activities are carried out or structures needed for nonmetallic mining reclamation, such as topsoil stockpile areas, revegetation test plots, or channels for surface water diversion, are located.

(b) "Nonmetallic mining" site does not include any of the following areas:

- (1) Those portions of sites listed in par. (a) not used for nonmetallic mining or purposes related to nonmetallic mining after August 1, 2001.
- (2) Separate, previously mined areas that are not used for nonmetallic mineral extraction after August 1, 2001 and are not contiguous to mine sites, including separate areas that are connected to active mine sites by public or private roads.
- (3) Areas previously mined, but used after August 1, 2001 for a non-mining activity, such as stockpiles of materials used for an industrial process unrelated to nonmetallic mining.

(19) Operator. Means any person who is engaged in, or who has applied for a permit to engage in, nonmetallic mining, whether individually, jointly or through subsidiaries, agents, employees, contractors or subcontractors.

(20) Parcel. Means a contiguous quantity of land in possession of, owned by or recorded as property of the same claimant person or company not separated by streets, highways or railroad right-of ways.

(21) Person. Means an individual, owner, operator, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, county, municipality, interstate agency, state agency or federal agency.

- (22) **Registered Professional Engineer.** Means a person who is registered as a professional engineer pursuant to §443.037 and §443.09, Wis. Stats.
- (23) **Regulatory Authority.** Means one of the following:
- (a) Marinette County for nonmetallic mining sites located within its jurisdiction, except where a municipality has adopted an applicable reclamation ordinance pursuant to par. (b).
 - (b) A municipality in which the nonmetallic mining site is located and which has adopted an applicable reclamation ordinance under s. 295.14, Wis. Stats.
 - (c) The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, in cases where a county mining reclamation program is no longer in effect under s. 295.14, Wis. Stats., but only if there is no applicable reclamation ordinance enacted by the municipality in which the nonmetallic mining site is located.
- (24) **Replacement of Topsoil.** Means the replacement or redistribution of topsoil or topsoil substitute material to all areas where topsoil was actually removed or affected by nonmetallic mining for the purposes of providing adequate vegetative cover and stabilization of soil conditions needed to achieve the approved post-mining land use and as required by the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter.
- (25) **Solid Waste.** Means any garbage, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility and other discarded or salvageable materials, including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial, commercial, mining and agricultural operations, and from community activities, but does not include solid or dissolved materials in domestic sewage, or solid or dissolved materials in irrigation return flows or industrial discharges which are point sources subject to permits under Chapter 283, Wis. Stats., or source material, special nuclear material or by-product material, as defined in §254.31(1), Wis. Stats.
- (26) **Topsoil.** Means the surface layer of soil which is generally more fertile than the underlying soil layers, which is the natural medium for plant growth and which can provide the plant growth, soil stability and other attributes necessary to meet the success standards approved in the reclamation plan.
- (27) **Topsoil Substitute Material.** Means soil or other unconsolidated material either used alone or mixed with other beneficial materials and which can provide the plant growth, site stability and other attributes necessary to meet the success standards approved in the reclamation plan.
- (28) **Unreclaimed Acre or Unreclaimed Acres.** Means those unreclaimed areas in which nonmetallic mining has occurred after August 1, 2001 and areas where nonmetallic mining reclamation has been completed, but is not yet certified as reclaimed under sub. 20.29(3) of this chapter. However, the term does not include any areas described in par. (a).
- (a) Unreclaimed Acre or Unreclaimed Acres does not include:
 - (1) Those areas where reclamation has been completed and certified as reclaimed under sub. 20.29(3) of this chapter.

- (2) Those areas previously affected by nonmetallic mining, but which are not used for nonmetallic mining after August 1, 2001.
- (3) Those portions of nonmetallic mining sites which are included in a nonmetallic mining reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter, but are not yet affected by nonmetallic mining.
- (4) Areas previously mined, but used after August 1, 2001 for a non-mining activity, such as stockpiling of materials used for an industrial activity, such as an asphalt plant, concrete batch plant, block and tile operation or other industry that uses products produced from nonmetallic mining.
- (5) For purposes of fees under Section 20.27 of this chapter, those areas within a nonmetallic mining site which Marinette County has determined to have been successfully reclaimed on an interim basis in accordance with sub. 20.29(3) of this chapter.

PART II – STANDARDS

20.11 STANDARDS

All nonmetallic mining sites subject to this chapter shall be reclaimed in conformance with the standards contained below.

(1) General Standards.

- (a) **REFUSE AND OTHER SOLID WASTE.** Nonmetallic mining refuse shall be reused in accordance with a reclamation plan. Other solid wastes shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable rules of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources adopted pursuant to Chapter 289 and Chapter 291, Wis. Stats.
 - (b) **AREA DISTURBED AND CONTEMPORANEOUS RECLAMATION.** Nonmetallic mining reclamation shall be conducted, to the extent practicable, to minimize the area disturbed by nonmetallic mining and to provide for nonmetallic mining reclamation of portions of the nonmetallic mining site while nonmetallic mining continues on other portions of the nonmetallic mining site.
 - (c) **PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.** All nonmetallic mining sites shall be reclaimed in a manner so as to comply with federal, state and local regulations governing public health, safety and welfare.
 - (d) **HABITAT RESTORATION.** When the land use required by the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter requires plant, fish or wildlife habitat, it shall be restored, to the extent practicable, to a condition at least as suitable as that which existed before the lands were affected by nonmetallic mining operations.
 - (e) **COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.** Reclamation of nonmetallic mining sites shall comply with any other applicable federal, state and local laws including those related to environmental protection, zoning and land use control.
- (2) Surface Water and Wetlands Protection.** Nonmetallic mining reclamation shall be conducted and completed in a manner that assures compliance with

the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' water quality standards for surface waters and wetlands contained in Chapter NR102 and Chapter NR105, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Before disturbing the surface of a nonmetallic mining site and removing topsoil, all necessary measures for diversion and drainage of runoff from the site to prevent pollution of waters of the state shall be installed in accordance with the reclamation plans approved pursuant to this chapter. Diverted or channeled runoff resulting from reclamation may not adversely affect neighboring properties.

(3) Groundwater Protection

- (a) GROUNDWATER QUANTITY. A nonmetallic mining site shall be reclaimed in manner that does not cause a permanent lowering of the water table that results in adverse effects on surface waters or a significant reduction in the quantity of groundwater reasonably available for future users of groundwater.
- (b) GROUNDWATER QUALITY. Nonmetallic mining reclamation shall be conducted in a manner which does not cause groundwater quality standards in Chapter NR140, Wisconsin Administrative Code, to be exceeded at a point of standards application defined in that chapter.

(4) Topsoil Management

- (a) REMOVAL. Topsoil and topsoil substitute material shall be provided as specified in the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter in order to achieve reclamation to the approved post-mining land use. Topsoil and topsoil substitute material removal when specified in the reclamation plan shall be performed, prior to any mining activity associated with any specific phase of the mining operation.
- (b) VOLUME. The operator shall obtain the volume of soil required to perform final reclamation by removal of on-site topsoil or topsoil substitute material or by obtaining topsoil or topsoil substitute material as needed to make up the volume of topsoil as specified in the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter.
- (c) STORAGE. Once removed, topsoil or topsoil substitute material shall, as required by the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter, either be used in contemporaneous reclamation or stored in an environmentally acceptable manner. The location of stockpiled topsoil or topsoil substitute material shall be chosen to protect the material from erosion or further disturbance or contamination. Runoff water shall be diverted around all locations in which topsoil or topsoil substitute material is stockpiled.

(5) Final Grading and Slopes

- (a) All areas affected by mining shall be addressed in the approved reclamation plan, pursuant to section 20.13, to provide that a stable and safe condition exists when the post-mining land use is achieved. The reclamation plan may designate highwalls or other unmined and undisturbed natural solid bedrock as stable and safe and not in need of reclamation or designate other areas affected by mining including slopes comprised of unconsolidated materials that exceed a 3:1 slope, whether or not graded, as stable and safe. For slopes designated as stable under this

subsection, the regulatory authority may require that either: a site-specific engineering analysis be performed by a registered professional engineer to demonstrate that an acceptable slope stability factor is attainable for a slope steeper than 3:1, or the operator perform a field test plot demonstration to demonstrate that a stable and safe condition will be achieved and that the post-mining land use specified in the reclamation plan will not be adversely affected. (b) Final reclaimed slopes covered by topsoil or topsoil substitute material may not be steeper than a 3:1 horizontal to vertical incline, unless found acceptable through one or more of the following: alternative requirements approved under section 20.18; steeper slopes are shown to be stable through a field plot demonstration approved as part of an approved reclamation plan; or stable slopes can be demonstrated based on site-specific engineering analysis performed by a registered professional engineer. All areas in the nonmetallic mine site where topsoil or topsoil substitute material is to be reapplied shall be graded or otherwise prepared prior to topsoil or topsoil substitute material redistribution to provide the optimum adherence between the topsoil or topsoil substitute material and the underlying material.

- (b) When the approved post-mining land use includes a body of water, the approved final grade at the edge of a body of water shall extend vertically 6 feet below the lowest seasonal water level. A slope no steeper than 3:1 shall be created at a designated location or locations, depending on the size of the water body to allow for a safe exit.

(6) Topsoil Redistribution for Reclamation. Topsoil or topsoil substitute material shall be redistributed in accordance with the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter in a manner, which minimizes compaction and prevents erosion. Topsoil or topsoil substitute material shall be uniformly redistributed except where uniform redistribution is undesirable or impractical. Topsoil or topsoil substitute material redistribution may not be performed during or immediately after a precipitation event until the soils have sufficiently dried.

(7) Revegetation and Site Stabilization. Except for permanent roads or similar surfaces identified in the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter, all surfaces affected by nonmetallic mining shall be reclaimed and stabilized by revegetation or other means. Revegetation and site stabilization shall be in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and shall be performed as soon as practicable after mining activity has permanently ceased in any part of the mining site.

(8) Assessing Completion of Successful Reclamation.

- (a) The criteria for assessing when reclamation is complete and, therefore, when the financial assurance may be released shall be specified in the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter. Criteria to evaluate reclamation success shall be quantifiable.
- (b) Compliance with the revegetation success standards in the approved reclamation plan shall be determined by:
- (1) On-site inspections by Marinette County or its agent;

- (2) Reports presenting results obtained during reclamation evaluations including summarized data on revegetation, photo documentation or other evidence that the criteria approved in the reclamation plan to ascertain success have been met; or
- (3) A combination of inspections and reports.
- (c) In those cases where the post-mining land use specified in the reclamation plan requires a return of the mining site to a pre-mining condition, the operator shall obtain baseline data on the existing plant community for use in the evaluation of reclamation success pursuant to this section.
- (d) Revegetation success may be determined by:
 - (1) Comparison to an appropriate reference area;
 - (2) Comparison to baseline data acquired at the mining site prior to its being affected by mining; or
 - (3) Comparison to an approved alternate technical standard.
- (e) Revegetation using a variety of plants indigenous to the area is favored.
- (9) Intermittent Mining.** Intermittent mining may be conducted provided that the possibility of intermittent cessation of operations is addressed in an operator's reclamation permit, no environmental pollution or erosion of sediments is occurring, and financial assurance for reclamation pursuant to Section 20.14 of this chapter is maintained covering all remaining portions of the site that have been affected by nonmetallic mining and that have not been reclaimed.
- (10) Maintenance.** During the period of the site reclamation, after the operator has stated that reclamation is complete, but prior to release of financial assurance, the operator shall perform any maintenance necessary to prevent erosion, sedimentation or environmental pollution, comply with the standards of this subchapter, or to meet the goals specified in the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter.

PART III – PERMITTING

20.12 NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMIT APPLICATION

REQUIRED No person may engage in nonmetallic mining or in nonmetallic mining reclamation without possessing a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit issued pursuant to this chapter unless the activity is specifically exempted in **subs. 20.07 (2) or 20.10 (17) (b)** .

- (1) Required Submittal.** All operators of nonmetallic mining sites shall apply for a reclamation permit from Marinette County. All applications for reclamation permits under this section shall be accompanied by the following information:
 - (a) A brief description of the general location and nature of the nonmetallic mine.
 - (b) A legal description of the property on which the nonmetallic mine is located or proposed, including the parcel identification number.

- (c) The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all persons or organizations who are owners or lessors of the property on which the nonmetallic mining site is located.
- (d) The name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of the person or organization who is the operator.
- (2) Reclamation Permit Application contents** The operator of any nonmetallic mining site shall submit an application that meets the requirements specified below to the Marinette County Land Information Department, Marinette County Courthouse, 1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette WI 54143, prior to beginning operations.
 - (a) The information required by sub. 20.12(1) of this chapter.
 - (b) The plan review and annual fees required by Section 20.26 and Section 20.27 of this chapter.
 - (c) A reclamation plan conforming to Section 20.13 of this chapter.
 - (d) A certification that the operator will provide, as a condition of the reclamation permit, financial assurance as required by Section 20.14 of this chapter, upon granting of the reclamation permit and before mining begins.
 - (e) To avoid duplication, the permit application and submittals required under this subsection may, by reference, incorporate existing plans or materials that meet the requirements of this chapter currently on file in the County Land Information Department currently on file in the County Land Information Department.

20.13 RECLAMATION PLAN

- (1) Reclamation Plan Required.** All operators who conduct or plan to conduct nonmetallic mining shall submit to Marinette County a reclamation plan that meets all of the following requirements and complies with the standards of Part II.
- (2) Site Information.** The reclamation plan shall include information sufficient to describe the existing natural and physical conditions of the site, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Maps of the nonmetallic mining site including the general location, property boundaries, geologic composition and depth of the nonmetallic mineral deposit, the distribution, thickness and type of topsoil, the location of surface waters and the existing drainage patterns, the approximate elevation of ground water, as determined by existing hydrogeologic information. In specific instances where the existing hydrogeologic information is insufficient for purposes of the reclamation plan, the applicant may supplement the information with the opinion of a licensed professional geologist or hydrologist.
 - (b) Information available to the mine operator on biological resources, plant communities, and wildlife use at and adjacent to the proposed or operating mining site.
 - (c) Existing topography as shown on contour maps of the site at ten (10) foot intervals.

- (d) Location of manmade features on or near the site.
- (e) For proposed nonmetallic mining sites that include previously mined areas, a plan view drawing showing the location and extent of land previously affected by nonmetallic mining, including the location of stockpiles, wash ponds and sediment basins.

(3) Post-Mining Land Use.

- (a) The reclamation plan shall specify a proposed post-mining land use for the nonmetallic mining site. The proposed post-mining land use shall be consistent with local land use plans and local zoning at the time the plan is submitted, unless a change to the land use plan or zoning is proposed. The proposed post-mining land use shall also be consistent with all applicable local, state, or federal laws in effect at the time the plan is submitted.
- (b) Land used for nonmetallic mineral extraction in areas zoned under an exclusive agricultural use ordinance pursuant to §91.75, Wis. Stats., shall be restored to agricultural use.

(4) Reclamation Measures. The reclamation plan shall include a description of the proposed reclamation, including methods and procedures to be used and a proposed schedule and sequence for the completion of reclamation activities for various stages of reclamation of the nonmetallic mining site. The following shall be included:

- (a) A description of the proposed earthwork and reclamation, including final slope angles, high wall reduction, benching, terracing and other structural slope stabilization measures and if necessary a site-specific engineering analysis performed by a registered professional engineer as provided by subs. 20.11 (5) (a) and (b).
- (b) The methods of topsoil or topsoil substitute material removal, storage, stabilization and conservation that will be used during reclamation.
- (c) A plan or map which shows anticipated topography of the reclaimed site and any water impoundments or artificial lakes needed to support the anticipated future land use of the site.
- (d) A plan or map which shows surface structures, roads and related facilities after the cessation of mining.
- (e) The estimated cost of reclamation for each stage of the project or the entire site if reclamation staging is not planned.
- (f) A revegetation plan which shall include timing and methods of seed bed preparation, rates and kinds of soil amendments, seed application timing, methods and rates, mulching, netting and any other techniques needed to accomplish soil and slope stabilization.
- (g) Quantifiable standards for revegetation adequate to show that a sustainable stand of vegetation has been established which will support the approved post-mining land use. Standards for revegetation may be based on the percentage of vegetative cover, productivity, plant density, diversity or other applicable measures.
- (h) A plan, and if necessary, a narrative showing erosion control measures to be employed during reclamation activities. These shall address how

reclamation activities will be conducted to minimize erosion and pollution or surface and groundwater.

- (i) A description of any areas which will be reclaimed on an interim basis sufficient to qualify for the waiver of fees pursuant to subs. 20.29 (2) of this chapter and make the operator eligible for reduced or released financial assurance pursuant to sub. 20.29(4)(b) of this chapter, as authorized by Chapter NR135.41(2), Wisconsin Administrative Code. Descriptions shall include an identification of the proposed areas involved, methods of reclamation to comply with the standards in Part II and timing of interim and final reclamation.
 - (j) A description of how the reclamation plan addresses the long-term safety of the reclaimed mining site. The description shall include a discussion of site-specific safety measures to be implemented at the site and include measures that address public safety with regard to adjacent land uses.
 - (k) The reclamation plan shall contain criteria for assuring successful reclamation in accordance with sub. 20.11(8) of this chapter.
- (5) Certification of Reclamation Plan.**
- (a) The operator shall provide a signed certification that reclamation will be carried out in accordance with the reclamation plan. If the operator does not own the land the landowner or lessor, if different from the operator or owner, shall also provide signed certification that they concur with the reclamation plan and will allow its implementation.
- (6) Existing Plans and Approvals.** To avoid duplication of effort, the reclamation plan required by sub. 20.13(1) of this chapter may, by reference, incorporate existing plans or materials that meet the requirements of this chapter currently on file in the County Land Information Department.
- (7) Approval of Reclamation Plan.** Marinette County shall approve, conditionally approve or deny the reclamation plan submitted under this section, in writing, in accordance with sub. 20.16(2) of this chapter or for mines that apply for a reclamation permit in conformance with sub. 20.12 of this chapter. Conditional approvals of reclamation plans shall be made according to sub. 20.16(5) of this chapter, and denials of reclamation plans shall be made pursuant to Section 20.17 of this chapter. The operator shall keep a copy of the reclamation plan approved under this subsection at the mine site or, if not practicable, at the operator's nearest place of business.

20.14 FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

- (1) Financial Assurance Requirements.** All operators of nonmetallic mining sites in the County of Marinette shall prepare and submit a proof of financial assurance that meets the following requirements:
- (a) NOTIFICATION. The regulatory authority shall provide written notification to the operator of the amount of financial assurance required under sub. (c).
 - (b) FILING. Following approval of the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit, and as a condition of the permit, the operator shall file financial assurance with the County of Marinette. The financial assurance shall

provide that the operator shall faithfully perform all requirements in this chapter, an applicable reclamation ordinance and the reclamation plan. Financial assurance shall be payable exclusively to Marinette County. In cases where one or more other regulatory authorities regulate a nonmetallic mining site, all financial assurance shall be made payable to Marinette County only if it currently has primary regulatory responsibility.

- (c) **AMOUNT AND DURATION OF FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.** The amount of financial assurance shall equal, as closely as possible, the cost to Marinette County for hiring a contractor to complete either final reclamation or progressive reclamation according to the approved reclamation plan. The amount of financial assurance shall be reviewed periodically by Marinette County to assure it equals outstanding reclamation costs. Any financial assurance filed with Marinette County shall be in an amount equal to the estimated cost for reclaiming all sites the operator has under project permits. Marinette County may accept a lesser initial amount of financial assurance provided that the permittee initiates a process to continuously increase the amount of financial assurance until it is adequate to effect reclamation. An escrow account may be established that is based on production gross sales and serves to provide regular payments to an account that is designed to grow to the amount necessary to guarantee performance of reclamation by the expected time of final reclamation. The period of the financial assurance is dictated by the period of time required to establish the post-mining land use declared and approved of in the reclamation plan. This may extend beyond the permit if required to accomplish successful and complete implementation of the reclamation plan.
- (d) **FORM AND MANAGEMENT.** Financial assurance shall be provided by the operator and shall be by a bond or an alternate financial assurance. Financial assurance shall be payable to Marinette County and released upon successful completion of the reclamation measures specified in the reclamation plan. Alternate financial assurances may include, but are not limited to, cash, certificates of deposits, irrevocable letters of credit, irrevocable trusts, established escrow accounts, demonstration of financial responsibility by meeting net worth requirements, or government securities. Any interest from the financial assurance shall be paid to the operator. Certificates of deposit shall be automatically renewable or other assurances shall be provided before the maturity date. Financial assurance arrangements may include, at the discretion of Marinette County, a blend of different options for financial assurance including a lien on the property on which the nonmetallic mining site occurs or a combination of financial assurance methods.
- (e) **MULTIPLE PROJECTS.** Any operator who obtains a permit from Marinette County for two (2) or more nonmetallic mining sites may elect, at the time the second or subsequent site is approved, to post a single financial assurance in lieu of separate financial assurance instruments for each nonmetallic mining site. When an operator elects to post a single

financial assurance in lieu of separate financial assurances for each mining site, no financial assurances previously posted on individual mining sites shall be released until the new financial assurance has been accepted by Marinette County.

- (f) **MULTIPLE JURISDICTION.** In cases where more than one (1) regulatory authority has jurisdiction, a cooperative financial security arrangement may be developed and implemented by the regulatory authorities to avoid requiring the permittee to prove financial assurance with more than one (1) regulatory authority for the same nonmetallic mining site.
- (g) **CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION AND RELEASE.**
 - (1) The operator shall notify the regulatory authority, by filing a notice of completion, at the time that he or she determines that reclamation of any portion of the mining site or the entire site is complete. Marinette County shall inspect the mining site, or portion thereof, that was the subject of the notice of completion to determine if reclamation has been carried out in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. Marinette County may partially release the financial assurance if it determines that compliance with a portion of the reclamation plan has been achieved and requires no waiting period. After determining that reclamation is complete, Marinette County shall issue a certificate of completion and shall release the financial assurance or appropriately reduce the financial assurance in the case of reclamation of a portion of the mining site. Marinette County shall not release the financial assurance until all annual fees are paid in full.
 - (2) Marinette County shall make a determination of whether or not the certification in par. 1 can be made within sixty (60) days that the request is received.
 - (3) Marinette County may make a determination under this subsection that:
 - (a) Reclamation is complete.
 - (b) It is not possible to assess whether reclamation is complete due to weather conditions, snow cover or other relevant factors.
 - (c) Reclamation is complete in a part of the mine.
- (h) **FORFEITURE:** Financial assurance shall be forfeited if any of the following occur:
 - (1) A permit is revoked under Section 20.24 of this chapter, and the appeals process has been completed.
 - (2) An operator ceases mining operations and fails to reclaim the site in accordance with the reclamation plan.
 - (3) An operator fails to provide a replacement proof of financial assurance prior to expiration of existing proof of financial assurance.
- (i) **CANCELLATION.** Financial assurance shall provide that it may not be cancelled by the surety or other holder or issuer except after not less than a ninety (90) day notice to Marinette County, in writing, by registered or certified mail. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the

ninety (90) day notice of cancellation, the operator shall deliver to Marinette County a replacement proof of financial assurance. In the absence of this replacement financial assurance, all mining shall cease until the time it is delivered and in effect. If the operator fails to provide Marinette County with a replacement proof of financial assurance prior to expiration of existing proof of financial assurance Marinette County shall request forfeiture of the existing proof of financial assurance.

- (j) **CHANGING METHODS OF FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.** The operator of nonmetallic mining site may change from one (1) method of financial assurance to another. This may not be done more than once a year unless required by an adjustment imposed pursuant to sub. (1). The operator shall give Marinette County at least sixty (60) days notice prior to changing methods of financial assurance and may not actually change methods without the written approval of Marinette County.
- (k) **BANKRUPTCY NOTIFICATION.** The operator of a nonmetallic mining site shall notify the regulatory authority, by certified mail, of the commencement of voluntary or involuntary proceeding under bankruptcy code, 11USC, et seq., naming the operator as debtor, within ten (10) days of commencement of the proceeding.
- (l) **ADJUSTMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.** Financial assurance may be adjusted when required by Marinette County. Marinette County may notify the operator, in writing, that adjustment is necessary and the reasons for it. Marinette County may adjust financial assurance based upon prevailing or projected interest or inflation rates (Consumer Price Index) or the latest cost estimates for reclamation.
- (m) **NET WORTH TEST.**
 - (1) Only an operator that meets the definition of “company” in §289.41(4), Wis. Stats., may use the net worth method of providing financial assurance.
 - (2) The operator shall submit information to the regulatory authority in satisfaction of the net worth test requirements of §289.41(4), Wis. Stats. The criteria in §289.41(6)(b), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i), Wis. Stats., shall apply.
 - (3) An operator using the net worth test to provide financial assurance for more than one (1) mine shall use the total cost of compliance for all mines in determining the net worth to reclamation cost ratio in accordance with §289.41(6), Wis. Stats.
 - (4) Determinations under the net worth test shall be done in accordance with §289.41(5), Wis. Stats.
 - (5) In addition, the operator shall submit a legally binding commitment to faithfully perform all compliance and reclamation work at the mine site that is required under this chapter.
- (2) Private Non-Metallic Mines.** The operator of any nonmetallic mining site that applies for a reclamation permit in conformance with sub. 20.12(3) shall submit the proof of financial assurance required by sub. 20.14(1) as specified in the reclamation permit issued to it under this chapter.

- (3) Public Nonmetallic Mining.** The financial assurance requirements of this section do not apply to nonmetallic mining conducted by the State of Wisconsin, Marinette County, a municipality within Marinette County or any agency, board, commission or department of said municipal unit.

20.15 PUBLIC NOTICE AND RIGHT OF HEARING

- (1) Reclamation Plan Hearing.** Marinette County shall provide public notice and the opportunity for a public informational hearing as set forth below:

(a) PUBLIC NOTICE.

- (1) When Marinette County receives an application to issue a reclamation permit, it shall publish a public notice of the application no later than thirty (30) days after receipt of a complete application that satisfies sub. 20.12(2) of this chapter.
- (2) The notice shall briefly describe the mining and reclamation planned at the nonmetallic mining site. The notice shall be published as a Class 1 notice pursuant to §985.07(1), Wis. Stats., in the official newspaper of Marinette County. The notice shall mention the opportunity for public hearing pursuant to this section and shall give the locations at which the public may review the application and all supporting materials including the reclamation plan.
- (3) Copies of the notice shall be forwarded by Marinette County to the local municipality and owners of land within three hundred (300) feet of the boundaries of the parcel or parcels of land on which the mine is located.

- (b) HEARING.** Except as provided in sub. (2) , Marinette County shall provide for an opportunity for a public informational hearing on an application or request to issue a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit as follows:

- (1) If it conducts a zoning-related hearing on the nonmetallic mining site, Marinette County shall provide the opportunity at this hearing to present testimony on reclamation-related matters. This opportunity shall fulfill the requirement for public hearing for a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit required by this section. Marinette County shall consider the reclamation-related testimony in the zoning-related hearing in deciding on a permit application pursuant to this chapter.
- (2) (a) If there is no opportunity for a zoning-related hearing on the nonmetallic mining site as described in par 1., opportunity for public hearing required by this section shall be provided as follows: Any person residing within, owning property within, or whose principal place of business is within three hundred (300) feet of the boundary of the parcel or parcels of land in which the nonmetallic mining site is located or proposed may request a public informational hearing. The Marinette County Land Information Committee shall hold a public hearing, if requested by any of these persons, within thirty (30) days of the actual date of public hearing, if requested by any of these persons, within thirty

(30) days of the actual date of public notice under sub. (a). This public informational hearing shall be held no sooner than thirty (30) days nor later than sixty (60) days after being requested. The hearing shall be conducted as an informational hearing for the purpose of explaining and receiving comment from affected persons on the nature, feasibility and effects of the proposed reclamations.

(b) The subject matter and testimony at this informational hearing shall be limited to reclamation of the nonmetallic mining site.

(2) Local Transportation-Related Mines. No public notice or informational hearing is required for a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit issued to a local transportation-related mine pursuant to sub. 20.16(5) of this chapter.

20.16 ISSUANCE OF A NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION PERMIT

(1) Permit Required. No person may engage in nonmetallic mining or nonmetallic mining reclamation in Marinette County without first obtaining a reclamation permit issued pursuant to this chapter except for nonmetallic mining sites that are exempted from this chapter under subs 20.07 (1) & (2) or 20.10 (18).

(2) Permit Issuance. Applications for reclamation permits for nonmetallic mining sites that satisfy sub. 20.12(2) shall be issued a reclamation permit or otherwise acted on as provided below:

- (a) Unless denied pursuant to Section 20.17 of this chapter, Marinette County shall approve, in writing, a request that satisfies the requirements of sub. 20.12(2) of this chapter, to issue a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit for the proposed nonmetallic mine.
- (b) Marinette County may not issue an approval without prior or concurrent approval of the reclamation plan that meets the requirements of Section 20.13 of this chapter. The regulatory authority may issue a reclamation permit subject to conditions in sub. 20.16(5) of this chapter, if appropriate. The permit decision shall be made no sooner than thirty (30) days nor later than ninety (90) days following receipt of the complete reclamation permit application that meets the requirements in s. 20.12 and reclamation plan that meets the requirements in s. 20.13, unless a public hearing is held pursuant to Section 20.15 of this chapter. If a public hearing is held, the regulatory authority shall issue the reclamation permit, subject to conditions pursuant to sub. 20.16(5) of this chapter, if appropriate, or shall deny the permit as provided in Section 20.17 of this chapter, no later than sixty (60) days after completing the public hearing.
- (c) Permits issued pursuant to this subsection shall require compliance with a reclamation plan that has been approved and satisfies the requirements of Section 20.13 of this chapter, and provision by the applicant of financial assurance required under Section 20.14 of this chapter and payable to Marinette County prior to beginning mining.

(3) Automatic Permit for Local Transportation-Related Mines.

- (a) Marinette County shall automatically issue an expedited permit under this subsection to any borrow site that:
 - (1) Will be opened and reclaimed under contract with a municipality within a period not exceeding thirty-six (36) months;
 - (2) Is a nonmetallic mine which is intended to provide stone, soil, sand or gravel for the construction, reconstruction, maintenance or repair of a highway, railroad, airport facility or other transportation facility under contract with the municipality;
 - (3) Is regulated and will be reclaimed under contract with the municipality in accordance with the requirements of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation concerning the restoration of nonmetallic mining sites;
 - (4) Is not a commercial source;
 - (5) Will be constructed, operated and reclaimed in accordance with applicable zoning requirements, if any, and:
 - (a) Is not otherwise exempt from the requirements of this chapter under sub. 20.07(2)(j) of this chapter.
 - (b) In this subsection, “municipality” has the meaning defined in §299.01(8), Wis. Stats.
- (6) Automatic permits shall be issued under this subsection in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (a) The applicant shall notify Marinette County of the terms and conditions of the contract with respect to reclamation of the proposed borrow site.
 - (b) The applicant shall provide evidence to Marinette County to show that the borrow site and its reclamation will comply with applicable zoning requirements, if any.
 - (c) Marinette County shall accept the contractual provisions incorporating requirements of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in lieu of a reclamation plan under Section 20.13 of this chapter.
 - (d) Marinette County shall accept the contractual provisions in lieu of the financial assurance requirements in Section 20.14 of this chapter.
 - (e) The public notice and hearing provisions of Section 20.15 of this chapter, do not apply to nonmetallic mining sites that are issued automatic permits under this subsection.
 - (f) Mines permitted under this subsection shall pay an annual fee to Marinette County as provided in Section 20.27 of this chapter, but shall not be subject to the plan review fee provided in Section 20.26 of this chapter. The total annual fee, including the share of the Department of Natural Resources shall not exceed the amount allowed by NR135.23 (1)(g), Wis. Admin. Code.
 - (g) Marinette County shall issue the automatic permit within seven (7) days of the receipt of a complete application.

- (h) If the borrow site is used to concurrently supply materials for other than the local transportation project, the automatic permitting in this subsection still applies provided the site will be reclaimed under a contractual obligation with the municipality in accordance with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation requirements.
 - (i) Notwithstanding Section 20.25 of this chapter, the operator of a borrow site, under this subsection, is required to submit only the information in an annual report necessary to identify the borrow site and to determine the applicable annual fee.
- (4) Expedited Review.** Any operator of a nonmetallic mining site may request expedited review of a reclamation permit application under sub. (a) or sub. (b) as follows:
 - (a) The operator may submit a request for expedited permit review with payment of the expedited review fee specified in sub. 20.26(2) of this chapter. This request shall state the need for such expedited review and the date by which such expedited review is requested.
 - (b) The operator may submit a request for expedited review under this subsection if the applicant requires a reclamation permit to perform services under contract with a municipality. This request for expedited review shall state the need for expedited review and shall include a copy of the applicable sections of the contract and the date by which the expedited review is requested.
 - (c) Following receipt of a request under this subsection, Marinette County shall inform the applicant of the estimated date for decision on issuance of the permit. If the applicant then elects not to proceed with the expedited review, the fee paid under sub. (a) shall be returned.
 - (d) Expedited review under this subsection shall not waive, shorten or otherwise affect the public notice and right of hearing pursuant to Section 20.15 of this chapter. This subsection does not impose an obligation upon the regulatory authority to act upon a permit application under this subsection by a specific date.
- (5) Permit Conditions.** Any decision under this section may include conditions as provided below:
 - (a) Marinette County may issue a reclamation permit or approve a reclamation plan subject to general or site-specific conditions if needed to assure compliance with the nonmetallic mining reclamation requirements of this chapter. The approvals shall not include conditions that are not related to reclamation.
 - (b) One required condition of the issued permit shall be that the new mine obtain financial assurance pursuant to Section 20.14 of this chapter, prior to beginning mining.

20.17 PERMIT DENIAL

An application for a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit shall be denied as set forth below:

- (1) Procedure.** An application to issue a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit shall be denied, within the time frame for permit issuance specified in Section 20.16 of this chapter, if Marinette County finds any of the following:
- (a) The applicant has, after being given an opportunity to make corrections, failed to provide to Marinette County an adequate permit application, reclamation plan, financial assurance or any other submittal required by Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code or this chapter.
 - (b) The proposed nonmetallic mining site cannot be reclaimed in compliance with the reclamation standards contained in this chapter, Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or sub. 1 of Chapter 295, Wis. Stats.
 - (c) (1) The applicant or its agent, principal or predecessor has, during the course of nonmetallic mining in Wisconsin within ten (10) years of the permit application or modification request being considered, shown a pattern of serious violations of this chapter or of federal, state or local environmental laws related to nonmetallic mining reclamation.
(2) The following may be considered in making this determination of a pattern of serious violations:
 - (a) Results of judicial or administrative proceedings involving the operator or its agent, principal or predecessor.
 - (b) Suspensions or revocations of nonmetallic mining reclamation permits pursuant to this chapter, other reclamation ordinances or Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - (c) Forfeitures of financial assurance.
 - (d) A denial under this subsection shall be in writing and shall contain documentation of reasons for denial.
- (2) Review.** A decision to deny an application to issue a reclamation permit may be reviewed under Section 20.22 of this chapter.

20.18 ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Approval of Alternative Requirements.** An operator of a nonmetallic mining site may request an alternative requirement to the reclamation standard established in Section 20.11 of this chapter. The Marinette County Land Information Committee may approve an alternative requirement to the reclamation standards established in this chapter if the operator demonstrates and the Committee finds that all of the following criteria are met:
- (a) The nonmetallic mining site, the surrounding property or the mining plan or reclamation plan has a unique characteristic which requires an alternative requirement.
 - (b) Unnecessary hardship which is peculiar to the nonmetallic mining site or plan will result unless the alternative requirement is approved.
 - (c) Reclamation in accordance with the proposed alternative requirement will achieve the planned post-mining land use and long term site stability in a manner that will not cause environmental pollution or threaten public health, safety or welfare.
- (2) Procedures.**

- (a) The operator of a nonmetallic mining site requesting an alternative requirement in sub. 20.18(1) of this chapter shall demonstrate all the criteria in sub. 20.18(1), of this chapter. This shall be submitted, in writing, to the Marinette County Land Information Department, Marinette County Courthouse, 1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette WI 54143-1717.
 - (b) The Marinette County Land Information Committee shall have the authority to grant requests for alternative reclamation standards. Marinette County shall decide on the alternative reclamation standard no sooner than thirty (30) days and no later than ninety (90) days following a written request and supporting documentation, unless a public hearing is held pursuant to Section 20.15 of this chapter. If a public hearing is held, the Marinette County Land Information Committee shall affirm or deny the request no later than sixty (60) days after completing the public hearing.
 - (c) A request for an alternative requirement may be incorporated as part of an application to issue or modify a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit.
 - (d) Marinette County shall provide public notice and the opportunity for a public informational hearing as provided by Section 20.15 of this chapter.
- (3) Transmittal of Decision on Request for Alternative Requirements.** The decision on a request for alternative reclamation requirements shall be, in writing, to the applicant and shall include documentation of why the alternative requirement was or was not approved.
- (4) Notice to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.** Marinette County shall provide notice to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as set forth in this subsection. Written notice shall be given to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at least ten (10) days prior to any public hearing held under sub. 20.18(2)(d) of this chapter, on a request for an alternative requirement under this section. A copy of any written decision on alternative requirements shall be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources within ten (10) days of issuance.

20.19 PERMIT DURATION

- (1) A nonmetallic mining reclamation permit issued under this chapter shall last through operation and reclamation of the nonmetallic mining site, unless suspended or revoked pursuant to sub. 20.24(2) of this chapter.
- (2) If the mine operator is not the landowner, the reclamation permit duration shall not exceed the duration of the mine lease unless the lease is renewed or the permit is transferred to a subsequent lessee pursuant to Section 20.20 of this chapter.

20.20 PERMIT TRANSFER

A nonmetallic mining reclamation permit issued under this chapter shall be transferred to a new owner or operator upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

- (1) A nonmetallic mining reclamation permit may be transferred to a new operator upon submittal to Marinette County of proof of financial assurance and a

certification, in writing, by the new permit holder that all conditions of the permit will be complied with.

- (2) The transfer is not valid until financial assurance has been submitted by the new operator and accepted by Marinette County and Marinette County makes a written finding that all conditions of the permit will be complied with. The previous operator shall maintain financial assurance until the new operator has received approval and provided the financial assurance under this section.

20.21 PREVIOUSLY PERMITTED SITES

For any nonmetallic mining site which had a reclamation permit previously issued by another regulatory authority pursuant to Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, that becomes subject to reclamation permitting authority of Marinette County, the terms and conditions of the previously-issued municipal reclamation permit shall remain in force until modified by Marinette County pursuant to sub. 20.23(1) of this chapter.

20.22 REVIEW

Any permitting decision or action made by Marinette County under this chapter may be reviewed as set forth in this section. Notwithstanding §68.001, §68.03(8) and (9), §68.06 and §68.10(1)(b), Wis. Stats., any person who meets the requirements of §227.42(1), Wis. Stats., may obtain a contested case hearing under §68.11 Wis. Stats., on Marinette County's Decision to issue, deny or modify a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit.

PART IV – ADMINISTRATION

20.23 PERMIT MODIFICATION

- (1) **By the County of Marinette.** A nonmetallic mining reclamation permit issued under this chapter may be modified by Marinette County if it finds that, due to changing conditions, the nonmetallic mining site is no longer in compliance with Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or this chapter. Such modification shall be by an order modifying the permit in accordance with Section 20.33 of this chapter. This modifying order may require the operator to amend or submit new application information, reclamation plan, proof of financial assurance or other information needed to ensure compliance with Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or this chapter.
- (2) **At the Operator's Option.** If an operator of any nonmetallic mine that holds a reclamation permit issued under this chapter desires to modify such permit or reclamation plan approved under this chapter, it may request such modification by submitting a written application for such modification to the Marinette County Land Information Department, Marinette County Courthouse, 1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette WI 54143-1717. The application for permit or plan modification shall be acted on using the standards and procedures of this chapter.

- (3) **Required by the Operator.** The operator of any nonmetallic mine that holds a reclamation permit issued under this chapter shall request a modification of such permit if changes occur to the area to be mined, the nature of the planned reclamation, or other aspects of mining required by the reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter. Such application for permit modification shall be acted on using the standards and procedures of this chapter.
- (4) **Review.** All actions by Marinette County on permit modifications requested or initiated under this section are subject to review under Section 20.22 of this chapter.

20.24 PERMIT SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION

- (1) **Grounds.** Marinette County may suspend or revoke a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit issued pursuant to this chapter if it finds the operator has done any of the following:
 - (a) Failed to submit the annual fees or the annual report.
 - (b) Failed to submit or maintain financial assurance as required by this chapter.
 - (c) Failed on a repetitive and significant basis to follow the approved reclamation plan, any conditions of the plan approval or any section of this chapter.
- (2) **Procedures.** If Marinette County finds grounds for suspending or revoking a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit set forth in sub. 20.24(1) of this chapter, it may issue a special order suspending or revoking such permit as set forth in sub. 20.33(2) of this chapter.
- (3) **Consequences.**
 - (a) If Marinette County makes any of the findings in sub. 20.24(1) of this chapter, it may suspend a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit for up to thirty (30) days. During the time of suspension, the operator may not conduct nonmetallic mining at the site except for reclamation or measures to protect human health and the environment as ordered by the regulatory authority pursuant to Section 20.33 of this chapter.
 - (b) If Marinette County makes any of the findings in sub. 20.24(1) of this chapter, it may revoke a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit. Upon permit revocation, the operator shall forfeit the financial assurance it has provided pursuant to this chapter to Marinette County. Marinette County may use forfeited financial assurance to reclaim the site to the extent needed to comply with this chapter and the applicable reclamation ordinance.

20.25 ANNUAL OPERATOR REPORTING

- (1) **Contents and Deadline.** Annual reports that satisfy the requirements of this section shall be submitted by the operators of nonmetallic mining sites.
 - (a) **CONTENTS.** The annual report required by this section shall include all of the following:
 - (1) The name and mailing address of the operator.

- (2) The location of the nonmetallic mining site, including legal description, tax key number or parcel identification number, if available.
 - (3) The identification number of the applicable nonmetallic mining permit, if assigned by Marinette County.
 - (4) The acreage currently affected by nonmetallic mining extraction and not yet reclaimed.
 - (5) The amount of acreage that has been reclaimed to date, on a permanent basis and the amount reclaimed on an interim basis.
 - (6) A plan, map or diagram accurately showing the acreage described in pars. (4) and (5).
 - (7) The following certification, signed by the operator: "I certify that this information is true and accurate, and that the nonmetallic mining site described herein complies with all conditions of the applicable nonmetallic mining reclamation permit and Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code."
- (b) **DEADLINE.** The annual report shall cover activities on unreclaimed acreage for the previous calendar year and be submitted by January 31st.
- (c) **WHEN REPORTING MAY END.** Annual reports shall be submitted by an operator for all active and intermittent mining sites to Marinette County for each calendar year until nonmetallic mining reclamation at the site is certified as complete pursuant to sub. 20.29(3) of this chapter or at the time of release of financial assurance pursuant to sub. 20.14(1)(g) of this chapter.
- (2) Inspection in Lieu of Report.** Marinette County may, at its discretion, obtain the information required in sub. 20.25(1) of this chapter, for a calendar year by written documentation of an inspection it completes during a calendar year, as set forth in this subsection. If Marinette County obtains and documents the required information, the annual report need not be submitted by the operator. If Marinette County determines that the operator need not submit an annual report pursuant to this subsection, it shall advise the operator, in writing, at least thirty (30) days before the end of the applicable calendar year. In that case, Marinette County shall require the operator to submit the certification required in sub. 20.25(1)(a)7 of this chapter.
- (3) Retention of Annual Reports.** Annual reports submitted under sub. 20.25(1) of this chapter, or inspection records that replace them under sub. 20.25(2) of this chapter shall be retained by Marinette County at the Marinette County Courthouse for at least ten (10) years after the calendar year to which they apply. These records, or complete and accurate copies of them, shall be made available to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources upon written request or during its inspection or audit activities carried out pursuant to Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- (4) Annual Reporting Form.** Marinette County shall create a standardized annual reporting form to be used by the nonmetallic mine operator. This form will be provided to the operators along with their annual nonmetallic mining license.

20.26 PLAN REVIEW FEES

- (1) Amount and Applicability.** A person who intends to operate a nonmetallic mining site for which a permit application has been submitted under sub. 20.12(2) of this chapter shall submit a non-refundable plan review fee, established by the Marinette County Board, at the time the plan is submitted for review and approval. No plan review fee may be assessed under this section for any local transportation-related mining receiving an automatic permit under sub. 20.16(3) of this chapter. A separate plan review fee shall be paid under this section for any modification to an existing reclamation plan submitted pursuant to Section 20.23 of this chapter. Plan review fees collected under this section are required under §295.12(3)(e)1.a., Wis. Stats., to equal as closely as possible the cost of examination and approval of such plans. §295.15, Wis. Stats., requires the regulatory authority to use its fees only for the administration of its reclamation ordinance.
- (2) Expedited Plan Review Fee.** A person who intends to operate a nonmetallic mining site for which a permit application has been submitted under sub. 20.12(2) of this chapter may obtain expedited reclamation plan review by paying a fee established by the Marinette County Board. Such fee shall be in addition to that required in sub. 20.26(1) of this chapter and shall equal as closely as possible the costs associated with the expedited review.

20.27 ANNUAL FEES

- (1) Areas Subject to Fees, Procedures, Deadline and Amount.**
- (a) Operators of all nonmetallic mining sites subject to reclamation permits issued under this chapter shall pay annual fees to the Marinette County Land Information Department, Marinette County Courthouse, 1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette WI 54143-1717. Fees paid under this section shall include both a share for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under sub. 20.27(2) and the Marinette County share under sub. 20.27(3).
- (b) Fees paid under this section shall be calculated based on the unreclaimed acres of a nonmetallic mining site, as defined below:
- (1) “Unreclaimed acre” or “unreclaimed acres” means those unreclaimed areas in which nonmetallic mining has occurred after August 1, 2001 and areas where nonmetallic mining reclamation has been completed, but is not yet certified as reclaimed under sub. 20.14(1)(g) of this chapter. However, the term does not include any areas described in par. (2).
- (2) “Unreclaimed acre” or unreclaimed acres” does not include:
- (a) Those areas where reclamation has been completed and certified as reclaimed under sub. 20.14(1)(g).
- (b) Those areas previously affected by nonmetallic mining, but which are not used for nonmetallic mining after August 1, 2001.
- (c) Those portions of nonmetallic mining sites which are included in an approved nonmetallic mining reclamation plan, but are not yet affected by nonmetallic mining.

- (d) Areas previously mined, but used after August 1, 2001 for a non-mining activity, such as stockpiling of materials used for an industrial activity, such as an asphalt plant, concrete batch plant, block and tile operation or other industry that uses products produced from nonmetallic mining.
 - (e) Those areas within a nonmetallic mining site which have been determined to have been successfully reclaimed on an interim basis in accordance with subs. 20.29(2) and 20.29(3) of this chapter.
 - (f) Fees shall be assessed on active acres only and shall not be assessed on acreage where nonmetallic mining is proposed and approved but where no nonmetallic mining has yet taken place.
- (c) Fees assessed pursuant to this section shall be based on the total unreclaimed acres that exist at the end of the year but not less than the annual fee for a 1-5 acres of unreclaimed area. Such fees apply to a calendar year or any part of a year in which nonmetallic mining takes place, until final reclamation is certified as complete under Section 20.29 of this chapter. Fees shall be paid no later than January 31st for the previous year.
- (d) The first year's annual fee shall be paid in advance and based upon the largest amount of unreclaimed acres which are anticipated at any point of time in the calendar year. A portion of the fee for the first year shall be waived based on the number of months remaining in the year when the permit is issued.
- (e) If the reclamation has already occurred on portions of a nonmetallic mining site, the fees for such portions may be submitted with a request that they be held by Marinette County pending certification of completed reclamation pursuant to subs. 20.14(1)(g) and 20.29 of this chapter. Upon a determination by Marinette County that reclamation has been completed or if Marinette County fails to make a determination under sub., 20.14(1)(g) within sixty (60) days of the request, it shall refund that portion of the annual fee that applies to the reclaimed acres as identified in sub. 20.29.
- (2) Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Share of Fee.**
- (a) Fees paid under this section shall, except where provided in sub. (b), include a share for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources equal to the amount required in Chapter NR135.39(3), Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - (b) For nonmetallic mining sites at which no nonmetallic mining has taken place during a calendar year, the share for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources shall be equal to the amount specified in Chapter NR135.396(b), Wisconsin Administrative Code.
 - (c) Marinette County shall forward fees collected under this subsection to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by March 31st.
- (3) Marinette County's Share of Fees.** Fees paid under this section shall include an annual fee due to Marinette County. The annual fee shall equal as closely as possible the County cost of administering the reclamation program.

The Marinette County Land Information Committee, with approval of the Marinette County Board of Supervisors, shall establish fees for the following:

- (a) Annual fee for active nonmetallic mines.
- (b) Annual fee for mine sites for which no nonmetallic mining has taken place during the calendar year.
- (c) Requests for alternative requirements.
- (d) Nonmetallic mining conducted by Marinette County, a municipality within Marinette County, or any agency, board, commission or department of said municipal unit is exempt from payment of the County's share of the annual fee.
- (e) Plan modifications to existing plan approvals.
- (f) The annual fee collected by Marinette County under this subsection for local transportation-related mines issued permits under sub. 20.16 (3) may not exceed the amounts set forth in NR 135.39 Table 2. The amount listed shall be the total fee assessed on such nonmetallic mines, and shall include both a share for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Marinette County. Marinette County shall only be obligated to send the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources share to the Department after Marinette County's share has been received in full.

20.28 REGULATORY REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION

- (1) Reporting.** Marinette County shall send an annual report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by March 31st of each calendar year. The reports shall include the following information for the previous year's nonmetallic mining reclamation program:
 - (a) The total number of nonmetallic mining reclamation permits in effect.
 - (b) The number of new permits issued within the jurisdiction of Marinette County.
 - (c) The number of acres approved for nonmetallic mining and the number of acres newly approved in the previous year.
 - (d) The number of unreclaimed acres.
 - (e) The number of acres that have been reclaimed and have had financial assurance released pursuant to sub. 20.14(1)(g) of this chapter.
 - (f) The number of acres that are reclaimed and awaiting release from the financial assurance requirements of this subchapter pursuant to subs. 20.29(1) and 20.29(2) of this chapter.
 - (g) The number and nature of alternative requirements granted, permit modifications, violations, public hearings, enforcement actions, penalties that have been assessed and bond or financial assurance forfeitures.
- (2) Documentation.** Marinette County shall, to the best of its ability, maintain the information set forth below and make it available to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for that agency's audit of Marinette County's reclamation program pursuant to Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code:
 - (a) Documentation of compliance with Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and this chapter.

- (b) The procedures employed by Marinette County regarding reclamation plan review, and the issuance and modification of permits.
- (c) The methods for review of annual reports received from operators.
- (d) The method and effectiveness of fee collection.
- (e) Procedures to accurately forward the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' portion of collected fees in a timely fashion.
- (f) Methods for conducting on-site compliance inspections and attendant reports, records and enforcement actions.
- (g) Responses to citizen complaints.
- (h) The method of and accuracy in determining the amount of the financial assurance obtained from the operator to guarantee reclamation performance.
- (i) The maintenance and availability of records.
- (j) The number and type of approvals for alternative requirements issued pursuant to Section 20.18 of this chapter.
- (k) The method of determining the success of reclamation in meeting the criteria contained in the reclamation plan and subsequently releasing the financial assurance pursuant to sub. 20.14(1)(g) of this chapter.
- (l) Any changes in local regulations, ordinances, funding and staffing mechanisms or any other factor which might affect the ability of Marinette County to implement its nonmetallic mining reclamation program under this chapter.
- (m) The amount of fees collected in comparison to the amount of money actually expended for nonmetallic mining reclamation program administration.
- (n) Any other performance criterion necessary to ascertain compliance with Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

20.29 COMPLETED RECLAMATION – REPORTING, CERTIFICATION AND EFFECT

- (1) Reporting.** The operator of a nonmetallic mining site may certify completion of reclamation for a portion or all of the nonmetallic mining site pursuant to a reclamation plan prepared and approved pursuant to this chapter and Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Certification and documentation of the completion of the reclamation activities shall be submitted to the Marinette County Land Information Department, Marinette County Courthouse, 1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette WI 54143-1717.
- (2) Reporting of Interim Reclamation.** The operator of a nonmetallic mining site may report completion of interim reclamation as specified in the reclamation plan for the site prepared and approved pursuant to this chapter and Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Reporting of interim reclamation shall be completed according to the procedures in sub. 20.29(1) of this chapter.
- (3) Certification of Completed Reclamation.** Marinette County shall inspect a nonmetallic mining site for which reporting of reclamation or interim reclamation has been submitted pursuant to this subsection within sixty (60)

days of receipt, and make a determination, in writing, in accordance with sub. 20.14(1)(g)3 of this chapter. If it is determined that interim or final reclamation is complete, including revegetation as specified in a reclamation plan that conforms with Section 20.13 of this chapter, Marinette County shall issue the mine operator a written certificate of completion.

- (4) Effect of Completed Reclamation.** If reclamation is certified by Marinette County as complete under sub. 20.29(3) of this chapter, for part or all of a nonmetallic mining site, then:
- (a) The fee assessed under Section 20.27 of this chapter, shall be prorated based on the date Marinette County certifies that all or a portion of the reclamation is complete.
 - (b) The financial assurance required by Section 20.14 of this chapter, shall be released or appropriately reduced in the case of completion of reclamation for a portion of the mining site.
- (5) Effect of Inaction Following Report of Completed Reclamation.** If no written response as required by sub. 20.29(3) of this chapter, for an area of the mine site reported as reclaimed or interim reclaimed is given within sixty (60) days of receiving such request, any annual fee paid to Marinette County for it under Section 20.27 of this chapter shall be refunded.

20.30 PERMIT TERMINATION

When all final reclamation required by a reclamation plan conforming to Section 20.13 of this chapter and required by this chapter is certified as complete pursuant to subs. 20.14(1)(g) and 20.29(3) of this chapter, Marinette County shall issue a written statement to the operator of the nonmetallic mining site, thereby terminating the reclamation permit.

20.31 APPEAL OF DECISIONS

Persons seeking to appeal a decision made by the Marinette County Land Information Department under this chapter shall file a written letter of appeal with the Marinette County Land Information Department. The Land Information Department shall place the appeal on the agenda of the Land Information Committee and the appeal shall be given a due process proceeding in accord with Chapter 68, Wisconsin Statutes. The Land Information Committee shall decide whether to uphold, uphold with modifications or reverse the Land Information Department's decision based upon the terms and intent of this chapter and of relevant state laws and administrative rules. No appellate decision of the Committee shall have the effect of approving an existing or proposed condition that would violate this chapter or state law or administrative rule. Land Information Committee appellate decisions shall be made in writing and shall be filed in the Land Information Department.

PART V – ENFORCEMENT

20.32 RIGHT OF ENTRY AND INSPECTION

For the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the provisions of subchapter 1 of Chapter 295, Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or this chapter, any authorized officer, agent, employee or representative of Marinette County may inspect any nonmetallic mining site subject to this chapter as provided below:

- (1) No person may refuse entry or access onto a nonmetallic mining site of a duly authorized officer, employee or agent of Marinette County or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources who presents appropriate credentials to inspect the site for compliance with the nonmetallic mining reclamation permit, this chapter, Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wisconsin Statutes.
- (2) Any person who enters the site under this right of inspection shall obtain training and provide their own safety equipment needed to comply with any federal, state or local laws or regulations controlling persons on the nonmetallic mining site.

20.33 ORDERS AND CITATIONS

- (1) **Enforcement Orders.** Marinette County may issue orders as set forth in §295.19(1)(a), Wis. Stats., to enforce subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wisconsin Statutes Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, this chapter, a permit issued pursuant to this chapter or a reclamation plan required by Section 20.13. A violation of, this chapter, an order, a permit issued pursuant to this chapter or a reclamation plan required by Section 20.13 of this chapter, shall be considered a violation of subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wis. Stats., and Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- (2) **Special Orders.** Marinette County may issue a special order as set forth in §295.19(1)(b) and (c), Wis. Stats., suspending or revoking a nonmetallic mining reclamation permit pursuant to Section 20.24 of this chapter, or directing an operator to immediately cease an activity regulated under subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter NR135 Wisconsin Administrative Code, or this chapter, until the necessary plan approval is obtained.
- (3) **Review of Orders.** A person holding a reclamation permit who is subject to an order pursuant to this section shall have the right to review the order in a contested case hearing under §68.11, Wis. Stats., notwithstanding the provisions of §68.001, §68.03(8) and (9), §68.06 and §68.10(1)(b), Wis. Stats.
- (4) **Citations.** Marinette County may issue a citation under §66.119, Wis. Stats., and Chapter 25 of the Marinette County Code of Ordinances. The issuance of a citation under this subsection shall not preclude proceeding under any other ordinance or law relating to the same or any other matter. Proceeding under any other ordinance or law relating to the same or any other matter shall not preclude the issuance of a citation under this subsection.

(5) Enforcement. Marinette County may submit any order issued under Section 20.33 of this chapter, to abate violations of this chapter to a district attorney, corporation counsel, or the attorney general for enforcement. The district attorney, corporation counsel, or the attorney general may enforce those orders.

20.34 PENALTIES

Any violation of subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, this chapter, a permit issued pursuant to this chapter or a reclamation plan required by Section 20.13 of this chapter and a permit issued under this chapter may result in forfeitures as provided in §295.19(3), Wis. Stats., as follows:

(1) Any person who violates subchapter I of Chapter 295, Wis. Stats., Chapter NR135, Wisconsin Administrative Code, any reclamation plan approved pursuant to this chapter or an order issued pursuant to Section 20.22 of this chapter, shall forfeit not less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation. Each day of violation is a separate offense. While an order issued under Section 20.33 of this chapter, is suspended, stayed or enjoined, this penalty does not accrue.
(Ord #233 4/17/01, Ord #312 5/29/07)