

## **Resolve, Directing Review of Maine's Mineral Mining Rules and Regulations**

The Legislature directs the Department of Environmental Protection and the Land Use Regulation Commission to jointly review existing rules and regulations affecting site selection, permitting, and operations of mineral mining in Maine to develop recommendations for improvements that can be considered by the Maine Legislature.

As part of this review, the Department of Environmental Protection and Land Use Regulation Commission shall:

1. Review developments in mineral mining technology and operations that have occurred since the Chapter 200 rules were adopted in 1991.
2. Review best practices in mineral mining operations, decommissioning, and remediation to ensure no adverse impact to water quality.
3. Develop a refined understanding of locations in Maine where mineral deposits and geological formations exist that may result in economically-viable mining operations.
4. Evaluate mineral mining rules and regulations from other jurisdictions to assist in identifying best practice approaches that may be part of a process to update Maine's Chapter 200 rules.
5. Review LURC's Chapter 12 rezoning criteria to identify recommended improvements that would help ensure timely and appropriate decision-making on any rezoning application for mineral mining in Maine's unorganized territories.

The Department and Environmental Protection and Land Use Regulation Commission shall jointly develop recommendations for legislation and rules changes, and shall submit those proposals by December 1, 2012, to the Joint Select Committee for Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Select Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. These two committees are authorized to report out legislation that updates Maine's laws and regulations governing mineral mining.