

**MEETING OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA MINING COMMISSION
March 10, 2026
512 N. SALISBURY ST
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

Chairman Tom Freeman, in the City of Raleigh, NC on March 10, 2026, called a meeting of the North Carolina Mining Commission to order at 1:04 P.M. The following persons were in attendance in person or via webinar for all or part of the meeting, with the following Commission members being present for the entire meeting:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT (IN PERSON)

Mr. Tom Freeman (Chair)
Mr. Brian North
Mr. Sam Bratton
Mr. Dwain Veach

COMMISSION MEMBERS (VIRTUAL)

Dr. Luis Chia
Mr. Brandon Jones

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Mr. Phillip Reynolds

DEQ Leadership

Secretary Reid Wilson

DEMLR STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Toby Vinson, Director, DEMLR
Mr. Doug Ansel, General Counsel, DEMLR
Mr. Adam Parr, Deputy Director, DEMLR
Ms. Kelly Jonas, Assistant State Mining Engineer, DEMLR
Mr. Corey Clayton, Assistant State Mining Engineer, DEMLR
Ms. Kat Russell, Public Information Officer, Office Public Affairs

IN PERSON ATTENDEES

Jay Stem
Natalie Lew
Victor Unnone
Sean Daly
Jim Chapman
Dr. Jean Spooner
Allan Holmes
Josh Kastrinsky – Virtual

Chairman Freeman read the conflict-of-interest statement. There was no conflict-of-interest among the Commission Members.

Chairman Freeman recognized those attending and the Commission Members stated their names.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Bratton and seconded by Mr. North. Roll call vote. All in favor of approval. Motion passed.

REMARKS BY SECRETARY WILSON

Secretary Wilson thanked the Commission for the ongoing work they were doing for the Mining industry. He thanked Luck Stone for hosting a quarry visit.

ACTION ITEMS

The Chair of the Rules Committee Mr. Sam Bratton stated that he would work with the other committee members to schedule a meeting prior to the next Commission Meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Rules Review/Readoption – Status Update

Mr. Parr provided an update that the Hearing Officer Report has been completed and that it will need to go to the Rules Committee for review and approval before coming to the Commission at the Next (May 12, 2026) meeting. Following the approval of the Rules, Regulatory Impact Analysis, and Hearing Officer Report the Commission can move to adopt the new proposed rules.

Permitting Data Update

Mr. Parr provided an update on recent permitting actions. He started with the total list of permits by commodity. He then provided a table showing the permit actions that have occurred since the last Commission Meeting. This includes Modifications, New, and Transfers issued.

Mr. Parr explained that the tables have been updated with all the information received from the 2024 Annual Reclamation Reports as well as the released mines from 2025.

Horizon 30 Update

Mr. Ansel provided the Commission an update the status of Horizon 30 unpermitted mine site.

Mine Reclamation Award Discussion

The Commission stated that this is not a new process, but rather something that was done in the past and just needs to be reimplemented. The Commission asked staff to locate any of the past application materials for reference, so that an updated application can be developed.

CONCLUSION

Comments by DEMLR Director

No remarks

Comments of the Commission

Mr. Veach stated excitement to move forward with the reclamation award.

Comments by Commission Counsel

No remarks

Comments of the Chair

Chair Freeman thanked everyone for their ongoing work.

No other comments.

With no other comments, Chair Freeman made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. North

The Commission adjourned at 1:37 pm.