

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA MINING COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Chairman Tom Freeman had technical difficulties with the audio of the virtual meeting so, Vice Chairman Sam Bratton, in a virtual meeting, on September 17, 2025, called a Special meeting of the North Carolina Mining Commission to order at 1:47 P.M. The topic of the meeting was to vote on the Regulatory Impact Analysis of the Mining Rules, so they could be posted to the register. The following persons were in attendance via webinar for all or part of the meeting, with the following Commission members being present for the entire meeting:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PPRESENT

Mr. Tom Freeman (Chair)
Mr. Samuel Bratton (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Dwain Veach
Dr. Luis Chia
Mr. Brandon Jones
Mr. Brian North

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Ms. Elizabeth Young

Discussion of the Regulatory Impact Analysis

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

Vice Chairman Bratton requested a roll call vote and each of the Commission Members stated their names.

Ms. Young stated that the agenda is limited to the published topic of reviewing the RIA

Commissioner Bratton stated that they were ready to move on with the meeting.

Commissioner North stated that he had questions on the bonding rule and justification. He asked about whether there was an example for the smaller sand and gravel operators, where he could see the cost of a calculated bond between the old and new values.

Mr. Parr explained that the explanation in the RIA clarified that there was not a relative increase when considering inflation. He recognized that the proposed bond factors in the mining rules are larger than the 1994 numbers, that the numbers have increased generally. For example, the cost of reclaiming a pit to lake has changed from \$500 to \$810, However when considering inflation, the numbers are relative and have not seen a relative increase.

Commissioner Jones asked about the increase from \$500,000, to \$1Million and where the original bond factor numbers came from in 1994. He recognized that the result of not increasing the factors each year from

1994 to today has resulted in a decrease of bond available to the Department for reclamation. He recognized the need to bring the factors forward in time by 2% per year to get in line with the 1994, numbers.

Mr. Parr stated that Mr. Jones is correct that the failure to increase factors each year has resulted in a decrease. Therefore, bringing the numbers to today at 2% would account for inflation and bring the factors back to the relative 1994 numbers. Mr. Parr also explained that the change from \$500,000 to \$1 Million was a statutory change that occurred in 2017 and so the justification on impact in rule is “none” because of the statutory change.

Commissioner Bratton asked to go to vote to approve the RIA

Commissioner Jones motioned to approve the RIA as drafted and to go to public comment.

Commissioner North seconded.

Commissioner Bratton asked for a roll call Vote

Commissioner Jones – aye

Commissioner North – aye

Chairman Freeman – aye

Commissioner Bratton – aye

Motion passes
2:15