

# Opencut Mining:

## Do you need a water right?

If you currently have, or plan on having an Opencut mine (i.e. gravel, sand, scoria, clay, soil, bentonite, peat) that intersects groundwater, and you intend to use water from the Opencut mine beneficially, we strongly encourage you to contact your local DNRC regional office.

Are you using or do you plan to use water from your Opencut mine for a beneficial use (for example, gravel washing, stock, irrigation/lawn & garden, fish pond, etc.)?

- *If NO: Stop here, you are not required to file a water right.*
- *If YES: Proceed to the next question.*

Does your Opencut mine require a DEQ Opencut permit (check with DEQ Opencut at 406-444-4970)?

- *If NO: You are most likely required to file a water right. There are many filing types; contact DNRC to discuss your project.*
- *If YES: Proceed to the next question.*

Are you using water beneficially during Opencut mining operations?

- *If NO: No water right filing is required right now; however, a filing may be needed during/after reclamation (see next question).*
- *If YES: You are most likely required to file a water right. There are many filing types; contact DNRC to discuss your project.*

Will you use water beneficially during or after reclamation of the Opencut operation?

- *If NO: No water right filing is required.*
- *If YES: You may be required to file a water right. There are many filing types; contact DNRC to discuss your project.*

### DNRC REGIONAL OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Billings: 406-247-4415  
Glasgow: 406-228-2561  
Helena: 406-444-6999  
Lewistown: 406-538-7459



Bozeman: 406-586-3136  
Havre: 406-265-5516  
Kalispell: 406-752-2288  
Missoula: 406-721-4284