

Guide to Mines Fee Regulation Placer Mines

A placer mine is a mine at which mining activities in relation to placer minerals occur.

1. When do the fees come into force?

Fees for applications for placer mining permits as issued under the *Mines Act* or amendments to placer mining permits come into force on April 1, 2015. Fees will be charged to large scale placer mine permit applications and amendments to these large scale permits received on or after April 1, 2015.

2. What if I have already lodged an application prior to April 1, 2015 and the permit hasn't been issued yet?

Fees will only apply for applications for new placer mining permits or amendments to existing placer mining permits that are lodged on or after April 1, 2015. If you have an application in the system prior to that time, it will not attract a fee.

3. What are the fees for?

Fees are charged for applications for new permits and for amendments to existing permits as issued under the *Mines Act*. The amount of the fee is based on the size of the placer mining operation.

If your operation moves less than 30,000 m³ (60,000 tonnes) of pay dirt in the highest operating year, you will not pay a fee.

Operators on a Placer Claim are limited to 20,000 m³ (40,000 tonnes) and will not pay a fee.

Minor amendments such as change of holder address or other administrative or clerical amendments will not be charged a fee.

4. When are placer mine permit fees paid?

A fee will apply if the volume of pay dirt to be moved in the highest operating year of the permit application is 30,000 m³ (60,000 t) or more. Based on this threshold, it is likely that over 90 percent of all placer mining permit applications will not be required to pay a fee.

If you apply to amend your placer mining permit to increase the volume up to or above the 60,000 t threshold, Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) staff receiving the application will advise you of the fee you will be required to pay.

Permit applications will not be processed if payment of permit fees is outstanding.

5. Which placer miners have to pay the fees?

Irrespective of the quantity of pay dirt moved in a placer mining operation, no permit fee applies in respect of an application for an amendment that, in the opinion of the chief inspector, is merely administrative or clerical in nature.

Otherwise, fees apply to high-volume placer mines. Table 1 indicates the thresholds of pay dirt moved in the highest operating year to which fees apply.

Table 1: Placer Mine Permit Fee Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Tonnes proposed to be extracted or moved in highest producing year		Permit fee
Regional mine proposed to operate for 5 years or less (typically Placer Mines)	Regional mine proposed to operate for more than 5 years	
< 60,000	< 10,000	\$0
≥ 60,000 to < 125,000	≥ 10,000 to < 60,000	\$4000
≥ 125,000 to < 250,000	≥ 60,000 to < 125,000	\$8000
≥ 250,000 to < 500,000	≥ 125,000 to < 250,000	\$16,000
≥ 500,000	≥ 250,000	\$32,000

For the purposes of the Fee Regulation, 2 tonnes = 1 cubic meter of pay dirt moved

6. How do the fees work?

Placer mines' Notices of Work are typically for up to five years, so fees are generally based on the volume thresholds in Column 1 in Table 1.

If you are a low-volume placer miner moving less than 30,000 m³ (60,000 tonnes) of pay dirt in your highest operating year, you can continue to apply for a permit without attracting a fee.

A placer miner applying for a five-year permit to move a maximum of 100,000 tonnes of pay dirt in the highest operating year on or after April 1, 2015 will pay a permit fee of \$4,000. If this placer miner applies to increase the maximum pay dirt moved to 150,000 tonnes per year (into the next threshold) at any point during the life of the permit, the applicant will be charged the \$8,000 fee.

Each placer mine application for a new permit or to amend a permit will attract the fee associated with the proposed maximum annual pay dirt moved.

7. If I want to withdraw from the application process can I get a refund of the permit fee?

Refunds will not generally be available upon withdrawal of the application because the permit fee is intended to provide partial cost recovery to the ministry for providing the permitting service. However, there may be circumstances where a refund is appropriate (e.g., where the application is withdrawn before ministry staff begins the application review process).

8. Why are fees being charged?

The fees have been structured to contribute towards the cost of processing and authorizing permit applications by permitting staff in MEM and other associated agencies as required. Fees apply to the larger placer mining operations due to the added complexity of their applications.

9. What happens if I don't pay?

Permit applications will not be processed if payment of permit fees is outstanding.