

Frequently Asked Questions: Reserves

1. [What is a Mineral or Coal Reserve?](#)
 2. [What types of reserves can be requested?](#)
 3. [How do I find out what restrictions correspond to the reserve site numbers?](#)
 4. [How do I request a reserve?](#)
 5. [What is the cost for each reserve request?](#)
 6. [Is there a maximum size of an area for reserve site?](#)
 7. [From the request form, what does 'Agency Director Authorization' mean?](#)
 8. [Are there any additional requirements to be submitted with the reserve request form?](#)
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1. What is a Mineral or Coal Reserve?

A [reserve](#) is established by a Regulation of the Chief Gold Commissioner under [section 22](#) of the Mineral Tenure Act or [section 21](#) of the Coal Act. It is the legal instrument used to prohibit or restrict access to mineral, placer and coal lands. By restricting claim registration or coal applications, reserves are an effective tool for land use management.

2. What types of reserves can be requested?

[No Registration Reserves](#) (NRR) prohibit free miners from registering a mineral or placer claim over a specified area. This provision is often used to prevent further registration of claims in an area proposed as possible treaty settlement land or an area proposed for some alternative use such as a park, conservancy, or a drinking watershed.

[Conditional Registration Reserves](#) (CRR) Conditional reserves allow free miners to register claims in the reserve area, and place certain conditions on their exploration activity typically to avoid interference with the construction and operation of surface works such as pipelines, rights of way, and hydroelectric infrastructure.

[Coal Land Reserves](#) (CLR) prohibit a person from applying for a coal licence or lease and prohibit exploration and development of coal in a reserve area.

3. How do I find out what restrictions correspond to the reserve site numbers?

If you know the reserve site number, you can search for a reserve site from the main MTO website by clicking on "Site Search" or by following the [MTO Help Guide instructions](#); or if you are already logged onto MTO, you can click "Search for Reserve Sites" on the left hand navigation menu.

Alternatively, you can determine the reserve number by viewing the reserve on the Mineral, Placer or Coal map, using the Common Webmapping map viewer.

Use the identify tool on the Mineral Reserves layer.

CWM: The identify layer tool on the CWM can be used to show layer details. Our [CWM Quick Reference Guide](#) illustrates how to use the identify tool on the second page.

IMF The identify layer tool on the IMF2 map viewer can be used to show layer details. [IMF2 Quick Reference Guide](#). See page 3.

The search tabs section of the [IMF2 quick reference guide](#) also provides useful instructions in aid of searching for Mineral Reserves, Placer Reserves and Coal Reserves.

Copies of Orders and BC Regulations are accessible on the Mineral Titles website under Reserves -[Regulations and Maps](#)

4. How do I Request a Reserve?

The [request form and request process](#) is available on the Mineral Titles website.

5. What is the cost for each Reserve Request?

There is no cost associated with requesting a Mineral Reserve under [Section 22](#) of the Mineral Tenure Act and [Section 21](#) of the Coal Act. A free miner certificate (FMC) is not required to request a reserve.

6. Is there a maximum size of an area for reserve site?

There are no minimum or maximum size limits to a reserve

7. On the request form, what does 'Agency Director Authorization' mean?

An authorization signature and date is required from the company director/manager.

8. Are there any additional requirements to be submitted with the reserve request form?

As outlined on the branch website [request process and forms page](#), along with the completed request form, please submit:

- digital shapefiles are preferred, however other maps may be accepted if a shapefile is not possible
- any additional applications for licences, permits, or authorizations that are required for the project(s) such as:
 - licence of occupation
 - documentation showing the project has been submitted to BC Hydro Calls for Tender or documentation for the Environmental Assessment.