

# Land

## Exploration for Uranium Permit

**What Activities Require This Permit?** A person desiring to engage in exploration activities for discovery of uranium must make written application to the NCDEQ Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources for an exploration permit. An application must be upon a form furnished by the division and must fully state the information called for. In addition, the applicant may be required to furnish any other information the division deems necessary for the enforcement of the statute.

**What Is The Purpose of This Permit?** The permit provides a method by which the NCDEQ can prevent the improper and unregulated exploration for uranium, which could adversely affect the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of this state and could cause environmental harm.

**Who Issues This Permit?** Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources.

**How Much Will This Permit Cost?** There is no permit fee for the submission of an exploration permit for uranium; however, the minimum amount of a bond is \$5,000.

**What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees?** There is no permit fee for the submission of an exploration permit for uranium. The bond is assessed at the end of the permit application review process and no permit can be issued without a secured bond. For exploration for uranium, the minimum bond is \$5,000 (five thousand dollars).

**If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check?** The permit application does not require a permit fee. The bond can be secured by cash or other securities.

**Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit?** Contact the Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources.

**How Long Will It Take To Review My Application?** Within 60 days, the division must grant or deny the permit. No application will be approved unless it contains an abandonment plan acceptable to the division. If the application is approved, the division will determine the amount of the performance bond that will be required. The minimum amount of any bond must be \$5,000. An additional bond amount will be required at the rate of \$2 per each linear foot of vehicular access road and of \$200 per each exploratory drill hole or test pit. If the division determines that the amount of the bond required is either excessive or inadequate due to specific site conditions, the division may negotiate a different bond amount that will assure adequate abandonment in the event of bond forfeiture.

**Where Do I Submit My Application?** Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources, 1612 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1612.

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** Exploration permits shall be valid for a period of one year. Permits may be renewed annually.

**Notes/Comments:** Land disturbance of greater than one acre requires an approved erosion and sedimentation control plan. No permit for the mining of uranium will be issued to an applicant for either three years, beginning with the date of issuance of his first permit to explore for uranium, or for two years, beginning with the date of the filing of his first application for a permit to mine uranium, whichever comes first.

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** G.S. 74-75 to 74-89 – “Article 8 – Control of Exploration for Uranium in North Carolina”; 15A NCAC 05G – “Subchapter 5G – Uranium Exploration Regulations.”

**Link:** <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-land-resources>

### Statewide Contact Information:

NC Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources  
1612 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1612  
Telephone: (919) 707-9220