

Surface Mining Public Comment Letter Templates

1. General Community Member Comment Letter (Concise & Clear)

[Your Name]
[Address]
[City, State, ZIP]
[Email / Phone]
[Date]

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: **Comments on [Surface Mine Permit/Plan Number] – Proposed Mining Activities at [Location]**

I am submitting these comments as a resident of **[community name]** who will be affected by the proposed surface mining operation at **[location]**.

My primary concerns include:

1. **Water Resources:** Surface mining can impact streams, rivers, and groundwater. Baseline water data and clear mitigation plans are necessary to protect **[specific water source]**.
2. **Air Quality:** Dust, particulate matter, and emissions from blasting and heavy machinery can affect community health.
3. **Noise and Vibration:** Blasting and equipment operation may disrupt homes, schools, and sensitive areas.
4. **Land and Soil:** Mining and reclamation may alter the landscape permanently if not properly managed.
5. **Public Safety and Access:** Roads, public lands, and community infrastructure may be affected.

I urge the agency to require stronger protections, enforceable mitigation measures, and active monitoring before approving this permit.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

2. Technical / Environmental Comment Letter

[Organization / Individual]

[Address]

[Date]

Subject: Comments on [Surface Mine Permit/Plan Number] – Environmental Concerns

Dear [Agency/Official Name]:

I submit the following comments regarding the proposed surface mining operation at [location]. Surface mining poses substantial risks to the environment and surrounding communities if not rigorously managed.

1. Hydrology and Water Quality

- The plan lacks sufficient baseline water monitoring, including surface and groundwater in [area].
- Proposed mitigation measures are vague and untested; cumulative impacts from previous mining in the watershed are not considered.

2. Air Quality and Dust Control

- Blasting, haul roads, and coal processing can generate dust and particulate matter that affect local residents and ecosystems.
- The plan does not include detailed monitoring schedules or thresholds for action.

3. Reclamation and Land Use

- Reclamation plans must specify soil stabilization, native species planting, and post-mining land use.
- Current plans are unclear on long-term ecological recovery and monitoring.

4. Public Infrastructure and Safety

- Mining operations may damage roads, bridges, and utilities.
- Emergency response plans for blasting accidents, fires, or equipment failures are incomplete.

5. Environmental Justice

- Vulnerable communities may bear disproportionate burdens from air, water, and noise impacts.
- Outreach to affected residents is limited and insufficient.

Requested Actions

- Require a complete baseline assessment of water, air, and soil.
- Conduct cumulative impact analysis for the watershed and region.
- Strengthen reclamation and monitoring commitments.
- Increase public engagement before approval.

Sincerely,
[Name / Organization]

3. Landowner-Specific Comment Letter

[Your Name]
[Address]
[Date]

Re: Comments on Surface Mining Permit [Number] near My Property

Dear **[Agency Name]**:

I am the owner of **[property description/location]**. The proposed surface mining operation threatens my land, water supply, and property value.

Key Concerns:

1. **Water Supply:** My private well or spring may be affected by dewatering, runoff, or contamination.
2. **Noise and Dust:** Blasting and equipment operations can harm my family's health and quality of life.
3. **Land and Soil:** Surface disturbance could reduce agricultural productivity or damage forested areas.
4. **Safety and Access:** Mining activity may threaten road safety, fences, and easements.

I request that the agency require enforceable mitigation measures, baseline studies, and guaranteed compensation for any damages before permit approval.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

4. Brief “Fill-in-the-Blanks” Template

Subject: Comments on Surface Mine Permit [Number]

Dear **[Agency Name]**,

I am commenting on the proposed surface mining by **[company]** near **[location]**. My concerns include:

- Impacts to **water resources**
- Dust and **air quality issues**
- Noise and **vibration impacts**
- Damage to **land, soils, or agricultural areas**
- Safety hazards on **roads or public infrastructure**
- Lack of **public outreach and transparency**

I urge the agency to protect communities and ecosystems and require enforceable protections before approval.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Address, if desired]