

TO: All Operators

SUBJECT: MINIMUM RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS IN ALBERTA

These reclamation standards as provided for in Section 39, of the Land Surface Conservation and Reclamation Act, are the minimum requirements that the Land Conservation and Reclamation Council will apply in assessing whether the reclamation of lands has been satisfactory. Terms and conditions specified in Exploration Approvals, Development and Reclamation Approvals, or land surface dispositions and agreements will take precedence.

These minimum requirements are not intended to be an abridgement of the Council's "Guidelines for the Reclamation of Land in Alberta" or specific standards developed by land managing agencies, but as a quick reference to operators preparing and managing sites subject to the Council's inquiry and certification procedures. Any exceptions to these standards will be determined by the Council.

1. All surface disturbances should be kept to a minimum, with appropriate measures taken to control wind and water erosion.
2. All trees should be salvaged or removed and disposed of by burning or other methods as approved by the Council.
3. Topsoil, including the surface organic horizon of the soil profile, should be selectively removed from the disturbed area and conserved for the reconstruction of the root zone.
4. All debris from the operators equipment and facilities should be removed from the site and all solid materials should either be removed, or when necessary, buried with a minimum of 1.20 metres of soil cover.
5. The disturbed area should be recontoured to conform to the surrounding topography.
6. Topsoil and root zone material should be spread evenly over the entire area after it has sufficiently settled.
7. Areas where vegetation has been disturbed should be cultivated or conditioned to be compatible with adjacent or post-disturbance land uses.
8. On public lands the operator should attain a permanent maintenance-free plant cover that is compatible with vegetation on adjacent undisturbed lands.
9. Proper land management and reclamation, including erosion control and debris and waste disposal, should be conducted as the site operations progress.


J. M. King
Chairman

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