



ASHLAND COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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ASHLAND COUNTY NONMETALLIC MINING RECLAMATION ORDINANCE GUIDE FOR RECLAMATION PLANS

In order to assist nonmetallic mine owners in the development of a Reclamation Plan required under Section 13 of the Ashland County Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance, this guide has been developed. The detail required for a plan is directly related to the complexity and size of the mine. The Ashland County Highway Department does not require elaborate plans. It does require a level of detail that will enable the Department to determine if the requirements of your approved reclamation permit are being followed. Drawings must be legible, to scale and the Department must be able to physically tie in locations on the drawings with locations in the mine. It is the responsibility of the mine owner to provide the information requested. The completeness of your submittal will expedite the Department's review and approval of your application.

COVER SHEET

The reclamation plan application should come with a cover sheet providing the following information:

1. Name, address and phone number of owner.
2. Name, address and phone number of site operator
3. Name, address and phone number of Reclamation Plan designer or drafter
4. Legal description of site
5. Proposed name of mine

EXISTING SITE INFORMATION (Section 13.20)

1. An 8 ½" x 11" map of Ashland County showing the location of the mine site.
2. A sketch or plat map showing the mine site and all adjoining property owners. Section, Township and Range information should be included, as well as the Town, City or Village the mine will be located in. A plat book type page would be sufficient. Parcel numbers would also be helpful.
3. A legal description or copy of deed for the site and / or any lease agreement with the site owner. Copies of the documents themselves should be submitted.
4. Any land surveys of the site (if available)
5. The zoning and land use of the site and the surrounding properties. For example, zoning could be "unrestricted", but land use could be Forestry, Agricultural, Residential, etc. This could be shown on your plat map (Item #2).

6. Information on the biological resources of the site. A brief statement on plants and animals on the site and adjacent to the site.
7. An existing site plan showing the topography of the site. The map should have a scale that approaches 1" = 100' for larger sites and 1" = 50' for smaller sites. The map should fit on a 11" x 17" sheet, if possible. The map should show features within 200' of the site's property lines. Information contained on this site plan should include:
 - a. Existing ground contours. Contours interval no greater than 2'.
 - b. Location of surface waters (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) both on site and adjacent to the site.
 - c. Location of any existing buildings or manmade features on the site including access roads.
 - d. Location and extent of any abandoned mines, and mine appurtenances, such as wash ponds, stockpiles, sediment basins, etc.
 - e. Location of any active mines and mine appurtenances such as wash ponds, sediment basins, stockpiles, etc.
 - f. Existing drainage patterns.
 - g. Proposed area to be mined
 - h. North arrow
 - i. Scale
 - j. Property lines and property markers
 - k. Fence lines
 - l. Existing access roads and entrance
8. The type of material to be mined (sand, gravel, quarry stone, peat, etc.)
9. The extent of the material deposit. This could be established from use of test pits, borings, soil surveys or knowledge of the area. Both depth and area the material covers should be included. The area the material covers may need to be shown on the existing site plan, if only part of the site is to be mined.
10. Thickness and type of topsoil
11. Any information on ground water levels. This can be determined from well information on the parcel or neighboring well logs (Information can be obtained from DNR WebSite).
12. Any surface waters, navigable streams or wetlands within 1,000 feet of the mine site.

POST MINING LAND USE (Section 13.30)

Briefly describe (paragraph or less) the proposed land use of the site after mining is completed. Describe the type of use the land will be put to such as agriculture, forestry, residential, recreational, commercial, etc. Describe any special uses, plantings, construction, etc., that may be included.

RECLAMATION MEASURES (Section 13.40)

The plan should be neat, legible and reproducible. Black on white drawings are preferable. The use of colors is discouraged. The owner, operator, and Highway Department should all have the same plan. In the event a discrepancy occurs, the plan on file at the Department shall be the one used. The Department must be provided with any changes, additions, or corrections promptly. Only the approved plan on file in the Highway Department will be used to determine the permittee's compliance. Unauthorized changes could result in enforcement action and withdrawal of mine permits. Minimum information to be included in Reclamation Measures is as follows:

1) A Proposed Site Plan showing the following:

- a. All information shown on existing site plan (subdued to show differences between existing and proposed)
- b. Proposed access roads and access control
- c. Proposed equipment locations or equipment storage areas
- d. Proposed man made structures, buildings, scales, service facilities, fuel tanks, settling basins, etc., with an indication what structures will remain after cessation of mining.
- e. Proposed drainage plan and erosion control plan
- f. Topsoil storage and spoils material areas, size, shapes and side slopes
- g. Material stockpile or sales areas
- h. Extent of mining, finished top and bottom with proposed side slope (distance to property line clearly indicated).
- i. Floor and bottom elevation of mine excavation.
- j. Benchmark locations (minimum 2)
- k. Finished contour lines
- l. Proposed phases for reclamation and / or mining, if applicable
- m. Future (reclaimed) special features, such as a pond, road benching, terracing, etc.
- n. Special features or details including topsoiling.
- o. Total area (in acres) of active mine and total acres to be reclaimed.

2) A cross-section through the proposed mine showing existing and final elevations and groundwater elevations.

3) A description of revegetation to take place upon mine reclamation

- a. Topsoil thickness, spreading methods and preparation for seeding.
- b. Types of seed and rates of seed to be used. Include estimated quantity
- c. Types of fertilizer and rates of fertilizer to be used. Include estimated quantity.
- d. Mulches and erosion mats to be used. Include estimated quantity
- e. Briefly explain timing and process involved in revegetation of final mine reclamation.
- f. Describe temporary seeding of stockpile areas and non-active mine areas.

3. Topsoil balance

- a. Estimated topsoil to be salvaged on-site
- b. Estimated topsoil to be required for reclamation
- c. Estimated topsoil or topsoil substitute material required to complete reclamation if salvaged material is insufficient

4. Include an estimated cost * for reclamation and revegetation of mine site (detailed estimated as possible)

- a. Labor hours and cost (list cost per hour)
- b. Equipment hours and cost (list types of equipment and unit costs)
- c. Material costs (list types of materials and unit costs, including topsoil, seed, fertilizer, mulch, planting materials, erosion products, etc.)
- d. If a phased reclamation is to take place, indicate the cost of each phase.

* These costs should be based on normal charges for such work, not owner / operator costs.

In addition to the plan itself, the County requires certain items to be staked or located in the field as follows:

1. Setting of two benchmarks at locations where they will exist until reclamation is concluded. They will be used to insure that floor elevations shown on the plan are not be exceeded and that final side slopes meet approved requirements.
2. Marking of all property lines adjacent to the active mine, where the mine is less than 100' from lines.
3. Monuments, pipes or other non-degradable markers, locating the final extent of mine (top of slope). These markers should be at a distance apart sufficient to delineate the mine's limit and must be protected during the duration of mine operations.

CRITERIA FOR SUCCESSFUL RECLAMATION (Section 13.50)

A brief statement detailing the criteria for assessing when reclamation is complete. Criteria to evaluate reclamation success must be quantifiable.

Revegetation success may be determined by:

1. Comparison to an appropriate reference area
2. Comparison to baseline data acquired at the mining site prior to its being affected by mining; or
3. Comparison to an approved alternate technical standard
4. Revegetation using a variety of plants indigenous to the area is favored

CERTIFICATION OF RECLAMATION PLAN (Section 13.60)

The operator shall provide a signed certification that reclamation will be carried out in accordance with the reclamation plan. If the operator does not own the land, the landowner or lessor, if different from the operator, or owner shall also provide signed certification that they concur with the reclamation plan and will allow its implementation.

Examples below:

I hereby certify, as duly authorized representative or agent that _____ (name of operator) will comply with the provisions of this reclamation plan, the Ashland County nonmetallic mining reclamation ordinance, as well as the statewide nonmetallic mining reclamation standards established in ss.NR 135.05 through NR 135.15 Wis. Admin. Code.

Signature of Applicant or Duly Authorized Agent

Date Signed

I/we, as the landowner(s) or lessee(s) of the property described herein, do hereby certify that I/we have reviewed the reclamation plan submitted by _____ (name of operator), concur with its provisions and agree to permit its implementation.

Signature of Landowner or Lessee

Date Signed

For additional information please go to <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Mines/documents/NonmetRecPlan.pdf> for the WI DNR guide to developing a reclamation plan.