

16. GRAVEL PIT RECLAMATION

Policy Statement:

Mountain View County will reclaim gravel pits to the standards necessary to attain a Reclamation Certificate.

Regulations:

1. Gravel pits will be reclaimed in accordance with *Alberta Environment Regulations*.
2. Reclamation of gravel pits will commence the year following completion of gravel operations.
3. Larger gravel pits (5 acres and larger) may be reclaimed in stages.
4. Landowners will be advised in the gravel agreement of the estimated reclamation period and reclamation will not be considered complete until the reclamation certificate is received.
5. Compensation for reclamation, if required, will be negotiated when the gravel agreement is negotiated with the landowner.
6. Compensation to the owner for removal of cattle during the reclamation process will be based on the following:
 - a) Number of animal units the area will support
 - b) Length of pasture season in months for affected area.
 - c) Current market value per animal unit per month for pasture.
7. The Public Works Department, together with the Agricultural Services Department, will review each pit prior to reclamation commencement to plan the work in accordance with Alberta Environment's requirements.
8. The Agricultural Services Department will determine the grass mixture and seeding procedure.

Procedures:

1. Profile each pit area prior to stripping.
2. When gravel pits are stripped, the Public Works Department will ensure that the different soil types encountered will be stockpiled separately.
3. At the end of each construction season, the Public Works Department will review each gravel pit to determine whether reclamation should take place the following year.

4. Pits identified for reclamation, either in their entirety or in stages, will be reviewed by the Public Works Department and Agricultural Service Board to determine a reclamation plan and establish a cost estimate.
5. The reclamation plan will be presented to the landowner for information purposes.
6. The cost estimate will be placed in the budget for Council's consideration.
7. Soil removed by the County while working in the area of a pit will be stockpiled in the pit for use in reclamation.
8. Material replaced during reclamation will be placed according to surrounding conditions and *Alberta Environment Regulations*.
9. Rocks will be removed from the reclaimed area as often as required to meet the regulations required by Alberta Environment.
10. The grass mixture will be applied by the Agricultural Department in a manner suitable to sustain the proper growth and root development required by Alberta Environment.
11. The area to be reclaimed will be fenced. The fence will remain in place until the reclamation certificate is obtained from Alberta Environment.
12. Reclaimed areas will be inspected twice each year, spring and fall, to determine the condition of the grass.
13. This policy will be included as an Appendix in gravel pit agreements with landowners.

Approved: November 26, 2002

Amended: October 22, 2003

Inserted a new regulation #6 (a), (b), and (c) regarding compensation calculation.