

Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

ATTACHMENT A FOR MINING OPERATIONS

DOCUMENTATION OF RECLAMATION ACTIVITIES FOR SURETY RELEASE

An operator may request surety release in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations. The following documentation must be submitted simultaneously to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the federal land management agency' prior to the agencies conducting a site inspection:

1. Map(s) clearly identifying the area, noting specific treatments and sampling locations (as applicable).
2. Description of the following activities:
 - A. **Earthwork**
 - a. The number of acres regraded and/or ripped.
 - b. Final slope angles left after regrading.
 - c. Methodology used to check final slope angles (e.g., clinometer, transit, etc.).
 - d. The number of acres that received growth media.
 - e. Depth and source of growth media and application method
 - f. Dates of initiation and completion of activities.
 - B. **Revegetation Activities**
 - a. The number of acres that were seeded and/or planted.
 - b. Seed bed preparation methods utilized.
 - c. Seeding or planting methods used (e.g., broadcast seeding, etc.).
 - d. Provide information on how seed was covered.
 - e. Seed mix and seeding rate; document by maintaining seed tags and any testing results (PLS, germination, noxious weeds, etc.).
 - f. If applicable, the number of acres that received fertilization, mulch or amendments.
 - i. Fertilizer (N-P-K, type, application rate, application method).
 - ii. Mulches and soil amendments (type, application rate, and application method).
 - iii. Date of initiation and completion of activities.
 - C. **Final Revegetation Sampling**
 - a. Adjacent representative vegetation type or range site description (baseline data).

- b. Sampling method (e.g., line intercept).
- c. Number of samples taken (disturbed and adjacent representative sites).
- d. Statement of methodology demonstrating sample size, adequacy and how the locations of sampling sites were determined.
- e. Results of sampling (copy' of sampling worksheet) for disturbed and representative areas.
- f. Indicate all perennial species located.
- g. Dates of sampling.

Other Reclamation Activities such as; structure and debris removal, safety feature installation, erosion control treatment, equipment removal or other permit requirements.

3. Interim Fluid Management (IFM) and Process Fluid Stabilization (PFS) Bond Release

When the closure process of a heap leach pad (HLP) and/or tailings storage facility (TSF) is undertaken in a controlled manner by the operator, release of the project bond IFM and PFS amounts may occur at the following phases/intervals of the closure process:

- a. IFM when evaporation (E) or evapotranspiration (ET) cells have been constructed and the steady state drain-down of process fluids can be managed entirely within the E/ET cells;
 - b. PFS Phase I recirculation of excess process fluids is no longer required, and demonstration can be made that only active evaporation of process fluids is required;
 - c. PFS Phase II the process fluid draindown rate is less than evaporation rate and demonstration can be made that process fluids can be managed without active evaporation, conversion of process pond(s) to E/ET cells has been completed, and the cover system on the HLP and/or the TSF has been constructed;
 - d. PFS Phase III drain-down managed entirely within the E/ET cells, demonstration is made that E/ET cells have functioned without overtopping for a minimum of 5 years;
 - e. PFS Evaporation Costs at completion of PFS (costs include evaporation equipment and power costs).
4. For bond reduction, an operator must provide detailed calculation of the surety amount proposed for release. This calculation should also show the surety amount required for the remaining reclamation work to be completed, and/or remaining PFS activities.
 5. Prior to release, a field inspection is required to verify that reclamation has been performed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and permit.

Revised Sept. 2020