

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF RECLAMATION

**\*\*POLICY/PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE\*\***

Inspection and Enforcement 88-4

**Subject:** Alternative Methods of Protection of Topsoil and Resoiling Stockpiles From Erosion

**Effective:** March 1, 1988

**Purpose:** To provide a policy on methods that can be used to protect stockpiled topsoil and resoiling material from loss due to water erosion.

Paragraph (D) of Rule 1501:13-9-03 of the Administrative Code states that "stockpiled materials shall be protected from wind and water erosion... either by: an effective cover of non-noxious, quick-growing annual and perennial plants, seeded or planted during the first normal period after removal for favorable planting conditions; or other methods demonstrated and approved by the Chief to provide equal protection."

Methods other than vegetative cover may be used to protect stockpiles from erosion if the alternative methods provide protection equal to vegetative cover. The purpose of this Policy Procedure Directive is to explain the procedures by which alternative methods can be used to protect stockpiles. Some items to consider when deciding on the method of protection to be used may include: The physical location of the stockpile, the type of soil material, the length of time the stockpile will exist, the time of year stockpiling will occur, and the ease of maintaining alternative methods.

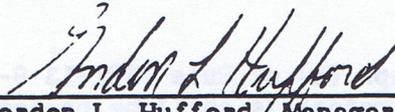
Examples of possible alternative protection methods include, but are not limited to, the construction of trenches, dikes, and silt fences around the base of the stockpile to prevent the actual loss of stockpiled material. Another example would be covering of stockpiles with plastic. The method of protection used must ultimately prevent the loss of stockpiled material due to erosion.

Operators can and are encouraged to use alternative methods during the period that vegetation is becoming established on stockpiles, without the necessity of a permit revision. However, if the operator is to use an alternative method instead of establishing vegetation, the permit must indicate the methods being used. The operator will have to demonstrate in the permit that the alternative method provides protection equal to a vegetative cover, and explain how the method will be constructed and maintained. If the operator uses but does not maintain an alternative method, a notice of violation will be issued. If it is determined in actual practice that an alternative protection method is not providing protection equal to vegetative cover, then the operator must immediately use another alternative method that is as effective as a vegetative cover or else establish a vegetative cover and

revise the permit accordingly. It is suggested that the permit may reflect several methods of protection which may be used in the event that one method is unsuccessful. In all cases the operator will be required to follow the method(s) approved in the permit.

Long-term stockpiles (those on non-strip mining permits such as prep plants, underground mines, etc., which would likely be in place for longer than five years) shall be protected by a vegetative cover at a minimum.

If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Hufford at (614) 265-6664.

  
Gordon L. Hufford, Manager

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