



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF MINING PROGRAMS

SOILS
08/2021

Topsoil Characteristics [§§ 87.68, 87.97]

Describe the thickness of topsoil present at the site. If the thickness of the topsoil varies, key the thickness of the topsoil to the Reclamation map.

Map Symbol	Name	A	B	C	Erodibility Hazard
BxB	Buchanan silt loam, 0-8% extremely stony	0 - 5"	6" - 59"	60" - 80"	Class 1
HdF	Hazleton channery silt loam, 25-75% extremely stony	0 - 8"	9" - 34"	35" - 58"	Class 1
UDD	Udorthents, mine spoil, 8-25%	---	---	---	Class 2
UDF	Udorthents, mine spoil, 25-75%	---	---	---	Class 2
WhC	Wharton silt loam, 8-15%	0 - 8"	9" - 52"	53" - 69"	Class 1
WhD	Wharton silt loam, 15-25%	0 - 8"	9" - 52"	53" - 69"	Class 1

Operations Plan [§§ 87.68, 87.97, 87.96-87.100]

- a. Provide a plan for removal, storage and redistribution of topsoil and subsoil. Describe how soil stockpiles will be stabilized. **If prime farmland**, describe the method and type of equipment to be used for handling and reconstruction of soil horizons or combinations of horizons and measures to be taken to prevent excessive soil compaction.

Topsoil Removal & Storage

Once the proposed affected area has been grubbed if necessary, topsoil will be removed from the initial operational area and stored in the designated stockpile area as shown on the Exhibit 9.0 Map. Topsoil will be removed from additional area as the sequence of mining progresses. All topsoil horizons encountered will be removed and stored for later redistribution. In the event that 12 inches of topsoil is not present on the site, a combination of the topsoil that is present along with underlying unconsolidated material totaling a minimum of 12 inches will be removed and stored for later redistribution.

Topsoil will typically be removed by bulldozer and/or scrapers, however depending on the mining plan the topsoil in the initial operational area may be loaded with frontend loaders and trucked to the proposed last mining cut. See the Equipment and Operations Plan for site specific details.

Topsoil that will be stored for a period exceeding thirty (30) days will be planted with either Seed Mixtures No. 1 or No. 2 to prevent erosion and provide stockpile stabilization.

No Prime Farmland soils will be encountered during the mining operation.

Topsoil Redistribution

Prior to the redistribution of the topsoil, the backfilled areas will be scarified to a depth of three (3) inches if necessary to eliminate surface slippage and to promote root penetration. The topsoil will be redistributed to a uniform thickness by bulldozers. Final grading of the topsoil will be along the contour to create small ridges to slow the velocity of surface water runoff. If necessary, the final topsoil layer will be tilled to a depth of three (3) inches promote root penetration.

- b. If the B and C horizons will be segregated and replaced as subsoil, identify the thickness in inches of the B and C horizons to be removed, segregated and replaced.

Since no prime farmland will be encountered, the B and C soil horizons will not be segregated. All topsoil encountered will be removed and stored for redistribution.

- c. If material other than the B and C horizons will be replaced as subsoil, identify the material and include test results demonstrating that this material will insure revegetation and soil productivity consistent with the postmining land use.

It is not anticipated that material other than the B and C horizons will be needed as subsoil.

Previously Disturbed Areas [§§ 87.68, 87.97]

If an area has been previously disturbed by mining and no topsoil or subsoil is present, identify the material that will be used as the final surface layer and provide a demonstration, including chemical analysis, that the material is capable of supporting the vegetation of the postmining land use.

Although portions of the proposed surface were previously disturbed by mining operations during the late 1960's a sufficient layer of topsoil and/or subsoil has been reestablished in the last 60 years. The areas previously disturbed by mining now have a land use of forestland.