

Guidelines for a Reclamation Plan

Introduction The guidelines provided below are intended to assist holders of Peat Leases in preparing, submitting or updating a reclamation plan. A reclamation plan consists of three basic elements:

- An operational map.
 - A reclamation map.
 - A reclamation report.
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Operational Map

The operational map describes the current land use status and includes:

- The projected maximum extent of the operation.
 - The boundary of the Peat Lease and the perimeter of the peatland
 - Current drainage ditch system, sedimentation ponds, location of infrastructure (roads, buildings, storage areas, and electric power transmission lines), natural areas and conservation zones.
 - Vegetation borrow areas; in the absence of local sources, identification of sources in the report (i.e. another operation or an adjacent natural peatland).
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Reclamation Map

The reclamation map consists of a conceptual presentation of how the site will look after closure, when reclamation activities have been successfully completed.

This includes the following elements:

- The projected position of the 40 cm peat depth contour line at the end of the operations (there is no obligation to maintain a minimum thickness of peat at the end of commercial operations. The 40 cm is only used to delineate areas that may be restored as forest habitat).
- Infrastructure removed.
- Blocked sections of ditch system.
- The outline of sectors to be restored as forest habitat, open water, wetland vegetation, or another form of natural restoration.

The following guidelines may apply:

- Forest habitat: only areas with less than 40 cm of peat may be restored as forest habitat. In restoring a forest habitat, the goal is to establish a forested landscape similar to what is found around peatlands.
- A maximum of 25% of the peatland may be restored as open water area. The percentage may be exceeded in special cases where other options are not possible or impractical

- Sphagnum revegetation following the method developed by the Peatland Ecology Research Group and described in the Peatland Restoration Guide (Quinty and Rochefort, 2003) available at <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/erd/energy/content/minerals/content/Peat.html>

Other options may be considered but any such proposed activity should be compatible with the basic nature of the site which is a wetland.

Reclamation Report

A short report will be prepared to provide or address the following items:

- Geographic setting including PID number of the property, a regional scale map and an aerial photograph showing the location of the operation and the access route.
 - Runoff pattern: the current water dispersal pattern compared to the situation after reclamation. How will closing the site and blocking ditches affect the way water is dispersed? Will the proportion of water draining toward various streams and watersheds change significantly?
 - Life expectancy of the peat extraction operation and a schedule of projected peatland reclamation activities.
 - Description of the methods used to reclaim the former peat extraction site: forestation, open water creation, moss-layer transfer, other revegetation and ditch blocking.
 - Proposed monitoring program to determine the success of the reclamation program.
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