

POLICY NO:	PW 026
POLICY TITLE:	GRAVEL PIT RECLAMATION
DEPARTMENT:	PUBLIC WORKS
APPROVAL DATE:	38-04-14 (April 8, 2014)
REVISION DATE:	
REVIEW DATE:	

Policy Statement:

The County of Vermilion River will reclaim gravel pits to the standard necessary to attain a Reclamation Certificate for larger pits five hectares or more in area or for pits less than five hectares (on private land) to meet the Code of Practice for Pits.

Purpose:

To set out standard processes for gravel pit reclamation

Definitions:

Pit – an opening, excavation or working of the surface or subsurface of the land to remove any sand, gravel, clay or marl. The term includes stockpiles. (As defined in *Alberta’s Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*) Sand and gravel are non-renewable resources used extensively for roads and building materials, often involving land disturbances to create a pit.

Policy:

1. Gravel pits will be reclaimed in accordance with *Alberta Environment Regulations and the Code of Practice for Pits*.
2. Reclamation of gravel pits will commence no later than 2 years 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 on a registered pit or the landowner signs off on unregistered pit.
5. Compensation for reclamation, if required, will be negotiated when the gravel agreement is negotiated with the landowner.
6. The Code of Practice requires the registration holder to consult in writing with all the registered landowners about the proposed revegetation seed mixture or other forms of revegetation material that will be used (Section 5.2.8). Landowners may have specific

species or varieties they wish to be used. They may also be able to provide land management details, such as planned crop rotations or grazing schedules, which will help the registration holder develop a plan.

Calculation of Liability:

Generally the expense is incurred as the gravel is crushed and hauled out of the pit. The allowance will be calculated on a minimum of \$2.00 per tonne crushed.

Some gravel contracts may include the cost of stripping and reclamation in the purchased price of the gravel.