

CHAPTER 22

MINESOIL RECONSTRUCTION

CHAPTER 22

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CHAPTER 22
MINESOIL RECONSTRUCTION

Introduction

This chapter outlines Peabody Western Coal Company's (PWCC) plan for reconstructing mined-land soils and spoil at Black Mesa and Kayenta mines. The plan addresses those reclamation activities that are conducted following the completion of backfilling and grading (Chapter 21) and prior to revegetation (Chapter 23). The objective of the plan is to reconstruct a plant growth medium that is capable of supporting the postmining land uses. The plan objective is achieved by ensuring a minimum of four feet of suitable plant growth material, which includes twelve inches of soil (except for 1- steep slope, cultural planting, key habitat, and main drainage channel reclamation areas where supplemental surface plant growth media or residual soils may be used in the 0 to 1 foot increment to establish certain substrate-specific species, create wildlife habitat, and provide erosionally stable landscapes; 2- pre-permanent program facilities and reclamation areas where six inches of soil replacement were approved by Permit AZ-0001; and 3- N-11 reclamation area where 8 to 9 inches of soil are available for replacement), exists on the surface of graded lands prior to the commencement of revegetation activities. The plan presents an account of the plant growth material requirements based upon current and projected disturbance acreages, and plant growth material availability based on stockpiled material, soil depth mapping, and near-surface overburden assessments. The plan also describes the procedural aspects of removal, storage, and redistribution of soil materials and soil supplements, and testing of spoil material.

For the purpose of this presentation, soil material is defined as suitable topsoil and subsoil proved up in the soil resources studies (Chapter 8). Supplemental material is defined as suitable overburden and spoil. Supplemental surface plant growth medium is defined as suitable overburden and spoil utilized to establish the 0 to 1 foot increment of special reclamation areas including cultural plantings, key habitats, main drainage channels, and steep slopes. Supplemental surface plant growth medium includes native soils, many of which are classified as residual with a high coarse fragment content (e.g., red rock suitable overburden material that is oxidized, fractured, and weathered (scoria)). Toxic- and potentially toxic-forming materials are defined as spoil which could adversely affect plant growth or contribute to toxic levels of elements or compounds in above ground plant parts.

Toxic-forming and potentially toxic-forming materials were identified in the overburden assessment (Chapter 8). Because of the existence of multiple coal seams and non-uniform parting thickness, extreme variability in the lateral and vertical extent of unsuitable overburden strata, and economic considerations, routine special handling of these materials is not feasible. Therefore, PWCC maintains a mined-land soil reconstruction plan that involves handling soil material and suitable supplements rather than potentially toxic or toxic-forming materials. The intent is to identify areas of graded spoil that exhibit unsuitable characteristics and bury them with adequate amounts of the best available suitable materials.

Over the past 15 years, PWCC has developed a site-specific soil, spoil, and overburden sampling program to accurately maintain a dynamic inventory of plant growth material requirements and availability. This program is based upon the sampling of graded spoil to determine how much topsoil, residual soil, supplemental material, or supplemental surface plant growth medium will be needed prior to revegetation. The suitability and approximate volume of available soil material (in storage and in-place) is known. The suitability and estimated volumes of suitable supplements, including residual soils is also known. Overburden and spoil piles are occasionally sampled to further delineate the volumes and locations of supplements. This sampling program allows PWCC to track the availability of both soil material and supplemental material on an ongoing basis. The program enables PWCC to determine the amount of material needed prior to revegetation via the graded spoil sampling plan, and where to obtain the material.

PWCC removes and stores available soil material in sufficient quantities needed to cover all disturbances (with exception of special reclamation areas, the N-11 mining area, and interim program disturbance areas) with twelve inches of soil. After grading is completed in a given unit of grading advance, a graded spoil sampling program is used to identify the volume of soil, soil supplements, supplemental surface plant growth medium, or residual soil needed in the area to bury unsuitable spoils. Soil and soil supplements (if needed) are then salvaged and redistributed on the basis of the graded spoil sampling results. The collection of ongoing sampling data to identify both unsuitable graded spoils and suitable soil supplements enables PWCC to maintain a dynamic inventory of available (in stockpile and in-place) and required plant growth material. These inventories are updated and balanced no less than once annually. In this manner, an adequate inventory of suitable plant growth media is maintained to meet reclamation requirements prior to revegetation.

Plant Growth Media Requirements and Availability

This section presents an estimate of the volume of plant growth material that is required and available for reclamation. The accounts consider both the current and future requirements and availability because the Black Mesa mining complex has been in operation for several years. Soil and supplemental material availability is considered first, followed by the requirements.

Soil in Stockpiles. Tables 5, 8 thru 11, and 13 presented later in this chapter, list the total estimated volume of soil material in stockpile as of January 1, 2002. The storage volumes are sub-totaled by each active mining area and individual stockpile in the Reclamation Status and Monitoring Report submitted to OSMRE annually. Terra-Matrix Montgomery Watson used cross-sectional area survey techniques in August 1997 to determine soil volumes for stockpiles. Subsequently, volume changes have been updated using scraper load count information. The estimated volume of material in storage as of January 1, 2002 is 6,651 acre-feet. Stockpile locations are shown on the Mine Plan Map, Drawing 85210.

Near-Surface Overburden. An assessment of the near-surface overburden is performed to identify suitable material in each active mining area and future development areas should it be needed as soil material supplements. This assessment is performed using the physical and chemical analysis results on the shallow and deep overburden cores drilled in each mining area (see Appendix B, Volume 12). Table 1 presents the results of the assessment of near-surface overburden that meets the limits for suitable supplemental material. Suitability criteria, presented later in Table 17 of this chapter, are used for the near-surface overburden assessments. Table 2 presents the estimated volumes of suitable near-surface overburden available in each mining area for reclamation. The volumes represent sources of soil supplements that can be used to bury unsuitable graded spoils. The volumes were derived from the average depth data given in Table 2, and the acreages of the mining blocks and coal resource areas in each mining area, delineated on Drawing 85210, Mine Plan Map, remaining to be excavated as of December 15, 2003.

Projected Soil Salvage. Projected soil salvage areas and volumes for the remaining life-of-mine by mine area are determined as follows. Individual soil map units (Drawings 85305A and 85305C) to be disturbed by mining activities are digitized and placed into an ArcInfo GIS database to determine the total affected area. The projected soil disturbance

TABLE 1

Evaluation of Near-Surface Overburden for
Suitable Soil Supplements

| Mining Area | Core Number ⁽¹⁾ | Depth of Suitable Material ft ⁽²⁾ | Criterion Out of Range ^(3,4) |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| J-2 | 30362EO | 38.0 | pH<5.5 |
| J-4 | 30359EO | 10.0 | pH<5.5 |
| J-6 | 30366EO | 49.1 | SAR>20 |
| | 30367EO | 37.0 | SAR>20 |
| | Average | 43.0 | |
| J-7 | 23154-C | 11.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 23156-C | 11.6 | Lost Sample |
| | 23158-C* | 4.0 | Lost Sample |
| | Average | 8.9 | |
| J-9 | 30364EO | 44.7 | Coal |
| J-14 | 30360EO | 54.4 | Coal |
| | 30361EO | 0.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | Average | 27.2 | |
| J-15 | 30363EO | 25.3 | Coal |
| J-19 | 24407-C* | 29.3 | ABP<-5 |
| | 24418-C | 22.0 | Coal |
| | 24419-C* | 111.5 | Coal |
| | 24420-C* | 54.3 | SAR>20 |
| | 24423-C | 0.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26275-C | 8.0 | ABP<-5 |
| | 26276-C | 24.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26277-C* | 20.0 | None |
| | 26287-C | 14.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26371-C | 2.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26372-C | 18.0 | pH<5.5 |
| 26373-C | 20.0 | pH<5.5 | |

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Evaluation of Near-Surface Overburden for
Suitable Soil Supplements

| Mining Area | Core Number ⁽¹⁾ | Depth of Suitable Material ft ⁽²⁾ | Criterion Out of Range ^(3,4) |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| J-19 | 26374-C | 18.0 | Coal |
| | 26469-C | 10.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26483-C | 2.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26484-C | 4.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26485-C | 30.0 | None |
| | 26486-C | 10.0 | Lost Sample |
| | 26487-C | 28.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26488-C | 2.0 | ABP<-5 |
| | 26489-C | 0.0 | ABP<-5 |
| | 26495-C | 30.0 | None |
| | 26496-C | 10.0 | Clay>45% |
| | | Average | 20.3 |
| J-21 | 24405-C* | 0.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 24412-C* | 19.9 | pH<5.5 |
| | 24413-C | 9.5 | pH<5.5 |
| | 24415-C* | 18.6 | pH<5.5 |
| | 24416-C* | 14.8 | Coal |
| | 24417-C* | 10.4 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26280-C* | 12.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26286-C | 20.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26288-C | 4.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26289-C | 0.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26377-C* | 20.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26384-C* | 4.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26385-C* | 14.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26386-C | 14.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26387-C | 22.0 | SAR>20 |
| | 26388-C* | 8.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26493-C | 30.0 | None |
| | 26494-C | 8.0 | Clay>45% |
| 26497-C | 8.0 | Clay>45% | |
| | Average | 12.5 | |

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Evaluation of Near-Surface Overburden for
Suitable Soil Supplements

| Mining Area | Core Number ⁽¹⁾ | Depth of Suitable Material ft ⁽²⁾ | Criterion Out of Range ^(3,4) |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| J-23 | 30365EO | 18.3 | Coal |
| J-28 | 23155-C | 4.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 23329-C | 16.8 | Clay>45% |
| | 23330-C | 2.0 | EC>12.0 |
| | 23331-C | 5.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 23332-C | 2.5 | Clay>45% |
| | 23333-C | 10.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 23334-C | 0.0 | Clay>45% |
| | Average | 5.8 | |
| N-6 | 23166-C* | 0.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 24093-C* | 6.9 | pH<5.5 |
| | 24094-C* | 29.6 | pH<5.5 |
| | 24095-C* | 14.8 | pH<5.5 |
| | 24099-C | 0.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 24400-C* | 21.4 | Coal |
| | 24401-C | 28.0 | Ses>0.26ppm |
| | 24402-C | 0.0 | Clay>45% |
| | Average | 12.6 | |
| N-9 | 30355EO | 30.2 | Coal |
| | 30356EO | 12.9 | pH<5.5 |
| | 30357EO | 26.2 | Coal |
| | 30358EO | 72.4 | ABP<-5 |
| | Average | 35.4 | |
| N-10 | 21099-C* | 8.4 | ABP<-5 |
| | 21100-C* | 7.1 | pH<5.5 |
| | 21101-C* | 19.5 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26530-C | 0.0 | pH<5.5 |

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Evaluation of Near-Surface Overburden for
Suitable Soil Supplements

| Mining Area | Core Number ⁽¹⁾ | Depth of Suitable Material ft ⁽²⁾ | Criterion Out of Range ^(3,4) |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| N-10 | 26531-C | 12.0 | ABP<-5 |
| | 26532-C | 4.0 | Clay>45% |
| | 26533-C | 6.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26534-C | 26.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 30354EO | 20.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | Average | 11.4 | |
| N-11 | 26272-C | 0.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26364-C* | 28.8 | pH<5.5 |
| | 26463-C* | 42.7 | Coal |
| | Average | 23.8 | |
| N-99 | 30351EO | 75.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 30352EO | 26.1 | pH<5.5 |
| | 30353EO | 56.0 | ABP<-5 |
| | 30368EO | 56.5 | ABP<-5 |
| | 30369EO | 40.0 | pH<5.5 |
| | 30370EO | 56.4 | Coal |
| | 30381EO | 24.8 | pH<5.5 |
| | Average | 47.8 | |

(1) For sample site location, see Drawings 85613 and 85613A, Volume 23.

(2) Asterisked cores are cores where topsoil materials will be salvaged and the probable depths of salvage have been subtracted from the determination.

(3) For overburden analyses, see Appendix B, Volume 12.

(4) Diagnostic criteria and limits for suitable material are based upon maximum threshold limits presented in Table 17 later in this chapter.

TABLE 2

Volumes of Suitable Overburden
 Available in the Mining Areas for Reclamation ⁽¹⁾

| Mining Area | Mining Disturbance (Acres) | Mean Depth of Suitable Material (ft) | Volume of Suitable Material (ac-ft) |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| J-2 | 387 | 38.0 | 14,706 |
| J-4 | 231 | 10.0 | 2,310 |
| J-6 | 748 | 43.0 | 32,164 |
| J-7 | 118 | 8.9 | 1,050 |
| J-9 | 222 | 47.7 | 10,589 |
| J-14 | 668 | 27.2 | 18,170 |
| J-15 | 340 | 25.3 | 8,602 |
| J-19 | 1,991 | 20.3 | 40,417 |
| J-21 | 1,919 | 12.5 | 23,988 |
| J-23 | 1,311 | 18.3 | 23,991 |
| J-28 | 429 | 5.8 | 2,488 |
| N-6 | 612 | 12.6 | 7,711 |
| N-9 | 1,279 | 35.4 | 45,277 |
| N-10 | 909 | 11.4 | 10,363 |
| N-11 | 82 | 23.8 | 1,952 |
| N-99 | 2,648 | 47.8 | 126,574 |
| Total | 13,894 | 26.6 | 370,352 |

⁽¹⁾ Mean depths of suitable material are from Table 1. The mining disturbance area for each pit is delineated on Drawing 85210, Mine Plan Map.

boundaries for the life-of-mine area are determined by referencing the Jurisdictional Permit and Affected Lands Map (Drawing 85360). Projected soil volumes are determined by multiplying each affected soil map unit area by the respective mean salvage thickness. The soil salvage thickness, shown on Drawings 85305B and 85305C, are based upon the results of the Order 1 and 2 soil survey information presented in Chapter 8. The quantity of soil available to be salvaged in each pit area is presented in Tables 3 through 16 of this chapter. About 13,961 acre-feet of soil remain to be salvaged (projected soil volume) as of January 1, 2002 in the life-of-mine active mining disturbance areas. About 43,947 acre-feet of soil is available for salvage in the life-of-mine development areas.

Existing Disturbance Areas. The post-law disturbance area, as of January 1, 2002, for the entire Black Mesa mining complex by mining area is presented later in Tables 5, 8 thru 11, 13, and 14 of this chapter. This acreage represents the current plant growth material liability area for the leasehold. These liability areas include the existing disturbance area surrounding the active pits, non-permanent roads, and facilities. An additional 969 acres at the Black Mesa and Kayenta Mines are under sediment ponds. This acreage is not included in the total soil material liability area because the ponds will either be reclaimed and surface-dressed using site-specific materials or retained to compliment the postmine land use (see Chapter 23). The existing dam embankment material, upstream alluvium, and trapped sediments (if they meet the soil suitability criteria) will be used as surface dressing to reclaim the sediment ponds. An additional 363 acres are under existing soil storage piles located on native ground. This acreage is not included in the total liability area because the original ground surface will be re-exposed upon removal of the stockpiles. Lastly, certain proposed permanent roads (278 acres) will not receive any soil because they will be retained for access to residences and grazing lands.

Based upon the redistribution depth requirements in Permits AZ-0002A and AZ-0001D, post July 1990 disturbances at the N-14 and J-16 mining areas, and all disturbances at the J-19 and J-21 mining areas (excluding special reclamation areas) must be covered with a minimum of one foot of plant growth material. A 8- to 9-inch minimum-average replacement thickness of soil is proposed for the N-11 mining area. Based upon the redistribution depth requirement in Permit AZ-0001, all remaining disturbances must be covered with a minimum of 0.5 feet of material. The minimum volume of soil material required for reclamation over the entire liability area is 4,818 acre-feet and there are 6,651 acre-feet of soil stockpiled as of January 2002 (Tables 5, 8 thru 11, 13, and 14). Thus, sufficient soil material exists in stockpile to meet all reclamation requirements, as of

TABLE 3

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the Black Mesa
 Mine J-2 and J-4 Disturbance Areas
 (As of November 21, 2003)

J-2 Disturbance Area

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 903 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 2,391 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 14,706 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 2.65 feet |
| (2,391 acre-feet/903 acres) An excess of 1,488 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |

J-4 Disturbance Area

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 524 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 822 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 2,310 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 1.57 feet |
| (822 acre-feet/524 acres) An excess of 298 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |

TABLE 4

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the Black Mesa
 Mine J-6 and J-8 Disturbance Areas
 (As of November 21, 2003)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>J-6 Disturbance Area</u> | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 1,217 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 2,483 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 32,164 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 2.04 feet |
| (2,483 acre-feet/1,217 acres) An excess of 1,266 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| <u>J-8 Disturbance Area</u> | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 733 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 1,665 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 2.27 feet |
| (1,665 acre-feet/733 acres) An excess of 932 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |

TABLE 5

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Disturbance Planning Summaries for the
 Black Mesa Mine J-7 Disturbance Area
 (As of January 1, 2002)

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| <u>Disturbance Area Near Existing Pit</u> | = | 322 acres |
| The disturbed area includes the advance grubbed and soil removed area, active pit, last two spoil piles, gradable area, ramps, and final graded land. The soil stockpiles (37 acres) and ponds (168 acres) are not included. | | |
| <u>Road Disturbance Area</u> | = | 167 acres |
| Includes haul roads and the J-7/J-27 Black Mesa roads, but does not include 36 acres of permanent roads (see Drawing 85445). | | |
| <u>Facility Disturbance Area</u> | = | 150 acres |
| Includes Black Mesa office, shop, and warehouse areas and coal storage areas. | | |
| <u>Existing Soil Volume</u> | = | 502 acre-feet |
| The volume stored in stockpiles as of January 1, 2002. | | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = | 104 acres |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = | 66 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities. | | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = | 1,050 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | | |
| <u>Permitted Scoria Pit Area</u> | = | 304 acres |
| Includes two separate areas, as shown on Drawing 85360. Disturbed lands will be reclaimed using soil or supplemental plant growth media salvaged from these areas. | | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = | 0.76* feet |
| (568 acre-feet/743 acres) | | |
| *The minimum-average replacement thickness of soil at J-7 will be 9 inches. Pursuant to Permit AZ-0001, soil replacement thickness on interim disturbance areas is required to be 0.5 feet or greater. | | |
| <u>Soil Required to Reclaim Current Disturbance Area</u> | = | 320 acre-feet |
| ((322 + 167 + 150) acres X 0.5 feet) | | |

TABLE 6

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the Black Mesa
 Mine J-9 and J-10 Disturbance Areas
 (As of November 21, 2003)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>J-9 Disturbance Area</u> | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 474 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 1,539 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 10,589 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 3.25 feet |
| (1,539 acre-feet/474 acres) An excess of 1,065 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>J-10 Disturbance Area</u> | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 432 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 781 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 1.81 feet |
| (781 acre-feet/432 acres) An excess of 349 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |

TABLE 7

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the Black Mesa
 Mine J-14 and J-15 Disturbance Areas
 (As of November 21, 2003)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>J-14 Disturbance Area</u> | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 948 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 1,068 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 18,170 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 1.13 feet |
| (1,068 acre-feet/948 acres) An excess of 120 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| <u>J-15 Disturbance Area</u> | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 729 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 893 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 8,602 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 1.22 feet |
| (893 acre-feet/729 acres) An excess of 164 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |

TABLE 8

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the
 Kayenta Mine J-16 Disturbance Area
 (As of January 1, 2002)

| | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| <u>Disturbance Area Near Existing Pit</u> | = | 1 acre |
| The disturbed area includes final graded land, but does not include 87 acres of ponds and 11 acres of soil stockpiles. | | |
| <u>Road Disturbance Area</u> | = | 72 acres |
| Includes haul roads and the adjacent J-16 Kayenta roads, but does not include 18 acres of permanent roads (see Drawing 85445). | | |
| <u>Facility Disturbance Area</u> | = | 34 acres |
| Includes bucket barn area. | | |
| <u>Existing Soil Volume</u> | = | 105 acre-feet |
| The volume stored in stockpiles as of January 1, 2002 | | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = | 0 acres |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = | 0 acre-feet |
| No additional soil map units will be disturbed by future mining-related activities. | | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = | 0 acre-feet |
| If supplemental material is required based on graded spoil analysis, it will be hauled from nearby graded land or an adjacent mine area. | | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = | 0.98* feet |
| (105 acre-feet/107 acres) | | |
| * Pursuant to Permit AZ-0001, soil replacement thickness on interim disturbance areas is required to be 0.5 feet or greater. | | |
| <u>Soil Required to Reclaim Current Disturbance Area</u> | = | 105 acre-feet |
| ((1 + 72 + 34) acres X 0.98 feet) | | |

TABLE 9

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
Material Planning Summaries for the Kayenta Mine
J-19 Disturbance Area (Includes J-19-West)

(As of January 1, 2002)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>Disturbance Area Near Existing Pit</u> | = 873 acres |
| The disturbed area includes the advance soil removed area, active pit, last two spoil piles, gradable area, ramps, and final graded land. The soil stockpiles (96 acres) and ponds (166 acres) are not included. | |
| <u>Road Disturbance Area</u> | = 194 acres |
| Includes haul roads, the J-19 Kayenta Mine roads, and 50% of the N-1, N-2, N-7, and N-8 Kayenta Mine roads, but does not include 50 acres of permanent roads (see Drawing 85445). | |
| <u>Facility Disturbance Area</u> | = 96 acres |
| Includes J-28 office, shop, warehouse complex, and 50% of the N-1 and N-7/8 conveyor sections. | |
| <u>Existing Soil Volume</u> | = 1,950 acre-feet |
| The volume stored in stockpiles as January 1, 2002 | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 2,330 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 5,541 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 40,417 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | |
| <u>Permitted Scoria Pit Area</u> | = 0 acres |
| No scoria pits are planned outside of the projected pit disturbance area. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 2.02 feet |
| (7,065 acre-feet/3,493 acres) Replacement thickness has been adjusted for 426 acre-feet of soil that will be exported to the N-14 reclamation area. An excess of 3,572 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |
| <u>Soil Required to Reclaim Current Disturbance Area</u> | = 1,163 acre-feet |
| ((873 + 194 + 96) acres X 1.0 feet) | |

TABLE 10

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the
 Kayenta Mine J-21 Disturbance Area
 (As of January 1, 2002)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>Disturbance Area Near Existing Pit</u> | = 898 acres |
| The disturbed area includes the advance grubbed and soil removed area, active pit, last two spoil piles, gradable area, ramps, and final graded land. The soil stockpiles (154 acres) and ponds (197 acres) are not included. | |
| <u>Road Disturbance Area</u> | = 294 acres |
| Includes haul roads, the J-21 and J-28 Kayenta Mine roads, and 50% of the N-1, N-2, N-7 and N-8 Kayenta Mine roads but does not include 76 acres of permanent roads (see Drawing 85445). | |
| <u>Facility Disturbance Area</u> | = 402 acres |
| Includes J-21 explosive storage, J-28 coal handling facilities, and 50% of the N-1 and N-7/8 conveyor sections. | |
| <u>Existing Soil Volume</u> | = 2,983 acre-feet |
| The volume stored in stockpiles as of January 1, 2002 | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 2,437 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area. | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 7,086 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 23,988 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | |
| <u>Permitted Scoria Pit Area</u> | = 117 acres |
| Includes one area as shown on Drawing 85360. Disturbed lands will be reclaimed using soil or supplemental plant growth media salvaged from this area. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 2.50 feet |
| (10,069 acre-feet/4,031 acres) An excess of 6,038 acre-feet of soil based on the 1.0 foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | |
| <u>Soil Required to Reclaim Current Disturbance Area</u> | = 1,594 acre-feet |
| ((898 + 294 + 402) acres X 1.0 feet) | |

TABLE 11

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the
 Black Mesa Mine N-6 Disturbance Area
 (As of January 1, 2002)

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| <u>Disturbance Area Near Existing Pit</u> | = | 874 acres |
| The disturbed area includes the advance grubbed and soil removed area, active pit, last two spoil piles, gradable area, ramps, and final graded land. The soil stockpiles (33 acres) and ponds (204 acres) are not included. | | |
| <u>Road Disturbance Area</u> | = | 222 acres |
| Includes haul roads and the J-3/N-6 Black Mesa roads, but does not include 48 acres of permanent roads (see Drawing 85445). | | |
| <u>Facility Disturbance Area</u> | = | 235 acres |
| Includes Black Mesa Central warehouse, office, and HRC areas, truck storage, explosive storage, J-3 airport, public coal yard, trailer park, and reclamation office. | | |
| <u>Existing Soil Volume</u> | = | 622 acre-feet |
| The volume stored in stockpiles as of January 1, 2002. | | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = | 426 acres |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = | 1,174 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities. | | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = | 7,711 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | | |
| <u>Permitted Scoria Pit Area</u> | = | 140 acres |
| Includes two separate areas, as shown on Drawing 85360. Disturbed lands will be reclaimed using soil or supplemental plant growth media salvaged from these areas. | | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = | 1.02* feet |
| (1,796 acre-feet/1,757 acres) | | |
| *Pursuant to Permit AZ-0001, soil replacement thickness on interim disturbance areas is required to be 0.5 feet or greater. | | |
| <u>Soil Required to Reclaim Current Disturbance Area</u> | = | 655 acre-feet |
| ((874 + 222 + 235) acres X 0.5 feet) | | |

TABLE 12

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the Black Mesa
 Mine N-9 and N-10 Disturbance Areas
 (As of November 21, 2003)

N-9 Disturbance Area

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = | 2,165 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = | 3,299 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = | 45,277 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = | 1.52 feet |
| (3,299 acre-feet/2,165 acres) An excess of 1,134 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | | |

N-10 Disturbance Area

| | | |
|--|---|------------------|
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = | 1,613 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = | 1,637 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = | 10,363 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = | 1.01 feet |
| (1,637 acre-feet/1,613 acres) An excess of 24 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | | |

TABLE 13

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
 Material Planning Summaries for the
 Kayenta Mine N-11 Disturbance Area
 (As of January 1, 2002)

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| <u>Disturbance Area Near Existing Pit</u> | = | 511 acres |
| The disturbed area includes the advance grubbed and soil removed area, active pit, last two spoil piles, gradable area, ramps, and final graded land. The soil stockpiles (32 acres) and ponds (58 acres) are not included. | | |
| <u>Road Disturbance Area</u> | = | 58 acres |
| Includes haul roads and the N-11 Kayenta roads, but does not include 15 acres of permanent roads (see Drawing 85445). | | |
| <u>Facility Disturbance Area</u> | = | 158 acres |
| Includes N-11 coal storage area, adjacent conveyors, and CDK yard. | | |
| <u>Existing Soil Volume</u> | = | 489 acre-feet |
| The volume stored in stockpiles as of January 1, 2002 | | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = | 8 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area. | | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = | 94 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = | 1,952 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | | |
| <u>Permitted Scoria Pit Area</u> | = | 53 acres |
| Includes one area as shown on Drawing 85360. Disturbed lands will be reclaimed using soil or supplemental plant growth media salvaged from this area. | | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = | 0.79* feet |
| (583 acre-feet/735 acres) | | |
| *The minimum-average replacement thickness of soil at N-11 will be 9 inches. | | |
| <u>Soil Required to Reclaim Current Disturbance Area</u> | = | 545 acre-feet |
| ((511 + 58 + 158) acres X 0.75 feet) | | |

TABLE 14

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
Material Planning Summaries for the
Kayenta Mine N-14 Disturbance Area
(As of January 1, 2002)

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>Disturbance Area Near Existing Pit</u> | = 49 acres |
| The disturbed area includes final graded land, but does not include 89 acres of ponds. | |
| <u>Road Disturbance Area</u> | = 135 acres |
| Includes haul roads and adjacent N-14 Kayenta roads, but does not include 35 acres of permanent roads (see Drawing 85445). | |
| <u>Facility Disturbance Area</u> | = 242 acres |
| Includes N-14 explosive storage, lab parking area, and adjacent conveyor areas. | |
| <u>Existing Soil Volume</u> | = 0 acre-feet |
| The volume stored in stockpiles as of January 1, 2002 | |
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = 0 acres |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = 0 acre-feet |
| No additional soil map units will be disturbed by future mining-related activities. | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = 0 acre-feet |
| If material is required based on graded spoil analysis, it will be hauled from nearby graded land or an adjacent mine area. | |
| <u>Permitted Scoria Pit Area</u> | = 54 acres |
| Includes three areas, as shown on Drawing 85360. Disturbed lands will be reclaimed using soil or supplemental plant growth media salvaged from these areas. | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = 0.00* feet |
| (0 acre-feet/426 acres) | |
| *The maximum projected deficit of 426 acre-feet of soil will be transported from existing J-19 soil storage stockpiles. The actual quantity of soil transported will be less than 426 acre-feet since 1) many conveyor and haulroad sideslopes have already been topsoiled, and 2) pursuant to Permit AZ-0001, soil replacement thickness on interim disturbance areas is required to be 0.5 feet or greater. | |
| <u>Soil Required to Reclaim Current Disturbance Area</u> | = 426 acre-feet |
| ((49 + 135 + 242) acres X 1.0 feet | |

TABLE 15

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
Material Planning Summaries for the
Kayenta Mine N-99 and J-28 Disturbance Areas
(As of November 21, 2003)

N-99 Disturbance Area

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------|
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = | 3,883 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = | 4,398 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = | 126,574 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = | 1.13 feet |
| (4,398 acre-feet/3,883 acres) An excess of 515 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | | |

J-28 Disturbance Area

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| <u>Projected Disturbance Area</u> | = | 1,438 acres |
| Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities. | | |
| <u>Projected Soil Volume</u> | = | 4,183 acre-feet |
| Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine. | | |
| <u>Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume</u> | = | 2,488 acre-feet |
| Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2. | | |
| <u>Mean Soil Replacement Thickness</u> | = | 2.91 feet |
| (4,183 acre-feet/1,438 acres) An excess of 2,745 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material. | | |

TABLE 16

Soil Salvage Volume and Supplemental Plant Growth
Material Planning Summaries for the
Black Mesa Mine J-23 Disturbance Areas
(As of November 21, 2003)

J-23 Disturbance Area

Projected Disturbance Area = 2,496 acres

Includes entire life-of-mine area including pits, roads, and facilities.

Projected Soil Volume = 4,827 acre-feet

Includes only those soil map units that will be disturbed by mining-related activities over the life-of-mine.

Supplemental Plant Growth Material Volume = 23,991 acre-feet

Supplemental material available for special handling or reclamation of additional facilities based on graded spoil analyses as listed in Table 2.

Mean Soil Replacement Thickness = 1.93 feet

(4,827 acre-feet/2,496 acres) An excess of 2,331 acre-feet of soil, based on the 1.0-foot replacement thickness required by Permit AZ-0001D, is available for use as supplemental material.

January 2002, on the leasehold. Excess soil will be used as supplemental material for covering and burying unsuitable spoil.

Projected Disturbance Areas. Tables 3 through 16 present projected disturbance area statistics for the life-of-mine Mine Plan. Approximately 22,508 acres are expected to be disturbed and 43,947 acre feet of soil are projected to be salvaged. This total includes: (1) land to be disturbed for the first time as a result of the life-of-mine Mine Plan; (2) lands disturbed as a result of existing Mine Plans (redisturbance); and (3) pre-December 16, 1977 land disturbance that will be redisturbed. By dividing the total volume of soil to be salvaged by the projected disturbance area, it can be seen that 1.9 feet of soil is available for future reclamation purposes on the leasehold. When the volumes of suitable soil supplements are considered (Table 2), it can be seen that a sufficient amount of suitable plant growth media is available to reconstruct mined-land soils that meet the objectives of the minesoil reconstruction plan.

Plant Growth Material Summaries by Pit Area. Tables 3 through 16 present soil and supplemental plant growth material planning summaries for each respective mining area. The tables present: (1) volume of soil material in storage; (2) the projected soil salvage areas and soil volume for the remaining areas to be disturbed; (3) existing disturbance areas, including roads and facilities, requiring soil replacement; (4) excess soil available for use as supplemental material; (5) mean soil replacement thickness values; and (6) supplemental plant growth material volumes (from Table 2). The information given in the tables demonstrates that adequate plant growth materials are available, and will be salvaged and replaced to achieve reconstructed minesoil productivity consistent with the postmining land uses in each disturbance area.

The soil and supplemental plant growth material planning summaries (Tables 5, 8 thru 11, 13, and 14) for the active mining areas indicate an excess of about 9,610 acre-feet of soil is available for special handling and use for supplemental material. The J-7, N-6, N-11, N-14, and J-16 areas have little to no available excess soil available for use as supplemental material. In contrast, the J-19 and J-21 areas have 3,500 to 6,000 acre-feet of soil available for use as supplemental material. This excess soil will be used with supplemental suitable overburden material (Table 2) to cover unsuitable spoil with a minimum of four feet of suitable plant growth medium. All facilities will be reclaimed according to the provisions of the minesoil reconstruction and revegetation plans outlined

in this and the succeeding chapter. The location of these facilities may be found on Drawing 85360 (Volume 20).

The soil and supplemental plant growth material planning summaries for the future life-of-mine development areas (Tables 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, 15, and 16) indicate an excess of about 12,431 acre-feet of soil is available for special handling and use for supplemental material. The J-4, J-10, J-14, J-15, N-10, and N-99 areas have little to no available excess soil available for use as supplemental material. In contrast, the J-2, J-6, J-8, J-9, N-9, J-23, and J-28 areas have 900 to 2,700 acre-feet of soil available for use as supplemental material. This excess soil will be used with supplemental suitable overburden material (Table 2) to cover unsuitable spoil with a minimum of four feet of suitable plant growth medium.

The projected soil replacement volumes and replacement thickness listed in Tables 3 through 16 will vary depending upon the amount and availability of plant growth material needed to bury unsuitable graded spoils. In all cases except the existing N-11 mining area or other interim disturbance areas, a minimum-average of twelve inches of soil will be redistributed on the reclaimed spoils unless specific substrates are being reconstructed for shrub and tree establishment, wildlife habitat, or reduced erosion potential (see Steep Slope, Cultural Planting, Key Habitat, and Main Drainage Channel discussion presented in the "Special Purpose Reclamation Areas" section of this chapter). Insufficient soil is available at N-11 to meet the minimum-average twelve-inch thickness. The minimum-average replacement thickness of soil at N-11 will be 8 to 9 inches while all interim disturbance areas will receive 0.5 feet or more of soil as required by Permit AZ-0001.

It appears from Tables 5, 8 thru 11, 13, and 14 that an excess 9,610 acre-feet of soil will remain in stockpile after reclamation of all projected mining disturbances. However, the graded spoil sampling program is used to identify the actual volumes of soil, supplemental material, supplemental surface plant growth media, and residual soils needed to meet redistribution requirements. A dynamic inventory is maintained of available and required plant growth material. Logically, as mining approaches completion in a given area, the inventory of stockpiled soil is adjusted to ensure that little or no excess material remains in stockpile. Should excess soil remain in stockpile after mining is completed in a given area, the excess will be redistributed on the final reclamation to achieve an approximately uniform, stable thickness consistent with the approved postmining land use, contours, and surface-water drainage systems.

The maximum uniform depth of soil that could potentially be redistributed at each mining area varies from slightly less than a foot to over two feet. PWCC intends to bury unsuitable spoils with a minimum of four feet of suitable plant growth material. The available soil in each mining area is not sufficient to cover the liability areas if the very conservative assumption is made that all graded spoils are unsuitable at the surface. Suitable supplements and residual soils will be used to augment the soil material.

Highwall and Spoil Sampling Plan

Considerable supplemental plant growth material has been identified ahead of the highwall in each mining area as inventoried in Tables 1 and 2. Should any of this overburden material be needed for reclamation, it will be sampled to determine suitability for redistribution on graded spoil prior to handling unless the quality has been established from previous sampling activity.

In-place overburden will be sampled using a core drill. The drilling and sampling methods and procedures will follow those used to obtain overburden impact cores or chip samples (Chapter 4). Suitability criteria and analysis procedures will be the same as those used to sample graded spoils (see Material Redistribution Plan section of this chapter). Dozers, trucks and front-end loaders/shovels, or scrapers will handle in-place overburden used as a source of supplemental material.

Spoil piles and rough graded spoil to be used as a source of supplemental material will also be sampled prior to moving materials. Suitable material may be used in situations where the graded spoil to be buried is in close proximity to the suitable borrow area. Dozers, trucks and front-end loaders/shovels, or scrapers will be used to move spoil identified as suitable. Suitability criteria and analysis procedures will be the same as those used to sample graded spoils. Records from highwall and spoil sampling will be kept on file at the mine site.

Material Salvage Plans

Site Clearing Procedures. Prior to soil removal, dozers or other suitable equipment, clear the area of large vegetation material consisting primarily of pinyon and juniper trees. The vegetation debris removed in the clearing process is placed at locations that will not interfere with mining operations. Local residents utilize a majority of the woody material for firewood. The remainder is either piled at the edges of mining areas

to provide cover and nesting habitat for wildlife, or buried during the mining operations so as not to cause a stability hazard. Clearing activities are conducted throughout the year. Maximum clearing distances are given in Attachment 22-1.

Soil Removal Procedures. Soil is removed a maximum of 1,500 feet in advance of mining operations in each pit (see Attachment 22-1 for justification). Other mine support facilities such as, but not limited to, sediment ponds, soil stockpiles, powerlines, substation sites, access roads, storage yards, environmental monitoring sites, and deadhead routes located in the mine plan areas that may require site clearing and/or soil removal activities isolated from the main advance disturbance areas are not considered part of the specifications in Attachment 22-1. These isolated activities are permitted and limited to Category I or II disturbance areas shown on the Bonding Map, Drawing No. 89800. However, advance soil removal distances may be less at times in each pit due to ground conditions, equipment availability, operating room constraints, and material requirements. Soil is normally removed from March to November, or in other months if mining conditions warrant and weather conditions permit.

Once the soil investigation and site clearing are complete, the soil scientist reviews the depositional and areal extent of the soil that is to be removed with foremen and reclamation personnel who will be supervising the soil removal operation. The foreman and reclamation supervisors are qualified and trained to evaluate various field observation tests, including soil color, rooting depth, sand and clay content, rock fragment content, and weathered bedrock. In areas where extensive material exists, the soil scientist, foreman, and/or reclamation personnel observes the soil removal operation on a frequent basis to assure that material is recovered without being contaminated by extraneous soil materials. In areas with thin depositions of soil or where soil recovery may be complicated or difficult, the soil scientist, foreman, and/or reclamation personnel may stake depths of soil to be recovered based on site-specific conditions and their professional judgment, or continuously monitor the soil removal operation.

Once the planning, instruction, and pre-removal investigations are completed, the soil is removed by scrapers or other earthmoving equipment and redistributed or transported to a soil storage area. In final pit highwall reduction and first pit boxcut spoil areas, at pond construction sites, along pioneering road corridors, at terrace or drowndrain sites, along ramp/road final reclamation parcels, and for interfacing/blending final graded areas with topsoiled parcels, soil removed by dozers and/or graders will be pushed outside the

soil disturbance area and stored temporarily (less than one year) in furrows. These furrow areas are not depicted on Drawing 85210. This soil will either be respread over adjacent final graded slopes or will be transported to an approved stockpile site. The soil removal operation is continually checked and supervised by reclamation personnel to assure complete removal of all required soil, and to prevent contamination of that soil by any soils that would not be considered suitable.

Overburden Removal Procedures. Overburden that will be used as soil supplements, and therefore has been delineated based upon sampling, is removed in much the same manner as soil. Soil supplements may be handled throughout the year. Once the planning, instruction, and pre-removal investigations are complete, the overburden is drilled and blasted or ripped, depending on its degree of induration or lifted undisturbed if non-indurated, and moved to the redistribution site. Soil supplements are typically not stockpiled; however, if the need arises, such stockpiles will be designated and shown on the Mine Plan Map, Drawing 85210. The removal and redistribution processes are supervised by reclamation personnel.

Suitable rough-graded spoil and spoil piles that will be used as soil supplements are moved using dozers, trucks and front-end loaders/shovels, or scrapers. The equipment to be used is determined by the amount of material and distance the material must be moved. Spoil may be handled throughout the year.

Proof of Salvage. Proof of salvage activities are used to document the volume of soil and soil supplements salvaged for reclamation.

The soil survey and soil depth maps are utilized to determine areas where suitable soil exist. The results of the highwall sampling plan are used to determine areas where suitable supplemental material exists. The salvage depths and actual yardage removed (based on equipment load counts) are usually recorded. The soil scientist and/or qualified reclamation personnel periodically observe and occasionally record salvage depths of cut banks and soil islands on topographic base maps or photographs. As the materials are being removed, a generic photo is sometimes taken to show the profile and depth of the soil being removed. The records thus obtained are cross-referenced to the soil depth maps and sampling data. The photographic record, and the volume and location information is prepared by or under the supervision of qualified reclamation personnel. Records are kept on file for inspection and reference at the mine site.

Soil Stockpiling Plans

Soil stockpile sites for each mining area are shown on Drawing 85210. Proposed piles for each pit area have been assigned a "pit area-XX" or "pit area-LP" designation on Drawing 85210. Identification numbers will be assigned sequentially by the field reclamation supervisor or soil scientist as the piles are constructed.

Soil stockpile locations are selected collectively by the reclamation, operations, and engineering departments. The criteria used in the selection process are:

1. Stockpiles must be located in areas that will not interfere with the mining operation;
2. Stockpiles are placed within the lease, permit, and projected disturbance boundaries;
3. Stockpiles are located as close as possible to salvage and redistribution sites; and
4. Stockpiles are located in stable areas where wind and water erosion, and contamination are minimized.

If it is necessary to move a stockpile without redistributing the stored materials on graded spoils, regulatory authorities are contacted for approval prior to disturbance of the stockpiles.

Soil stockpiles will at times be located on final graded spoil to:

1. Keep the stockpiles as close as possible to the salvage and redistribution areas;
2. Keep the piles out of future coal recovery areas;
3. Prevent the piles from being relocated; and
4. Minimize projected disturbance areas.

Soil stockpiles that are or will be located on final graded spoil are identified and shown on Drawing 85210. Stockpiles will be located in stable areas and the spoil will be graded according to the Surface Stabilization Plan criteria in Chapter 26. The spoil at the stockpile sites will be sampled for suitability using methods described in the Graded Spoil Sampling Plan section of this chapter.

Stockpile sites located on final graded spoil will be reclaimed using methods described in the Material Redistribution Plans section of this chapter. Soil will not be mixed with spoil during reclamation because an abrupt smooth boundary occurs at the interface between these materials. The soil/spoil interface is easily identified by an abrupt color change, texture or grain size difference, change in consistency, and/or the presence of coal, scoria, sandstone, or shale chips in the spoil medium. Sufficient soil will remain in the stockpile during reclamation to blend the site with the surrounding soiled areas, and to adequately cover spoil as described in the Material Redistribution Plans section of this chapter.

Stockpile dimensions, slopes, and volumes vary based upon total salvage volumes, the configuration of the stockpile location site, equipment ingress and egress routes, and proximity to access roads. Within these constraints, PWCC typically constructs stockpiles that are oblong in shape with a rounded cross section. Short and long axis side slopes are typically restricted to a maximum 4:1 slope. The long axes of the stockpiles are oriented with prevailing wind patterns to minimize wind erosion when possible within terrain restrictions. The profiles of the stockpiles are kept as low as possible within the slope and volume constraints.

Pursuant to 30 CFR 816.22(c)(2)(iii), topsoil stockpiles will be protected from wind and water erosion using effective conservation practices including either or a combination of vegetation establishment, ripping or tillage to create surface roughness, mulching, berms, ditches, sediment traps, and alternate barriers such as hay bales and silt fence. Wind and water erosion is minimized by surface roughness and/or establishing a vegetation cover on the stockpiles (Chapter 23). Stockpiles that will remain in place less than one year will be ripped or otherwise have the surface roughened to protect the soil against wind and water erosion. Stockpiles that will remain in place for more than one year are seeded with the soil stockpile stabilization mix. This mix is comprised of quick establishing perennial species. The stockpiles are then mulched at a rate of 2.0 tons per acre to provide stabilization in the interim between seeding and plant cover establishment.

Berms, ditches, and/or sediment traps will be constructed and maintained around the perimeter of the stockpile, when necessary, to minimize the loss of stockpiled material resulting from surface water runoff on the stockpile and from adjacent terrain. These berms, ditches, sediment traps, and/or alternate barriers will be constructed or placed to retain the material at the stockpile site or to divert water away from the stockpile. Berms, ditches, and/or sediment traps will be constructed from material located near the stockpile site and may consist of soil, weathered overburden, and/or spoil. Small temporary earthen ditches and berms or an alternate barrier such as hay bales or a geotextile fabric such as silt fence will be used. The typical ditch would be a minimum of one foot deep with asymmetrical side slopes of 1:1 (H:V) and 2:1. Small temporary berms would also be typified by the above ditch dimensions. The lowest practicable longitudinal grades will be maintained. Locations exhibiting a low interception potential for incoming surface water runoff are chosen for soil stockpiles.

The berms, ditches, sediment traps, and/or alternate barriers will typically only be constructed and maintained where stockpiles are located on steep slopes, where vegetation establishment is delayed, where runoff from the pile is not routed through a sediment pond, or where runoff will displace soil to a potential contamination or loss area (pit, ramp, haul roads, etc.). Berms, ditches, sediment traps, and/or alternate barriers will often not be used or maintained around the perimeter of those stockpiles where the vegetation cover has been adequately established or on short duration, low profile, narrow linear piles located between final graded spoil and recently topsoiled areas. This latter type of soil stockpile is very short-term, meaning it will be respread over the final graded spoil during the next favorable seeding season. The footprint of this type of stockpile is not static, but will progress forward in unison with the existing pit. Therefore, the exact centerpoint location may not always be depicted on the Mine Plan Map, Drawing 85210. Wind and water erosion will be minimized by the shape, location, surface roughness, and life expectancy of this pile. Additionally, displaced soil, if any, will be deposited either on final graded spoil or recently topsoiled areas, thereby preventing any soil loss or contamination. This type of pile will not be bermed, seeded, or mulched.

Final protection measures for soil stockpiles include fencing and sign placement. When necessary, soil stockpiles are fenced to limit disturbance of the stockpiled material, protect the vegetation, and prevent compaction and contamination. Identification sign(s) (see Chapter 25) are placed in a prominent location(s) around the stockpiles. Mine

personnel are instructed that soil stockpiles are not to be disturbed or contaminated. The signs serve as continuing reminders to personnel that stockpile areas are to be preserved and not disturbed.

Material Redistribution Plans

Graded Spoil Sampling and Analysis Plans. Following the completion of grading within logical reclamation units and often prior to redistribution of soil and supplemental material, the graded spoil in all mining areas is sampled to identify the extent and nature of unsuitable materials. The spoil is sampled using a grid pattern with 330-foot centers. At each sample point on the grid, spoil samples are collected to a minimum depth of three feet. Representative samples are collected by or under the supervision of the soil scientist at the 0 to 1 and 1 to 3 foot intervals using conventional sampling techniques. The qualified field sampler also inspects the surface-spoil between grid points. If a significant change in the spoil characteristics is found between grid points, additional sample sites are located accordingly.

The parameters and criteria used to evaluate spoil suitability are given in Table 17 and Figure 1. The parameters and criteria are based upon the characteristics of the overburden found in the sampling program (Chapter 8) and spoil quality as identified by postmine soil-spoil pedon data and final graded spoil data (PCC, 1988 and PWCC, 1993-2003). The list represents those characteristics of the Black Mesa overburden and spoil that are likely to be deleterious to plant growth. Analyses will be performed in the field, at the mining complex, or at an independent soil lab. Field, laboratory, and quality control procedures are presented in Table 18.

The following special criteria are applicable for boron, selenium, and SAR evaluations. The hot-water-soluble boron (HWS-B) analysis will only be included in the analytical suite for future soil and overburden baseline assessments where there is no existing HWS-B data, spoil collected from the N10 reclamation area, and future reclamation areas where problem levels of HWS-B have been identified in the overburden. Problem levels of HWS-B shall be defined by mixing criteria established by Dollhopf et al. (1978). HWS-B will be included on the parameter list for spoil whenever unsuitable HWS-B levels comprise more than 5 percent of the associated premine overburden section. In all instances, HWS-B will only

TABLE 17

Maximum Threshold Limits for Evaluating
Recently Graded Spoil at the Black Mesa Mining Complex⁽¹⁾

| Parameter | Major Root Zone (Subsoil-Spoil) 0 to 1 feet | Minor Root Zone (Substratum-Spoil) 1 to 3 feet |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| pH (sat.paste) | >8.8 | >9.0 |
| | <5.5 | <4.5 |
| EC(mmhos/cm) | >12.0 | >12.0 |
| SAR | | |
| <20% clay | >25 | >40 ⁽²⁾ |
| 20-35% clay | >20 | >35 ⁽²⁾ |
| >35% clay | >16 | >25 ⁽²⁾ |
| Texture | | |
| Clay % | >45 | >45 |
| Rock Fragments % ⁽³⁾ | | |
| >2 mm (by volume) | >65 | >75 |
| >3 inch (by volume) | >35 | >40 |
| Calcium Carbonate | | |
| Equivalent % ⁽³⁾ | >30 | >30 |
| Acid-based potential ⁽⁴⁾ | | |
| (ABP) | <0 if pH<6.0 <-5 if pH>6.0 | <-5 |
| Boron, ppm ⁽⁵⁾ | >10 | >10 |
| Selenium, ppm ⁽⁶⁾ | | |
| Total (Set) | >2.5 | >2.5 |
| Hot Water Soluble (Ses) | >0.26 | >0.26 |
| AB-DTPA (See) | >0.31 | >0.31 |

TABLE 17 (Continued)

Maximum Threshold Limits for Evaluating

Recently Graded Spoil at the Black Mesa Mining Complex⁽¹⁾

- (1) Parameters and maximum threshold limits are based on OSMRE (1998) and site-specific justification documents that PWCC submitted to OSMRE in September 1998, November 1998, January 1999, February 1999, January 2000, and August 2001.
- (2) Suitable maximum SAR values for the minor root zone substratum spoil must be in the slight to no reduction zone of the infiltration hazard classes adapted from Ayers and Westcott (1989) as shown in Figure 1.
- (3) These suitability criteria are used only for the 0 to 1 and 1 to 3 foot increments of special reclamation areas including steep slopes, key habitats, cultural plantings, and main drainage channels where supplemental surface plant growth media are used.
- (4) Units are tons calcium carbonate equivalent per 1000 tons of material. Suitability levels based upon correspondence from OSMRE (August 6, 1987). The acid potential must be calculated from pyritic sulfur as specified in the New Mexico guidelines.
- (5) The hot water soluble boron analysis will only be included in the analytical suite for future soil and overburden baseline assessment where there is no existing HWS-B data, spoil collected from the N10 reclamation area, and future reclamation areas where problem levels of HWS-B have been identified in the overburden. In all instances, HWS-B will only be determined for very dark gray to black carbonaceous shale and black weathered coal strata.
- (6) The hot water soluble and AB-DTPA extractable selenium analyses and standards will generally be used independently of each other at the BMMC because these two techniques are highly correlated with each other.

Figure 1. Saturated paste electrical conductivity (EC) and SAR relationships for 1989-1998 recent spoil samples from the BMMC. Infiltration hazard classes adapted from Ayers and Westcott (1989).

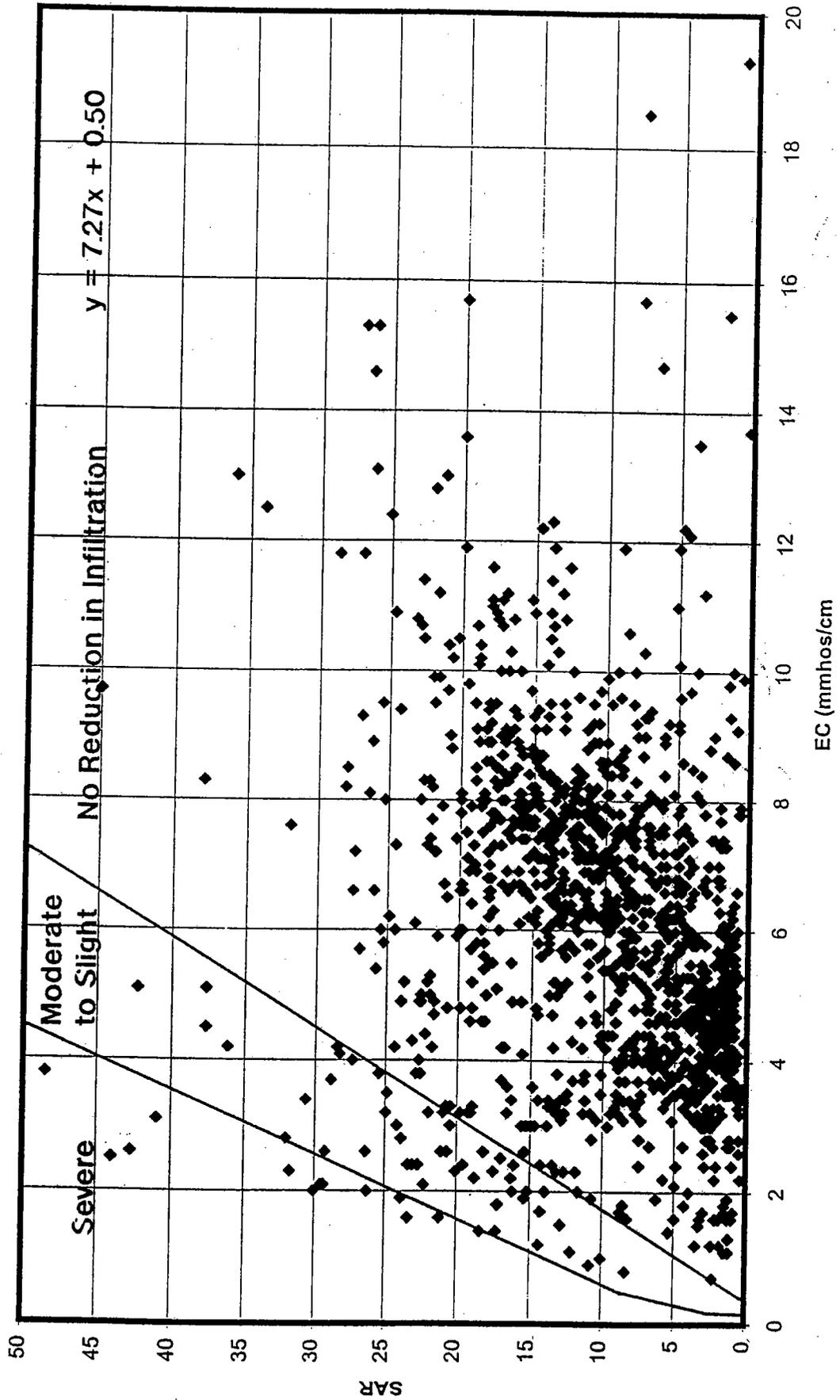


TABLE 18

Parameter, Procedure, and Reference List for Evaluating
Postmine Soil and Spoil Samples⁽¹⁾

| Parameter-Units | Procedure-Reference |
|--|---|
| Preparation of saturated paste and extract | USDA (1969), Methods 2 & 3a, pp.84 & 88. |
| pH (determination using saturated paste) | USDA (1969), Method 21a, p. 102. |
| Conductivity of saturation extract in mmhos/cm at 25°C | Sandoval and Power (1978), Method 1, pp. 22-24. |
| Calcium content in the saturation extract in meq/l | Sandoval and Power (1978), Method 2, pp. 24-26. |
| Magnesium content in the saturation extract in meq/l. | Same as Calcium |
| Sodium content in the saturation extract in meq/l | Same as Calcium |
| SAR | USDA (1969), p. 26 |
| Particle size analysis in % sand, silt & clay | Black (1965), Method 43-5, p 562-566. |
| Textural classification | USDA (1951), p. 209 |
| Acid Potential. Sulfur fractionation in % (determined when ABP is less than 0) | Sobek et al. (1978), Method 3.2.6, p. 60-62. 60 mesh sieve. Acid potential must be calculated from pyritic sulfur as recommended by Sobek et al. (1987), New Mexico MMD (1987) and OSMRE (1988a). |
| Neutralization potential in tons CaCO ³ per acre furrow slice. | Sobek et al. (1978), Method 3.2.3, p. 47-50. 60 mesh sieve. |

TABLE 18 (Continued)

Parameter, Procedure, and Reference List for Evaluating
 Postmine Soil and Spoil Samples⁽¹⁾

| Parameter-Units | Procedure-Reference |
|--|--|
| Acid base potential (ABP) in tons CaCO ³ per acre furrow slice | Smith et al. (1974), p. 48-49. 60 mesh sieve. |
| Visual Features (Field test) | Source rock in spoil materials will be visually assessed for the presence and abundance of pyrite, sulfur, gypsum, carbonaceous material, coal fines, etc. |
| Calcium Carbonate Equivalent ⁽²⁾ (%) | USDA (1969). Method 27a, p. 197 |
| Rock Fragments ⁽²⁾ (% by Volume) | Arbitrary grid and/or transect traverses as recommended by SCS (1971). Method 2.7, p. 2.7-1. |
| Selenium, ppm (Soluble or AB-DTPA extractable) | Soltanpour and Workman (1980) or Black (1965), Method 80-3, p. 1122. Also, Page (1982), Section 3-5.5.4, p. 61. |
| Selenium, ppm (Total) | Page (1982), Method 27-5.2, p. 494-498 and Bajo (1978) |
| Boron ⁽³⁾ , ppm (Soluble) | Black (1965), Method 75.4. EPA 600, Method 200.7 ICP. |

(1) PWCC will also adhere to the following quality assurance and quality control program recommended by OSMRE, 1988b:

The quality assurance and control program will include:

- A. Personnel qualifications.
- B. Detailed collection, storage, and sample preparation procedures.
- C. Laboratory procedures and modifications thereof used by the laboratory with statistical data justifying such modifications.

TABLE 18 (Continued)

Parameter, Procedure, and Reference List for Evaluating
Postmine Soil and Spoil Samples⁽¹⁾

- D. Laboratory equipment with modes of operation, reaction times, response times, recorder speeds, etc.
 - E. Quality control data will include:
 - a. Standard reference materials;
 - b. Duplicate sample results reported with data;
 - c. Referee sample data; and
 - d. Laboratory quality control data, including statistical variability for parameters requested, detection limits, sensitivity values, and concentration ranges of optimum detection.
- (2) Analysis completed only for the 0 to 1 and 1 to 3 foot increments of special reclamation areas including steep slopes, key habitats, cultural plantings, and main drainage channels.
- (3) The hot water soluble boron analysis will only be included in the analytical suite for future soil and overburden baseline assessment where there is no existing HWS-B data, spoil collected from the N10 reclamation area, and future reclamation areas where problem levels of HWS-B have been identified in the overburden. In all instances, HWS-B will only be determined for very dark gray to black carbonaceous shale and black weathered coal strata.

be determined for very dark gray to black carbonaceous shale and black weathered coal strata. HWS-B levels in overburden throughout the BMMC are closely correlated to lithology. The hot water soluble and AB-DTPA extractable selenium analyses and standards will generally be used independently of each other at the BMMC because these two techniques are highly correlated with each other. Suitable maximum SAR values for the minor root zone substratum spoil must be in the slight to no reduction zone of the infiltration hazard class adapted from Ayers and Wescott (1989) as shown in Figure 1.

The criteria in Table 17 will be used to assess suitability of the graded spoils and supplemental surface plant growth media. If one or more parameters fall within the unsuitable range at a given grid point, additional sampling may be conducted at the midpoint between the four surrounding sample sites on the grid. The same sampling procedures used on the grid will be followed. Sampling will continue in this manner (one midpoint sample surrounding the unsuitable gridded sample site) until the real extent of unsuitable material in the reclamation unit is determined. A reduced analysis list, comprised of parameters that fall within the unsuitable range, will often be used at these phase 2 inter-sample sites that were selectively placed between 330-foot grid locations to verify spoil suitability. Unsuitable areas will be staked at the next adjacent suitable sample site to identify the problem area and provide an adequate margin between unsuitable and suitable material.

On graded spoils that are determined to be suitable in all respects, twelve inches of soil will be redistributed except the existing N-11 mining area, interim disturbance and reclamation areas, and special reclamation areas requiring substrate-specific species. A topdressing of soil will often not be applied in special reclamation areas including key habitats, steep slopes, cultural plantings, or main drainage channels where the supplemental surface plant growth media are determined to be suitable in all respects. This will result in a minimum of four feet of suitable plant growth media for revegetation.

The thickness of suitable material that will be redistributed on areas determined to have unsuitable spoil characteristics will be based upon the depth at which unsuitable materials were encountered. For example, if sampling identified a five-acre area that has unsuitable characteristics in the 1 to 3 foot sample increment, the entire area will be covered with a minimum of three feet of suitable material. If an area is encountered where the depth to unsuitable material is variable and it is impractical because of size

to stake subareas for suitable material redistribution, the entire area will be covered with that quantity of suitable material required by the shallowest unsuitable interval encountered in the final graded spoil. It is not necessary to resample the redistributed supplements to verify suitability prior to redistribution of soil materials because the material was sampled and determined to be suitable prior to salvage.

Graded spoils that are determined to be unsuitable will be covered with soil or a combination of suitable overburden, supplemental surface plant growth media (in special reclamation areas including key habitats, steep slopes, cultural plantings, and main drainage channels), and soil. The relative amounts of each kind of material that will be used will be determined based on haulage distance, the need for rehandling or special handling, topographic position, postmine land use, substrate-specific specie requirements, and the availability of materials. In most situations, PWCC expects to use suitable supplemental material for burial followed by an application of twelve inches of soil. In situations where supplemental material is not available, soil will be used. The potentially available volume of supplemental material is addressed elsewhere in this plan. In every case except the existing N-11 mining area, and interim disturbance/reclamation areas, a minimum-average of twelve inches of soil material will be used as a surface treatment unless residual soils and supplemental surface plant growth media are being utilized in key habitats, cultural plantings, and steep slopes, and a minimum total depth of 4 feet of suitable material will be redistributed for revegetation. Suitable supplemental material will be used to reconstruct the subsoil when available. Insufficient soil is available at N-11 to meet the minimum twelve-inch average depth. An approximate average of 8 to 9 inches of soil will be redistributed in this mining area. The interim disturbance/reclamation areas will receive 0.5 feet of soil or more as required by Permit AZ-0001.

PWCC will maintain records of the sampling results for each logical reclamation unit. Soil and topsoil supplement redistribution depth requirements will be mapped using 1" = 400' aerial photography following the completion of sampling. These records will be kept on file at the mine site and will be submitted with each annual reclamation report.

Special Purpose Reclamation Areas. PWCC uses supplemental surface plant growth media (suitable overburden and spoil) and residual soils to establish certain substrate-specific

species, create wildlife habitat, and provide erosionally stable landscapes. These steep slope, cultural planting, key habitat, and main drainage reclamation areas are reconstructed to support the postmining land uses of rangeland grazing, wildlife habitat, and cultural plants. Suitable overburden and residual soils are used to create these landscapes because these materials are inherently stable, have low erodibility potential, promote deep root growth and water/air movement, and reduce competition from shallow-rooted herbaceous vegetation. These special purpose areas provide the potential for structural diversity and increased plant community diversity within the reclaimed landscape. Justification for utilizing supplemental surface plant growth media and residual soils within steep slope, key habitat, cultural planting, and main drainage channel reclamation areas is presented in Attachment 22-2.

Soil testing and amendment applications for steep slope, key habitat, cultural planting, and main drainage channel reclamation areas will be implemented on an as-needed basis. Revegetation success monitoring and revegetation trials will be utilized within these reclamation areas as described in Chapter 23. Soil and spoil samples will be collected at representative revegetation soil sample sites located in these special purpose reclamation areas to correlate revegetation data (including forage quality) with soil chemical and physical characteristics and to verify the acceptability of using supplemental soil materials in these areas. The list of soil and spoil analyses will, at a minimum, include all parameters listed in Table 17.

Mine Support Facilities. The existing and proposed mine support facilities for the Black Mesa leasehold included steep slope reclamation areas. For temporary mine support facilities affected land areas, due to the composition of the underlying bedrock material in excavation areas, the slope aspect, steepness of slope, or low potential for revegetation success, etc., the reclamation and surface stabilization efforts may be hindered if existing soil and subsoil reserves are utilized (see "Steep Slope" section in Attachment 22-2). Therefore, suitable overburden or a minimum depth of six inches of non-toxic, non-acidic rock mulch cover on the side slopes or backslopes in lieu of soil and revegetation may be utilized for temporary surface stabilization.

In addition, as an alternative, and based on suitable site conditions, the soil scientist or other competent professionals may still approve soil redistribution and revegetation in lieu of temporary revegetation and surface stabilization techniques for this type of site.

Once the support facility is no longer required to support mining, the facilities area will be reclaimed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, utilizing permanent revegetation or surface stabilization techniques.

Redistribution Procedures. Plant growth media are redistributed utilizing scrapers, dozers, front-end loaders, shovels or loaders and end-dumps, and miscellaneous support equipment; for example, road graders, water trucks, and farm tractors. Scrapers, sometimes assisted by dozers, are used primarily to load and haul soil or supplements to the areas where redistribution is to occur. PWCC direct hauls plant growth materials as often as possible.

Soil and supplements are redistributed only on graded spoils that have been prepared for redistribution. Surface preparation of final-graded spoil is carried out to minimize the potential for slippage of replaced soil and is performed during final backfilling and grading or after soil redistribution. The procedure is completed using surface mechanical manipulation techniques including deep ripping and chisel plowing. The increased adhesion created at the interface between the respective materials by these surface treatments minimizes slippage of the redistributed soil. Redistribution is performed whenever weather and soil moisture conditions permit. To the greatest extent possible, materials are removed and replaced in a single operation.

Plant growth material is redistributed from soil storage piles, from soil material removal areas, and supplemental sources (highwalls, spoil piles, and rough-graded spoil). Uniform redistribution of soil materials is accomplished by unloading scrapers when they are traveling at constant speed. Supplemental materials are unloaded from scrapers or end-dumps in a similar manner to scrapers, or are dumped and graded depending upon slope conditions and the extent of the area being covered. Excessive compaction is minimized by setting up circulation patterns for scrapers or other equipment that minimize or prevent travel over redistribution materials.

Soil will not be replaced on certain downdrain alignments and all main reclamation channels (including the 15-foot apron on each side of the main channels). Suitable overburden material will be utilized as a surface plant root growth medium (soil supplement) for reclamation of main drainage channels. The rationale for this approach is to conserve that amount of soil material that would otherwise wash down the water

conveyance channels to the sediment ponds below reclaimed areas. Also, the spoil has a high rock fragment content which will aid in armour-coating the channels. If the location of a downdrain is known prior to soil redistribution activities, soil will not be placed in the downdrain unless site-specific conditions indicate that portions of the downdrain would be stable. Should the location of a downdrain or terrace be defined after soil replacement, the soil will be removed in the immediate vicinity of the terrace or downdrain. The minimum width along the downdrain alignment that will not be soiled is approximately 45 feet. This is based on a minimum estimated primary channel bottom width of 15 feet with an additional 15 feet of width each side of the primary downdrain channel. In this manner, soil material loss will be minimized. Soil will be replaced on terrace cut- and fill-slopes once construction has been completed.

Surface Stabilization and Erosion Control

Several procedures are used to minimize the potential for erosion on redistributed soil surfaces. Slope gradients are kept to a minimum within the confines of grading to approximate original contours and topographic manipulation is practiced to reduce overland flow velocities and runoff volumes. Also, the reestablishment of surface drainage systems, where necessary, are incorporated into the grading plans. These estimated postmine topography procedures are described in the surface stability and drainage reestablishment plan (Chapter 26) and shown on the annual Surface Stabilization Report maps and on Drawing 85352.

Surface stabilization and erosion control are also enhanced by mechanical surface manipulations. Surface mechanical manipulation may include chisel plowing, ripping, contour furrowing, contour ditching, slope tracking, land imprinting, pitting, or other methods of surface roughening to reduce surface runoff, increase infiltration, reduce surface erosion, and enhance the establishment of vegetative cover. Deep ripping and contour furrowing are the primary methods to be used on the leasehold. Generally, these mechanical manipulation methods are applied after rough grading of the spoil material and soil redistribution are completed. These mechanical manipulation practices have been developed largely for semi-arid and arid lands where water and soil conservation is critical. On mined lands in this region, several complementary treatments may be necessary to offset scant soil moisture supplies resulting from (1) erratic and low rainfall (nine to ten inches of average annual precipitation), (2) high evapotranspiration, and (3) high runoff rates. Equipment commonly used are modified

versions of rangeland, agricultural, and industrial implements including rippers or subsoilers, backhoes, dozers, disks, harrows, rakes, tillers, drills, chiselers, and scrapers, etc.

Deep ripping or chisel plowing are mechanical treatment measures used to shatter compacted layers and provide better mixing or contact at the soil-spoil interface. The purpose of these treatments is to loosen and mix subsoil, improve root penetration and aeration, and increase infiltration and subsurface water storage. Chisel plowing or ripping is used to treat the top one to three feet of soil. Chisel plowing does not provide as great a depth benefit as ripping; however, because more chisel shanks are carried and the shank spacing is closer, a greater proportion of surface material is affected in the approximate one foot effective operating depth of the chisel implement. Chisel plowing is also an effective tool for mulch incorporation and reducing annual weed growth. Though chisel plowing can provide positive benefits, it is felt that deep ripping will provide a greater range of effectiveness. Thus, ripping will be the primary method used, while chisel plowing will only be used as a backup method in case of equipment breakdown or other logistical problems.

Upon completion of final grading and replacement of soil, contour ripping with multi-ripper shanks spaced 3 to 5 feet apart will be carried out to depths ranging from one to three feet. Ripping will typically extend through the replaced soil across the soil-spoil interface and into the upper spoil. Replaced drainages, key habitat, cultural planting, and steep slope reclamation areas where soil is not respread, will be included in the areas ripped. The drainages will be ripped perpendicular to their channel length, increasing the roughness coefficient of the channel and the opportunity for additional infiltration and less runoff. Deep ripping breaks or shatters compacted layers that tend to inhibit root development and restrict the zone from which plants can extract soil water and nutrients. Branson et al. (1966) found that ripping rangeland with large rippers that created lasting furrows increased forage production by 160 percent. Studies conducted by Dortignac and Hickey (1963) and Hickey and Dortignac (1964) determined that ripping on a rangeland research area in New Mexico reduced runoff by as much as 96 percent and erosion by 85 percent the first year after treatment. Three years following the initial treatment, runoff still was 85 percent less than the control with 31 percent less erosion. While the effects of ripping on reclaimed lands at Black Mesa may vary from the above because of site and climatic differences, the above studies indicate the potential

benefits of these practices. The increased plant growth and vigor resulting from the practice will also provide additional erosion and land use benefits.

The ripping operation can be expected to cause a certain amount of blending of soil and spoil. It may also expose a certain amount of coarse material at the surface. This will not interfere with the revegetation process and will benefit the reclaimed landscape by creating additional microhabitat, increasing the potential for runoff detention storage, reducing evaporative surface areas, and reducing the kinetic energy of falling raindrops.

For schematics of ripping implements and land surface patterns, see Chapter 26. In addition to standard farm subsoilers, construction equipment with large single-shank or multi-shank rippers may be used to loosen the soil.

Contour furrowing and ditching are mechanical manipulations that roughen the soil surface, creating small trenches and grooves parallel to the slope contour. Contour furrowing and ditching are used on topsoiled areas to reduce runoff and soil erosion and enhance the establishment of vegetative cover. Of the two, contour furrowing will be the primary method used on reclaimed lands on the Black Mesa leasehold.

Following soil or supplemental surface plant growth media replacement and ripping, the reclaimed lands will be contour furrowed using a modified offset disk. The modified disk is a large off-set type disk with the standard front disk gang retained and the rear gang modified to include a 36-inch diameter disk spaced every 36 inches. This creates furrows on the reclaimed landscape that are 9 to 14 inches deep with 36-inch spacings. The front unmodified disk gang aids in seedbed preparation.

Contour furrowing is a standard range improvement practice used to control runoff, reduce erosion, and retain water on slopes for increased plant growth and forage production (Valentine 1971). For reclaimed lands, contour furrows increase surface roughness and provide for catchment and retention of runoff. This reduction in runoff translates into reduced erosion, increased infiltration, and increased plant available water. Simons, et al. (1983) stated contour furrows can increase infiltration up to 10 fold and decrease runoff by as much as 84 percent. Typically, contour furrows are 8 to 12 inches deep and are spaced 7 to 20 feet apart, with the furrows dammed every 4 to 20 feet (WET, Inc. 1986). Contour furrowing has been and continues to be practiced at the Black Mesa and

Kayenta Mines. Furrows are not dammed; however, the furrow spacing of only 36 inches is less than half the lower interval spacing of 7 feet as described above. Thus, the contributing area for each furrow is relatively small. Furrows need not be dammed periodically if they are placed on the contour (Valentine 1971). Quality control procedures will insure that furrowing is done on the contour whenever practicable.

The discussions presented above for ripping and contour furrowing are to provide an indication of the immediate potential benefits of these practices when applied to the reclaimed areas. Dixon (1975), in his discussion of the air-interface concept for infiltration, showed that a micro-rough, macro-porous interface (on the surface of the landscape) will improve control of runoff, reduce flash flooding, erosion, sedimentation, and nonpoint source pollution, improve control of soil water and ground water recharge, and reduce plant water stress with resultant increased growth rates. He further showed that a rough open surface has the characteristics necessary to allow for a highly functional exchange of water and air across the soil surface which results in high infiltration rates. A number of authors (Scholl 1985, Schuman et al., 1987, Aldon et al., 1980) have shown that surface manipulations, as described above, measurably benefit the establishment, development, and sustained growth of vegetation in reclaimed areas. Thus, the development and maintenance of an effective and permanent vegetative cover is the means by which erosional and landform stability will be maintained over the long term.

Slope tracking and land imprinting are surface manipulation practices used in arid areas that form microfurrows or microbasins in the soil to reduce runoff, increase infiltration, and pond water for increased plant growth. Slope tracking and land imprinting create firm seedbeds and microsites beneficial to seedling germination and establishment. This type of surface manipulation roughens the surface with wedges or other geometric impression patterns that are approximately four inches deep, depending on soil compaction, soil texture, soil moisture, and weight of the implement. Slope tracking with a dozer usually creates lightly swollen depressions. Vegetation that is present at the time of the operation is crushed and spread on the surface as a mulch. The microbasins have been found to perform successfully in concentrating small amounts of rainfall on arid lands though the length of time for effectiveness of the operation is reduced when operating in coarse textured soils. In addition to farm implements (cultipackers), track construction

equipment or sheeps foot roller equipment can also be used to form the imprint pattern. Specialized imprinting equipment such as the Dixon Land Imprinter are also available. These specialized types of imprinters are based on large drum rollers with angle iron welded to the surface to create geometric patterns. The Dixon Land Imprinter was developed to provide the type of surface discussed by Dixon (1975) in his air-earth interface concept. The furrows can collect up to 2 inches of rainfall and rough, rocky terrain with slopes up to 45 percent can be treated (Larson, 1980).

Pitting, a valuable water conservation and erosion control measure in arid and semi-arid regions, is a mechanical treatment that creates small basins or pits. This 1930's era practice is done with modified disk pitters, drum or rotary pitters, and modified listers. The most practical pitting equipment to be considered for use at Black Mesa are modified disk plows. The primary modification involves the mounting of eccentric disks, deeply-notched, or cutaway disks to create the pits. The pits created are three to five feet long with a four to eight-inch depth and an eight to twelve-inch width (Valentine, 1971). The pits reduce runoff, concentrate water for increased infiltration, and provide favorable microsites for vegetation establishment and development. While pitting provides positive benefits to plant establishment and development on seeded ranges, pits may only last three to five years in the semi-arid Southwest (Barnes et al., 1958), especially if coarse textured soils are encountered.

As stated earlier, the primary surface mechanical manipulations to be employed at the Black Mesa and Kayenta Mines are deep ripping and contour furrowing. Chisel plowing may be used in lieu of ripping where conditions allow and pitting may be used as an alternative to contour furrowing. Land imprinting and slope tracking are to be used in specialty situations such as rill and gully repair or areas of steep slope reclamation.

Traffic on redistributed soil surfaces will be kept to a minimum. Revegetation treatments such as seeding, mulching, and fertilization will be conducted on the contour to maintain furrow integrity and to reduce the potential for formation of surface imprints that could conduct downslope water flow. All slopes are mulched or cover cropped. The methods and application rates are described in Chapter 23. Finally, the Revegetation Plan (Chapter 23) is designed to achieve revegetation in a contemporaneous manner, using plant species with high utility for stabilizing the soil surface from erosion.

Plan Modification

The graded spoil sampling grid, sampling depths, and sampling methods described herein will be evaluated and modified from time to time based on the site-specific data collected. The amount of suitable soil that is salvaged will also be adjusted in accordance with the sampling results and the amounts and availability of suitable supplemental material. Any changes in the plan as outlined above will be submitted to the regulatory authority for approval prior to implementation.

Nutrients and Soil Amendments

Soil testing and amendment applications are addressed in the Fertilization section of Chapter 23. PWCC does not add fertilizer amendments to reclaimed areas as normal practice. Special reclamation areas have received nutrient and microbial supplements.

Approximate Original Contour

None of the components of this plant growth media reconstruction plan will alter PWCC's compliance with plans for achieving approximate original contour found in Chapters 21 and 26 or as depicted on Drawing 85352 and shown on maps presented with the annual Surface Stabilization Report.

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