

Frequently Asked Questions

After the completion of mining, when can a mining operation apply for bond release?

For sites reclaimed to agriculture or wildlife, at least two vegetative growing seasons are required after an approved seed mixture is planted. This is to ensure vegetation is established and erosion is controlled. For impoundments, the water should be at or near full pool before requesting release.

Are there any exceptions to the slope requirement?

Yes, there are exceptions to slope requirements if the site has consolidated highwalls, existing slopes that are not traversable by farm machinery prior to mining, areas permanently under water, slopes of ponds, terraces, and other erosion control structures, and up to 25% of the total acreage for wildlife reclaimed each year is not graded to a rolling topography. Exceptions are based on the approved mine plan post mining land use.



Reclaimed clay pit with a consolidated highwall as part of a wildlife post-mining land use.

Contact Us

If you have questions or concerns about clay mining, please contact:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Geological Survey
Land Reclamation Program
Phone: 573-751-4041
Fax: 573-368-2317
PO Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102

To learn more about the services and information, visit:

dnr.mo.gov/geology/lrp

If you would like assistance or have questions, please contact the Land Reclamation Program at 573-751-4041, or by email at mining@dnr.mo.gov

The mission of the Land Reclamation Program is to ensure the beneficial restoration of mined lands and to protect public health, safety and the environment from the adverse effects of mining in the state of Missouri.

Nothing in this document may be used to implement any enforcement action or levy any penalty unless promulgated or authorized by statute.

Missouri Geological Survey Director:
Joe Gillman



CLAY PIT RECLAMATION

Missouri Geological Survey
Land Reclamation Program
Industrial and Metallic Minerals





Reclaimed clay pit with stable slopes surrounding a water impoundment.

Important points to keep in mind

- Sites can be reclaimed to agriculture, development, water impoundment or wildlife, based on the site's mine plan. If reclaimed to a water impoundment, the pit must be at or near full pool.
- Water impoundments for earthen dams must be constructed to NRCS Ponds 378 standards. To learn more about NRCS Ponds 378 standards, contact your local National Resource Conservation Service office. Every county in Missouri has a NRCS office.
- Sites must be free of mining-generated debris before reclamation can be approved.
- Acid-forming materials (i.e., shale or coal) must be covered with 2 feet of non-acid forming soil, if present.



Reclaimed slopes surrounding a consolidated highwall.

Grading

- Consolidated highwalls may remain after reclamation if overburden material removed during mining is not available for use as backfill, or if backfilling a highwall is impracticable.
- Slopes must be stable and traversable by farm machinery. A 33% slope is recommended. Grading and topsoil must be replaced within 12 months after completion of mining.

Topsoil

- Topsoil is the top 12 inches of unconsolidated material above the mineral commodity.
- Once final grading is complete, topsoil must be redistributed in a uniform thickness where soil is required for revegetation.

Revegetation

- Sites must be planted with approved seed mixture within 24 months after completion of mining.
- Vegetation must be well-established by the second growing season. If not, additional soil amendments and seeding are required.
- Vegetation must be stable enough to control erosion.

Erosion

- Sloughing of unconsolidated materials (erosion into or away from the pit) must be stabilized.
- Sediment must be contained on site.
- Erosion must be stabilized prior to releasing the site.



Backfilled clay pit reclaimed as agriculture.