

Soil Management

Why is soil management important?

- Effective soil management is required for successful rehabilitation
- There are regulatory requirements relating to soil management

REGULATIONS:

- Mining tenements and approvals are provided by DSD (the Mining Regulator)
- Licences and approvals provide certain conditions that must be complied with
- A Programme for Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR) provides specific conditions relating to soil management

What needs to be done?

- QP50.66- Soil Management Plan contains all relevant information regarding correct soil collection and management
- The Soil Management Plan is to be applied to all Mining and Steelworks operations

The Soil Management plan covers the management and mitigation of significant impacts related to the five main stages of soil management;

- Planning (6.1)
- Clearing (6.2)
- Stockpiling & Storage (6.3)
- Monitoring & Reporting (6.4)
- Respreading (6.5)

Planning (6.1):

- Determine clearance area as per PEPR and mine design
- Site selection for stockpile areas
- Vegetation clearance permits
- Environment Assurance department must be consulted prior to any vegetation clearance & storage activities

Clearing (6.2):

- All requirements and conditions stated in the Vegetation Clearance Procedure (QP50.65) must be applied prior to any top soil stripping
- During land clearance activities surface vegetation, top soil & sub soil to be stockpiled as per permit
- Soil to be stripped to agreed depth (minimum 200mm)

Stockpiling & Storage (6.3):

- All stockpiles will be stored in designated areas with consideration to operational disturbance areas, drainage lines & surface water run-off
- Topsoil stockpiles are not to be compacted
- Stockpiles require adequate signage
- Stockpiles must not be disturbed. No vehicle activity on stockpiles
- Consider minimising timeframes for stockpile storage
- Must record all locations & volumes of stockpiles and update information as required as new stockpiles are developed
- Adequate dust management in accordance with QP50.68 (Fugitive Dust Ranking Standard)

Monitoring & Reporting (6.4):

- Top soil stockpile audits as per site EMP
- Ongoing inspections post rehabilitation to ensure erosion is minimised in accordance with rehabilitation plan

Respreading (6.5):

- To be done in accordance to the PEPR Rehabilitation Plan
- Rehabilitation planning will include respreading considerations and in consultation with Environment Department