

Test drilling varies considerably with the type of drilling being conducted, the drilling equipment used, and the depth drilled. These factors directly affect the amount of disturbance. Disturbance is compounded if access roads or drill pads have to be constructed. Shallow seismic drilling leaves only a small diameter hole surrounded by a mound of cuttings, but the line sometimes extends miles in length. Reverse circulation or rotary drills creates similar holes, however, mud holes may be associated with the project. Reclamation is required for the holes, the drill pad, and the access roads.

RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS

Upon completion of each drill hole, or after the drilling project has been finished, the hole should be filled with cuttings from the bottom to within three feet of the ground surface. Set a concrete plug at the three foot depth and fill the remainder of the hole with cuttings or native soil. If there is an insufficient amount of cuttings to fill the hole, then concrete grout, cement or puddling clay may be used. A small mound of cuttings or topsoil should be left over the hole to allow for settling.

Each drill hole should be properly plugged and abandoned as soon as practical after drilling has been completed and in accordance with specifications outlined by the Department of Water Resources. See Appendix A.

If subsurface water is encountered in a drill hole, puddling clay, cement, or bentonite must be used to seal the water flow, thereby preventing crossflow erosion, waste, and contamination of the ground water.

All cuttings which have been deposited around the hole should be raked or spread out so that growth of natural grasses and foliage will not be impaired.

Access roads, drill pads, and mud pits should be backfilled, recontoured and seeded. Refer to the following BMP's:

I.3	Mulch - Straw	II.2	Seedbed Preparation
I.4	Mulch - Wood Chips	II.3	General Planting and Seeding
I.11	Biotechnical Stabilization	II.4	Broadcast Seeding
III.5	Waterbars	II.5	Drill Seeding
III.10	Rolling Dips	II.8	Fertilizer Use
III.12	Roadway Surface Water Deflectors	II.9	Maintenance of Vegetated Areas

MAINTENANCE

Reseeding efforts should be inspected one growing season after planting to determine additional seeding and fertilizing needs.