

BACKFILLING AND GRADING

Backfilling and grading of all areas, including haul roads and access roads, will be undertaken to achieve the post-mining topographic configuration shown on Maps King II-010 A, B & C.

Historic pre-mining stream channels had been backfilled and otherwise disturbed in various areas, apparently for agricultural purposes. Post-reclamation stream channels will mimic, to the extent practicable, channels up-gradient (northeast) of the disturbed surface facilities. These channels are typically low gradient and grass lined, with occasional natural rock segments. Temporary erosion protection, such as erosion mats, will be utilized during reclamation until grass channels can be established.

RETOPSOILING

Topsoil will be replaced to a finished depth of six (6) inches (as described in Section 2.05.3) over all disturbed areas, including haul roads and access roads, to be reclaimed. Topsoil replacement operations will be completed after backfill and grading operations. To ensure good contact between replaced topsoil and re-graded material, the surface of re-graded areas will be left in a roughened condition. Topsoil will be replaced using methods to minimize compaction after placement. In areas where compaction occurs, ripping or tilling of the replaced topsoil will take place.

REVEGETATION

Re-vegetation Measures

Re-vegetation measures have been developed for all disturbed areas, including haul roads and access roads, to meet the goals of providing native, self-sustaining vegetation communities of similar nature and composition as those present in the pre-mining landscape and to provide equivalent or better carrying capacity and utility post-mining.

Timing

With the significance and dominance of cool season graminoid species in the rabbitbrush/big sage mixed shrub-land community, emphasis should be placed on ensuring germination and survival of these species in the re-vegetation seed mixes. Precipitation during the growing season (April-September) decreases from April through June, increases in July and August, and then decreases slowly through the end of the growing season.