

# RECLAMATION OF MINED LAND

- Fact            New quarries are regulated by Act 1166 of 1997.
- Fact            Quarry laws allow mining to be "suspended" rather than closed, extending the time period for reclamation .
- Fact            The purpose of the Code is to protect the public health, safety, and the environment during and after completion of open-cut or stream bed mining operations.
- Fact            "The minimum reclaimed condition of the exhausted quarry will be as a lake, pasture, timberland, or wetlands, or a combination thereof" (Act 1166, 15-57-409)
- Fact            "A reclamation plan must be submitted" (Reg 15.308), and "For sand and gravel operations, the operator shall perform contemporaneous reclamation" (Reg 15.402)

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## Questions to Ask

- The bond amount is \$1100 per acre. The current cost to perform reclamation is unknown BUT the cost TODAY to hire and operate a bulldozer is \$80 per hour. Just to dress one acre of land with topsoil to prepare for seeding would take at least two days making the cost for this initial process \$1280 per acre. This does not include the cost of returning the land to its previous natural state. If the land is not restored as regulations require, and the cost exceeds the amount of the reclamation bond, will it EVER be restored or will it simply remain a gaping hole?

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Want more information? Here are some sources to investigate:

The Arkansas Quarry Operation, Reclamation, and Safe Closure Act, Arkansas Code Annotated 15-57-401 to 15-57-414, (Act 1166 of 1997, As Amended)

[http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/mining/pdfs/act\\_1166\\_010615.pdf](http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/mining/pdfs/act_1166_010615.pdf)

Regulation 15, The Arkansas Open-Cut Mining and Land Reclamation Code

[http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/regis/files/reg15\\_final\\_060528.pdf](http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/regis/files/reg15_final_060528.pdf)