

Best Management Practices for Conservation of Reclamation Materials in the Mineable Oil Sands Region of Alberta (2011)

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

What is the document about?

The goal of the *Best Management Practices for Conservation of Reclamation Materials in the Mineable Oil Sands Region of Alberta* is to identify and document practices for the salvage, storage and placement of reclamation material for oil sands mine reclamation.

Operators are required by their *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) approvals to incorporate the document into the development of reclamation plans.

The best management practices identified are based on knowledge or operational procedures that, if implemented effectively, can support long-term conservation and reclamation goals. The best management practices are designed to help oil sands mine operators achieve the environmental outcomes for reclamation specified in their EPEA approvals, using available reclamation resources to produce best possible outcomes.

How was it produced?

The document was developed by the multi-stakeholder Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA) with the support of Alberta Environment and Water, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the Alberta Innovation Fund.

Experts in the field of conservation and reclamation created the document, including participation and input from industry personnel, government staff, consultants, and people living in the oil sands region.

The best management practices are based on existing knowledge and are supported by evidence-based research, monitoring, professional knowledge, theoretical principles, and field-tested outcomes.

The Reclamation Working Group of CEMA is responsible for updating the document and providing guidance to industry about best practices when reclaiming land affected by mineable oil sands development.

How will the document be used?

The document will assist oil sands mine companies as they reclaim disturbed areas to ensure the land is:

- meaningful to people living and working in the region, including First Nations and Métis people;
- environmentally sustainable; and
- meeting government regulations and expectations.

The document will be used by oil sands mine operators in the development of:

- Annual reclamation material salvage and placement plans;
- Mine reclamation plans; and,
- Life of mine closure plans.

These plans are required in order to reclaim terrestrial ecosystems as mandated by each facility's EPEA approvals.

This document will be updated every five years or as new information becomes available.

For more information about the document, contact:

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<http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/home.asp>

The *Best Management Practices for Conservation of Reclamation Materials in the Mineable Oil Sands Region of Alberta* is used by oil sands mine companies to develop annual soil salvage and placement plans, mine reclamation plans and mine closure plans.

Reclamation experts created the document, with input from government, industry and people living in the oil sands region.