

Section 17.24.632

PERMANENT SEALING OF DRILLED HOLES

All drillholes and monitor wells will be managed and/or abandoned in accordance with the provisions of ARM 17.24.1005, unless wells are transferred in accordance with ARM 17.24.647. See discussions and commitments found in Sections 17.24.647 and 17.24.1005 of this document.

Prior to water and monitor well construction, detailed descriptions of methods and materials to be used for this well construction will be submitted to the department in compliance with ARM 17.24.1005(3)(d). Wells will be maintained and otherwise managed in compliance with ARM 17.24.1005 and other pertinent rules.

Other openings or excavations will be managed or abandoned in a manner approved by the department.

SCCC will abandon lost circulation holes and artesian holes with cement (ARM 17.24.1005(3)(c)(i)), and will backfill all other drillholes and abandoned wells with dry bentonite chips to within 2 feet of the surface, followed by 2 feet of suitable plant growth material (as per ARM 17.24.1005(3)(c)(ii) and (iii)). The casings on all abandoned wells will be pulled; or cut off flush with the ground surface on rangelands, and 2 feet below the surface on cropland or pastureland.

The location of prospecting holes, boreholes, other drilled holes, wells, or other underground openings or excavations will be approved by the department prior to conducting these activities. Approved locations, an explanation of well completion methods and materials, and abandonment or reclamation techniques (used for other boreholes, other underground openings or excavations, etc.) approved by the department, will be included in the annual mining report.

SCCC will obtain prior approval from the department for any deviation from the above procedures.