

Section 17.24.644

PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

(1) Restoration of Recharge Capacity

All disturbed areas will be reclaimed so that the approximate pre-mining recharge capacity is restored. The reclaimed area, as a whole, will be capable of transmitting water to the groundwater system in an amount that approximates or exceeds the pre-mining recharge rate. Such reclamation will support the post-mining land use and will minimize disturbance to the hydrologic balance. SCM will perform monitoring according to Section 17.24.645 to ensure conformation with this rule. SCM will not be disturbing the principal aquifer recharge area west of the mine or aquifer recharge areas such as the Spring Creek Fault; therefore, no significant impact to groundwater quantity is expected. Detailed analysis of groundwater protection and impacts of mining is presented in Appendix L, "Probable Hydrologic Consequences Update".

(2) Determination of Restoration Potential

SCM will collect data and conduct studies as required by the MDEQ for the purpose of determining the ability of reclamation efforts to restore the pre-mining recharge capacity to the affected area. Backfill monitor wells will be constructed to determine post-mine groundwater quality and the hydraulic characteristics of the backfill materials.