

# Attachment K

## Remediation, Decommissioning, Restoration and Aftercare

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## **K.1 Cessation of Activity**

### **K.1.1 Restoration**

The lands are to be restored to Forestry by importation and recovery of inert materials in accordance with a phased restoration scheme. Designated internal haul roads are used to direct site traffic to the current tipping area. A bulldozer is used to appropriately grade and compact the material to the desired profile as shown by the detailed plans and sections (Refer to Figures B.2.4 and B.2.5). Typically the soil is placed in 2-3 metre lifts with fill slopes of a safe angle of repose of 1:2.

It is proposed to reclaim the lands to a condition / gradient suitable for forestry. Good quality imported soil will be conserved wherever possible to provide the subsoil/top-soil capping. These topsoil's/subsoil's will be handled under dry conditions to minimise compaction. For the purpose of restoration to agricultural/forestry the restored soil profile (capping) shall comprise 300mm topsoil over 1200-1350mm of subsoil.

Progressive restoration involving grass seeding of restored area's shall be carried out on a staged basis to reduce the effects of soil erosion, windblown dust, to aid ground stabilisation and as an effective means of weed control. On completion of each phase of development final restoration including grading, seeding, landscaping will be carried out. Final restoration is dependent on the availability of good topsoil/subsoil and subject to suitable weather conditions. In order to allow for continuity of operations it is necessary to have a certain overlap between phases. The final contours and topography for the site is shown by the Final Landform Plan Figure B.2.4 and Cross Sections B.2.5.

Initially for each phase the void will be backfilled to the level of the adjoining public road. These workings will be screened from outside views by the existing steep natural bank running along the public road. The second stage will involve construction of an esker like feature to the final profile as shown by Figures B.2.4 & B.2.5. In general material will be placed in a series of 2 metre lifts to ensure that the material is properly compacted on placement. The outer berm along the public road will be constructed first and subsequently grassed to provide additional screening of the workings from the nearest residences.

The final landform will comprise a ridge running northwest to southeast which will be similar in profile to the original esker ridge that ran through the lands (Refer to Figure B.2.4).

### **K.1.2 Decommissioning**

Redundant structures, plant equipment and stockpiles will be removed from site on cessation of pit activity. Plant and machinery will either be utilised by the operators on other sites, or be sold as working machinery or scrap. Any hard standing areas shall be broken up and the material incorporated into the final restoration scheme. The site access will be retained as agricultural access to the restored lands.

As part of the decommissioning process, all fuel and oil storage tanks will be removed from the site by a licensed waste contractor. The septic tank will also be removed from the site. Therefore there will be no potential for fuel, oil or sewage to cause long-term water pollution following cessation of extraction activities.

### **K.1.3 Aftercare**

There will be no on-going requirement for environmental monitoring after extraction operations have ceased.

A final site inspection 6 months after site closure will be carried out to ensure that the final site restoration scheme implemented is functioning and progressing as required.

### **K.1.4 Financial Provisions**

In accordance with condition No. 19 of planning permission P.A. Reg. Ref. QY 48 (QC. 17.QC 2113) the developer is required to lodge with the planning authority an approved insurance company bond in the sum of €50,000 to secure the satisfactory completion and restoration of the site, coupled with an agreement empowering the planning authority to apply such security or part thereof to the satisfactory completion and restoration, including all necessary demolition and removal.

The applicants will ensure an insurance company bond is in place to ensure satisfactory completion and restoration of the site in accordance with the landscaping and restoration programme proposed.