

Land Reclamation Projects

DEQ has a program to help municipalities eliminate dilapidated buildings in an economical and environmentally sound manner. This program allows small municipalities to use the suitable portions of dilapidated buildings such as lumber, rock, sheetrock, brick, and shingles to reclaim damaged land.

The program has many positive features, such as:

- Eliminating eyesores and safety hazards.
- Saving thousands of dollars in landfill disposal costs.
- Saving valuable space in landfills.
- Reclaiming land damaged by such things as strip mining or erosion.

Land to be reclaimed in a reclamation project cannot:

- Receive prohibited wastes (including, but not limited to: putrescible waste, white goods, tires, hazardous waste, radioactive waste, asbestos containing material, regulated polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) waste, liquid waste, or regulated infectious waste.)
- Be located within a 100-year floodplain or known wetlands.
- Be located within 300 feet of a public or private water supply.

Interested Parties

Interested parties should contact DEQ's Reclamation Specialist at 405-702-5119 or their local DEQ office for help with the application process. This includes assessing the site and material, completing the application form, and obtaining a conservation plan from the local conservation district.

The following must accompany applications:

- A conservation plan for the reclamation project approved by the local conservation district.
- A copy of the filed deed showing ownership of the reclamation site, or a legal access agreement if the reclamation site is not owned by the applicant.
- A copy of an asbestos inspection, known as the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) inspection, accompanied by lab reports and a survey.



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The Fine Print

- Only material approved by DEQ may be used in reclamation projects.
- There must be at least 50 feet of separation between reclamation sites and property lines.
- DEQ's Reclamation Specialist must be contacted the day reclamation projects begin.
- All material must be placed in such a way as to limit aerial filling (filling above natural ground level), prevent erosion, and preclude ponding of water.
- Access to the reclamation site must be controlled to prevent the disposal of any solid waste other than that approved for the project.
- Reclamation sites must be controlled to prevent any burning of the material used in the reclamation project.
- Reclamation sites must be properly closed (covered with soil) no later than 120 days from the date that material is first placed at a reclamation site. Additionally, reclamation sites must be covered with soil within 15 days after the last load of material is placed at a site.
- DEQ must be contacted within 30 days after the date that a site is closed in order to conduct a final inspection. Livestock and traffic must be excluded from reclamation sites until vegetation has been properly established.
- If the land will be used for purposes that will not require vegetation (e.g., paved parking lot), the use must be specified in the conservation plan along with alternate measures to prevent erosion. Otherwise, vegetation must be established upon closure to prevent erosion.
- A certified copy of a notice placed in the land records (form provided) identifying the location of the reclamation site and the type and approximate amount of material buried at the reclamation site must be submitted to DEQ within 30 days after closing a site.
- Reclamation sites must be monitored for settling or erosion for at least three years following the final inspection. Any incidences of settling or erosion must be promptly corrected.
- An asbestos inspection must be completed for all structures. Visual inspections will not be accepted.