SECTION 2 – NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION

1. Soils

Soil Interpretations

Mined Land Interpretations

General

Soil reconstruction of areas drastically disturbed, as in surface mining, is the process of replacing layers of soil material or unconsolidated geologic material or both in a vertical sequence of such quality and thickness that they provide a favorable medium for plant growth.

Most new state strip mine programs emphasize that the land surface be restored to about its natural configuration or better and the soil be reconstructed to maintain or improve its suitability for the intended use. Thus, a knowledge of the soil and underlying material is needed to plan proper reconstruction operations of mined land. It may be necessary to rate the topsoil, subsoil, and substratum separately to determine the suitability of each segment for reconstruction. If they all rate "good," there may be little justification for keeping them separate for soil reconstruction. If the topsoil is rated better than the subsoil or substratum, then it should generally be kept separate, depending upon its thickness and the anticipated use of the land.

Interpretations for mined land reclamation, revegetation, and maintenance are locally developed. These interpretations should be placed in this subsection. Reference should be made to any existing state or local guides for reclamation, revegetation, and maintenance of mined lands.