

SUBJECT: **Determination of form of Mining**

APPROVAL: **Thomas Clarke, Director**

DATE: **April 24, 2009**

This document is intended to clarify the agency position of the requirements that apply to determining the form of mining for applying the correct AOC Policy.

Whether or not the site is determined to be contour or area mining for a steep slope surface mine also determines whether the AOC Final Guidance Document (AOC+) or the AOC 199 (AOC Castle) policy applies. In making this determination, the form of mining will be decided based on which form of mining constitutes greater than 50% of the area mined.

If a permit application proposes both contour and area mining, the type of mining that constitutes 51% or greater of the surface area of mineral removal shall determine the type of mining used for determining which AOC Policy applies to the permit.