

RECLAMATION OF POSTMINED AREAS IN ESTONIA¹

by

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Abstract: At present, oil shale, limestone, dolomite, sand, gravel and clay are mined in Estonia by a surface mining method. Some years ago has finished the surface mining of phosphorite at Maardu. At the time of Soviet (Russian) occupation, a large areas of postmined land remained without reclamation by mining industry. Nowadays there are spoiled by surface mining more areas as there are reclaimed. Since there are spoiled about 11,000 hectares of areas by the surface mining of oil shale. 9,000 hectares of those mined-out areas are reclaimed. From that 8,500 hectares are afforested and 120 hectares are reclaimed as arable land by the Estonian Oil Shale Corporation. At the last decades about 20 quarries mined limestone and dolomite in Estonia. Mainly the limestone and dolomite were used as raw material for production of splinters, cement and lime. A few of this is used as natural building material. The most extensive surface mining of limestone has taken place surround Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. In all of the limestone and dolomite quarries, the mined-out areas are not reclaimed.

Additional Key Words: Opencast mining, Reclamation.

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