(5) The type of vegetative cover and methods of its establishment shall be specified and conform to accepted and recommended agronomic and reforestation practices established by the Department. Advice and technical assistance may be obtained through the State soil and water conservation districts.

(f) If conditions do not permit the planting of vegetation on all or part of the affected land, and if these conditions pose an actual or potential threat of soil erosion and siltation, alternative procedures shall be proposed to prevent the threat of soil erosion and siltation. If the procedures do not prevent these conditions, the Department may not approve them.

(g) Lakes, ponds, and marsh land shall be considered adequately reclaimed land when approved by the Department.

7-6A-20.

(a) After receiving notification from the Department that [his] THE application for a permit has been approved, but prior to commencing mining, the [operator] APPLICANT shall file with the Department a bond for each mining operation, on a form to be prescribed and furnished by the Department, payable to the State and conditioned that the operator will perform faithfully all the requirements of this subtitle.

(b) The amount of the bond required shall be for a maximum of [$750] $1,250 per acre based on the number of acres of affected land covered by the permit. But, a bond may not be filed for less than $7,500. However, the Department shall determine whether the total bond fee is unreasonable and excessive for a particular tract of land and whether a lesser total amount for the bond is sufficient to cover reclamation. In making this determination, the Department shall consider the size of the operation, the amount of land to be mined, the acreage that is unreclaimed at any one time, the proposed method of regrading and revegetation of the site, the proposed use of the land following reclamation, and any other relevant factors.

(c) Liability under the bond shall be for the duration of the mining permit and for a period of five years after its expiration, unless previously released in whole or in part, as provided in § 7-6A-21 of this subtitle.

(d) The bond shall be executed by the [operator] PERMITTEE and corporate surety licensed to do business in the State. In lieu of a corporate surety, one of the following shall be acceptable:

(1) Deposits of cash or negotiable bonds of the United States government. The cash deposit or market value of the securities shall be equal at least to the required sum of the bond. The Department, on receipt of any deposit of cash or securities, immediately shall forward it to the State Treasurer, who shall receive and hold the bond in the name of the State, in