COMPONENTS OF A DRILL SITE – PART 2

SUMP AREA

Yes, it can be ugly, but the small temporary sump area of a drill site serves important environmental purposes. The sump area is where water is stored for reuse in the drilling activity, greatly conserving water usage. The sump area also serves as a collection site for drill "cuttings," the grey rock shavings (think "sawdust") from the drilling. When the drill site is reclaimed to its natural state, the sump area is filled with its original material with no adverse impact on the environment. Reclamation of drill sites and sump areas are inspected by appropriate governing entities.

CASING EXTENSION

A small diameter red pipe sticking up about five feet is the only lasting remnant of drilling activity at a drill site. This "casing extension" marks the drill hole for future identification and prevents surface water from entering the hole. Casing extensions remain in place for up to 10 years, after which the drill holes are permanently abandoned under Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines. Casing extensions are required and regulated by the MDH.

NEWLY RECLAIMED DRILL SITES

Drill sites are "reclaimed" to their natural state in accordance with state and federal requirements and industry best practices. Sump areas are filled in, the drill site is re-graded and downed timber can be scattered for decomposition. The areas are not re-seeded to avoid inadvertent introduction of invasive species. Native vegetation often emerges within weeks.

MATURE RECLAIMED DRILL SITES

Mature reclaimed drill sites are often difficult to identify, but for the remaining casing extension. Mature reclamation is marked by a thick cover of grasses, berries, wild flowers and extensive sapling growth, providing excellent refreshed habitat for a variety of species.