

July 16, 2019

Senator Steven J. Santarsiero
184 Capital Building
Senate Box 203010
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3010

Re: Rock Hill Quarry

Dear Senator Santarsiero:

This is in response to your letter dated June 21, 2019 regarding the historic operation of the Rock Hill Quarry. As stated by Deputy Secretary Stefanko during the meeting of June 14, 2019, held at DEP's Southeast Regional Office, DEP's position is that the Rock Hill Quarry has maintained its status as an active operation since the permit was issued.

Pennsylvania mining regulations define an active operation as one in which a minimum of 500 tons of minerals for commercial purposes have been removed in the preceding year. The 500-ton minimum does not require extraction of minerals from the ground. An operator can satisfy the 500-ton minimum requirement by removing minerals from stockpiles. There is no regulation or requirement that the operator must remove stone at a specific rate. The rate at which stone is removed is often driven by market conditions. Therefore, it is reasonable for an operator to not be on site for periods of time, leaving gates locked and having no personnel on site. This practice also promotes public safety by having a secured site.

The annual Mine Employment and Production Reports alone are not determinative on whether a site is an active operation. DEP relies heavily on the observations and oversight provided by its professional team of inspectors and other technically trained personnel as to the nature of operations at a mining site.

In this case, Mr. Jonas Carpenter, who was employed with DEP for 20 years and was Surface Mining Conservation Inspector for the Rock Hill Quarry for many of those years, evaluated and documented operations at the site multiple times each year. All of his inspection reports specifically indicated that the Rock Hill Quarry remained an active operation, despite periods during which the operator had a diminished presence on the property. These reports also described specific actions occurring on site at various times, such as removal of stone from the stockpiles and the presence of mining equipment on the site, all of which support the conclusion that 500 tons of stone were removed each year. Subsequent inspectors assigned to the site made similar observations and also concluded that the Rock Hill Quarry remained an active operation.

For your convenience, enclosed with this letter please find the 1987 compilation of minerals shipped by The General Crushed Stone Co. that was inadvertently listed under Berks County instead of Bucks County.

If you have any questions, please contact Gregory Kauffman, Director of Legislative Affairs, by e-mail at grekauffma@pa.gov or by telephone at (717) 783-8303.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Latsha
Acting District Mining Manager
Pottsville District Office

cc: John Stefanko
Daniel Sammarco
Gregory Kauffman
Craig Lambeth
Patrick Patterson
Sachin Shankar
Michael Kutney
Amiee Bollinger
Virginia Cain
Rob Fogel
Marianne Morano, E. Rockhill Township, Manager
File
MS1-Santarsiero (7/19)

GAL:jaj

BERKS COUNTY (Continued)

Operators and Mines/or Non Coal Surface Mine Permit No.	Minerals shipped to market			Days Worked	Tonnage of Minerals Shipped to			Total Product
	By Rail	By Water	By Truck		Foreign Markets	In-State Markets	Out-of- State Markets	
Bechtold, Mark J. 400524	-	-	1,800	15	-	-	-	1,800
Berics Products Corp. 7775SM1A1	-	-	682,900	240	-	667,900	15,000	682,900
6176SM2A	-	-	239,000	254	-	239,000	-	239,000
7774SM2	-	-	145,000	150	-	145,000	-	145,000
Diefenderfer D. B. & Bro. Inc. 6177SM1	-	-	984	1	-	984	-	984
Empire Wrecking Co. 6177SM2	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-
Gable Ent. Inc. 6176SM3	-	-	98,000	90	-	98,000	-	98,000
The General Crushed Stone Co. 7974SM1	-	-	544	-	-	544	-	544
Glen Gary Corp. 7775SM11A2	-	-	212	-	-	33,920	-	50,880
7775SM11A3	-	-	-	-	-	6,080	-	9,120
7775SM6	-	-	525	-	-	-	-	-
7775SM9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Martin Stone Quarrie 7776SM1	-	-	625,876	240	-	594,876	31,000	625,876
Pottstown Trap Rock 7773SM1-02-3	33,162	-	354,541	260	-	386,282	1,421	387,703
Rolling Rock Bldg. St. 4-00666	-	-	1,342	150	-	950	392	1,342
4-00480	-	-	1,950	225	-	1,600	350	1,950
4-00667	-	-	1,875	225	-	1,410	465	1,875
Warner Co.-John T. Dyer 7775SM8	661,986	-	369,527	200	-	773,635	257,878	1,031,511
Zwicky, W. David 4-00515	-	-	1,800	20	-	1,800	-	1,800

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