

# NEW HOPE CRUSHED STONE

## MAILING ADDRESS

P. O. Box 248  
New Hope, PA 18938  
Plant (215) 862-5288

## OFFICE LOCATION

6970 Phillips Mill Road  
New Hope, PA 18938  
Office (215) 862-5293

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February 23, 2018

Michael J. Menghini  
District Mining Manager  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Pottsville District Mining Office  
5 West Laurel Boulevard  
Pottsville, PA 17901

**Re: Formal Request and Response to the Department's 12/4/17 Letter**

Dear Mike,

NHCS is responding to your letter dated December 4, 2017, and we are making a formal request to increase quarry pumping in accordance with Item #4 of the Department's January 29, 2016 letter.

Regarding your December 4, 2017 letter:

- 1.) We have submitted to you the drone survey and corresponding mapping that indicates the amount of reclamation completed since the last survey (supplied previously).
- 2.) Quarry Reclamation Schedule – March to May time frame:
  - Western Wall and 1<sup>st</sup> part of Northern Wall (#2 through #9 are 100% Complete). The other areas range from 22% complete to 94% complete (supplied previously).
  - Approximately 36,000 CY of fill is calculated to be needed to finish the Western and North Wall reclamation slopes. This work is planned to be completed in the March – May time frame, via combination of pushing fill and hauling fill to the areas that require slope completion.
  - East Wall Reclamation is planned for June and July via blast to grade techniques as discussed. This process will encompass approximately 23 working days of drilling and approximately 3 weeks (15 days) of blasting.
- 3.) Stream Reclamation: General work list completed/remaining from physical observation by ERG:

### Reach 1 (Property Line to Sinkhole stabilization area)

Grading was completed in October and the area is ready for E&S matting to be installed. Prior to seeding and installing E&S matting, hand grading of the rills in the banks will be completed. The

stone footers previously installed for the crib walls will be repaired due to minor scour and deformation that occurred from recent storm flows. The Crib walls will subsequently be installed.

#### Reach 2 (Sinkhole stabilization area to Mehok Property)

Additional clay material will be imported to achieve the proposed channel elevations. The area currently has approximately 2-feet of ponded storm-flow water which will need to be pumped out in order to place clay material. The root wads are onsite for the revetment area and will be placed upon completion of the grading.

#### Reach 3 (Mehok Property to Inlet Channel)

Work is complete. Vegetation will be established in the spring, and additional seeding may be required to achieve uniform vegetative cover.

#### Reach 4 (Inlet Channel)

A section of the reach is being utilized for temporary crossing. The existing temporary culvert is a few inches higher than the proposed/installed channel elevation. Therefore the inlet will be completed last.

Gabion baskets are staged onsite will be filled and placed. The discharge point of the inlet channel has been eroded from stormflows. Therefore, we will remove the last gabion basket allow the underlying bedrock, which is currently exposed, to form the banks in this section of channel. From this point downstream water was observed flowing on solid rock and stone bed into the quarry. The remaining earthen banks of the Inlet channel will be seeded and stone lining will be installed.

A detailed description of work remaining, as provided by Hendrickson Excavating, is as follows:

Open the sinkhole to allow drainage of ponding water into the sinkhole area, to enable drying of the creek bottom (1 day to complete).

Regrade section of creek from school property to the crib wall location including creek banks. Add clay soil as needed to re-establish flow channel elevation (2 days to complete).

Clean up and repair stone footing prior to installation of crib walls (1 day to complete).

Set crib walls in place per the design plan. Place 2' of RipRap inside the crib wall units. Install filter fabric over the RipRap and fill remaining crib wall with fill dirt from job-site (5 days to complete).

Install 6-12" diameter RipRap across the creek bottom and 1' up each side of 1,200' of flow channel (10 days to complete).

Install E&S matting on creek bottom and sides prior to RipRap installation (4 days to complete).

Spread clay from the crib wall up to Reach 3 (2 days to complete).

Construct stump root wad as per design plan. Backfill behind stumps with fill dirt from job-site (4 days to complete).

The estimate of total days required by Mark Hendrickson Excavation is 29 days.

Prior to the start of work, sufficient drying time will be needed to allow equipment to enter the work area. Presently, water is flowing from the school property through the completed flow channel areas and ponding in the sink area. A potential start date for the work is late May or June with work to be completed potentially in the end of August. Rain event weather delays have been considered in this timeline. However, future weather conditions may increase or decrease the amount of time required to complete the work. Seeding and/or planting of grasses, bushes, and trees, etc. isn't included in Hendrickson Excavating's scope of work nor is it included in this timeline.

- 4.) Details have been provided by Maine Drilling and Blasting related to reclamation blasting on East wall (supplied previously).
- 5.) Detail plans of the outlet structure have been provided by ERG (supplied previously).

Finally, with the above work and schedule provided, we request we be able to increase pumping as set forth in Item #4 of the Department's January 29, 2016 letter to enable accomplishment of the reclamation and stream work as described. Specifically, we request to be able to modify Items #2 and #3, with respect to the number of workers used and the amount of fill required to be placed per hour. Per our recent formal request dated 2/16/18 the increased pumping is for the following reasons:

First and foremost, the safety of our workers;

Pushing reclamation fill into water does not allow it to form a stable slope (i.e. angle of repose, natural compaction and vegetation cannot be established)

Pushing reclamation fill onto a non-stable potentially water saturated slope is dangerous, causing uncertain "footing" for the equipment operator

Pushing reclamation fill over the slope into water will caused muddy water, which would potentially impact our NPDES discharge limits.

Thank you in advance for your timely attention to this.

New Hope Crushed Stone

Greg Rodrigo  
Christina Cursley