

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Division of Environmental Services

DATE: February 9, 2018

SUBJECT: Specialty Granules LLC
Permit No. 01180301
APS ID No. 958912
Auth ID No. 1213260 & 1213264
Township: Hamiltonban
County: Adams

TO: Chad Paronish
Geologic Specialist
Cambria District Mining Office

FROM: Daniel Ryan, Fisheries Biologist
Division of Environmental Services
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission


The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) agrees with the proposed monitoring plan to determine if quarry dewatering ultimately impacts wetlands (in particular, Wetland D), the unnamed tributary to Toms Creek, or Toms Creek proper. If impacts to Wetland D are realized while mining, the PFBC recommends that the applicant supply lost hydrology to Wetland D, until post-mining conditions allow for more natural hydrologic conditions to develop. The monitoring plan could also be further improved by supplying annual wetland delineations, in addition to the proposed vegetative monitoring, to see if the aerial extent of Wetland D changes during mining.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

Date: February 12, 2018

Subject: Specialty Granules, LLC
Permit No.: 01180301
APS ID No.: 958912
Auth ID No.; 1213260 & 1213264
Hamiltonban Township, Adams County

To (via e-mail): Chad Paronish
Geologic Specialist
Cambria District Mining Office

From: Jeff Painter, P.G. 
Section Oil/Gas and Mineral Development
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management

Thank you for submitting the above referenced mine permit application to our office for review and comment. We have completed both office and field reviews and determined that except for occasional transient individuals, this project should not affect endangered or threatened species of bird or mammal recognized by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) nor do we anticipate any adverse impacts to any critical or unique habitats. We provide the following comments.

Module 14

Based on information provided, no direct impacts to five delineated wetlands (A-E) along the proposed eastern permit boundary are anticipated. Based on hydrologic modeling, potential indirect impacts to Wetland D may occur. The operator proposes to monitor Wetland D during mining activities, and proposes that a mitigation plan will be developed should any impacts be observed. The monitoring plan should include all identified wetlands, and plans for any necessary mitigation must adequately addresses the impact to or loss of all wetlands resources due to the proposed mining operations.

Module 23

Permanent cover seed mixtures A and D include varieties of fescue. Studies have shown fescue (*Fetuca sp.*) to be toxic to several wildlife species. In addition, because of its ability to out-compete other grass species, it could create a sterile fescue environment. We emphasize that, while Exhibit 18 does not include a list of seed mixtures containing any fescue, replacing the fescue species with a combination of big and little bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi* and *Andropogon virginicus*, respectively), indiagrass (*Sorghastrum*

nutans) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) should either of these mixtures be used is recommended.

Based on our office review only, we have no objections to the issuance of this permit provided that the requests referenced above are implemented, but should project plans change or if additional information becomes available, then this determination could be re-evaluated.

Please feel free to contact me at 717-787-4250 ext. 3621 should you have any questions or concerns.

JJP/jjp



January 9, 2019

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
State Historic Preservation Office
Douglas C. McLearen – Chief, Environmental Review
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Specialty Granules, LLC
“Northern Tract Quarry”
Permit No.: 01180301
Township: Hamiltonban
County: Adams

Dear Mr. McLearen:

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Cambria District Mining Office is requesting that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission conduct a follow up review of the subject application. This request is the result of the enclosed comments, received following a public meeting held to discuss this application on July 23, 2018. Please provide our office with a letter documenting your findings. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact our office at 814.472.1900.

Sincerely,

Rock Martin, P.G., Chief
Technical Services Section
Bureau of District Mining Operations

Enclosures

cc: File

'hc

Paronish, Chadwick

From: Martin, Rock
Sent: Wednesday, January 9, 2019 8:08 AM
To: McLearen, Douglas C; McDougal, Steven
Cc: Paronish, Chadwick
Subject: RE: Specialty Granules, LLC - Civil War retreat path comment

Doug and Steve,

Thanks for the timely response. We will probably need an official record of your opinion. Would you be able to send us a letter stating this? This doesn't have to be anything more than the usual letter you send indicating that no further archaeological work is necessary.

Thanks,

Rock Martin, PG | Chief, Permits and Technical Services
Department of Environmental Protection
Cambria District Office
286 Industrial Park Road | Ebensburg, PA 15931
Phone: 814.472.1891 | Fax: 814.472.1898
martin@pa.gov
www.dep.pa.gov

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From: McLearen, Douglas C
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 4:53 PM
To: McDougal, Steven <smcdougal@pa.gov>; Martin, Rock <martin@pa.gov>
Cc: Paronish, Chadwick <chaparonis@pa.gov>
Subject: RE: Specialty Granules, LLC - Civil War retreat path comment

Well said Steve.

Martin,

I was involved in this project as well, and I concur with Steve's remarks.

Douglas C. McLearen | Chief, Environmental Review
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street, 2nd Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717.772.0925 | Fax: 717.772.0920
www.phmc.state.pa.us

The PA SHPO is in the process of developing a new electronic system, [PA SHARE](#), which will allow us to carry out consultation under Section 106 and the State History Code electronically. To better align our current business practices with how consultation will occur under the new electronic system, we will soon require that all submissions to initiate consultation use our Project Review form. Providing the PA SHPO with this form and detailed and accurate project information facilitates the review process and decreases response times. A copy of the form and guidelines for its completion are available on the [Forms and Guidance page](#) of the PA SHPO website.

From: McDougal, Steven <smcdougal@pa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 7, 2019 11:30 AM
To: Martin, Rock <martin@pa.gov>
Cc: Paronish, Chadwick <chaparonis@pa.gov>; McLearn, Douglas C <dmclearn@pa.gov>
Subject: RE: Specialty Granules, LLC - Civil War retreat path comment

Hi Rock,

My apologies for not getting back with you earlier about this. I no longer work at the SHPO, my last day there was the day before Thanksgiving. I now work at PennDOT as one of their District archaeologists. Please contact Doug McLearn for official comment on this issue.

That said, I'll still give my two cents anyway since I was involved in the project. Archaeological survey was undertaken for this project in two efforts and no evidence of the Confederate retreat from Gettysburg (or the Northern pursuit of the retreating Confederate Armies) was found or uncovered in the project area (which is to say, within the area of potential effect). A post Civil War (late 19th/20th) century residential foundation was recorded in the project area as was the exploratory copper mine, neither of which have anything to do with the Civil War. This is not to say that Civil War soldiers didn't march south through this area after Gettysburg, but there is no physical evidence of this recovered from the project area (area of potential effect) as a result of the archaeological survey undertaken. The people who did the work for this project are good archaeologists and the survey was well done. Any further comment should come from Doug.

Doug, my apologies for stepping out of place here a little bit. I don't want to step on your toes.

Steve

Steven McDougal | District 5-0 & 8-0 Archaeologist
Department of Transportation
Bureau of Project Delivery
Highway Delivery Division
Environmental Policy and Development Section
Cultural Resources Unit
2140 Herr St. | Harrisburg, PA 17103
Phone: 717.783.5148
smcdougal@pa.gov

From: Martin, Rock
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 11:05 AM
To: McDougal, Steven <smcdougal@pa.gov>
Cc: Paronish, Chadwick <chaparonis@pa.gov>
Subject: FW: Specialty Granules, LLC - Civil War retreat path comment

Steve,

We have not heard from you or your group regarding this issue. We have a public hearing coming up this month that we are currently preparing for and will need to get your feedback as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Rock Martin, PG | Chief, Permits and Technical Services
Department of Environmental Protection
Cambria District Office
286 Industrial Park Road | Ebensburg, PA 15931
Phone: 814.472.1891 | Fax: 814.472.1898
martin@pa.gov
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From: Martin, Rock
Sent: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 3:11 PM
To: McDougal, Steven <smcdougal@pa.gov>
Subject: Specialty Granules, LLC - Civil War retreat path comment

Steve,

Attached is the letter from Historic Gettysburg Adams County Preservation Society.

Thanks,

Rock Martin, PG | Chief, Permits and Technical Services
Department of Environmental Protection
Cambria District Office
286 Industrial Park Road | Ebensburg, PA 15931
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Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

23 April 2018

Douglas Dinsmore
Skelly and Loy
449 Eisenhower Boulevard, Suite 300
Harrisburg, PA 17111-2302

Re: ER 2016-0818-001-G

MINE: Specialty Granules LLC, Charmain Northern Tract Project Development, Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Dinsmore:

Thank you for submitting information concerning the above referenced project. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) has reviewed the above named project as per the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Notification of Sub-grant between the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Regarding the Regulation of Coal and Non-Coal Mining within the Commonwealth (authorization Public 95-97, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977). This review includes comments on the project's potential effect on both historic and archaeological resources.

This report meets our standards and specifications as outlined in *Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Pennsylvania* (SHPO 2017) and the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Archaeological Documentation. This report documents recovery of material remains from two previously unrecorded historic archaeological sites: the **Copper Mine Site (36AD0570)** and the **William Smith House Site (36AD0571)**. We agree with the recommendations of this report that neither of these two sites are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In our opinion, no further archaeological work is necessary for this project.

If you need further information regarding archaeological resources, please contact Steven McDougal at smcdougal@pa.gov or (717) 772-0923.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. McKearen, Chief
Division of Environmental Review



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

27 February 2018

Rock Martin
Chief, Technical Services Section
Department of Environmental Protection
Cambria District Mining Office
286 Industrial Park Road
Ebensburg, PA 15931-0625

Re: ER 2016-0818-001-E

MINE: Specialty Granules LLC, Charmain Northern Tract Project Development, Hamiltonban Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for submitting information concerning the above referenced project. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) has reviewed the above named project as per the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Notification of Sub-grant between the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Regarding the Regulation of Coal and Non-Coal Mining within the Commonwealth (authorization Public 95-97, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977). This review includes comments on the project's potential effect on both historic and archaeological resources.

Based on an evaluation by our staff, including the results of the field visit by Steve McDougal of our office on 9 August 2017, and as stated in correspondence to Specialty Granules, LLC. (11 August 2017), there is a high probability that National Register significant archaeological sites are present within this project area. These resources could be adversely affected by project activities. It is our opinion that a Phase I archaeological survey should be conducted to locate potentially significant resources.

It is our understanding that a Phase I archaeological survey has been conducted for this project. Our review of this project will continue when this information has been written up as a report and submitted to our office for review. We look forward to working with you further in this matter.

If you need further information regarding archaeological resources, please contact Steven McDougal at smcdougal@pa.gov or (717) 772-0923.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. McLearn, Chief
Division of Archaeology & Protection