

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 address 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 (*Festuca 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



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. McEaren, 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:

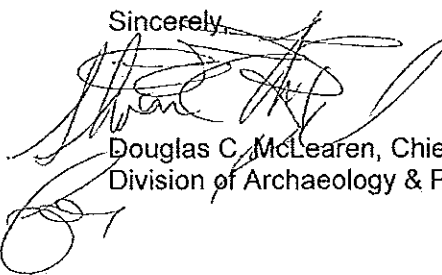
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Based on an evaluation by our staff, including the results of the field visit by Steve McDougal of our office on 9 August 2017, and as stated in correspondence to Specialty Granules, LLC. (11 August 2017), there is a high probability that National 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