

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division

Surface Mining Unit

4244 International Parkway, Suite 104, Atlanta, Georgia 30354


Judson H. Turner, Director

(404) 362-2692

September 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Permittees/Operators of Surface Mining Facilities

FROM: Susan Wagner, Unit Manager
Surface Mining Unit 

SUBJECT: Expedited Permit Review Initiative for Proposed Borrow Pits

In order to be more accommodating to schedules in the mining community, the Environmental Protection Division's Surface Mining Unit has developed an initiative to expedite the review of permit applications for proposed borrow pits.

This initiative will allow owners of proposed borrow pits to hire a registered professional engineer to complete the review of the application and surface mining land use plan (SMLUP) to ensure that the requirements of the Georgia Surface Mining Act and Rules, and any other applicable local, state or federal ordinances have been met. The professional engineer would contact EPD to be assigned a surface mining file number, conduct a site evaluation, complete the application and SMLUP review, and certify that all applicable requirements for a borrow pit surface mining permit have been met. The expedited application and SMLUP should then be submitted to the Surface Mining Unit for an administrative review, which would be completed within 10 days of receipt.

If the administrative review demonstrates that all requirements for the expedited permit have been met, a SMLUP approval shall be issued and bonding requested. Upon receipt of acceptable bonding, a proposed permit would be drafted and forwarded to the Director for action.

Based upon this timeline, a complete expedited permit application with bonding submitted with SMLUP approval could result in borrow pit permits being issued within 45 days.

We look forward to working with you and would welcome any comments or suggestions regarding this initiative.

Attachments: Application Checklist – Borrow Pits
Initial Site Evaluation Form
Certification for Completion of Application Review
Consultant Cover Letter

[Company Letterhead]

[Date]

Ms. Susan Wagner, Unit Manager
Environmental Protection Division
Surface Mining Unit
4244 International Parkway, Suite 104
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

RE: Proposed [Name of Surface Mine Company]
Name of Borrow Pit

Dear Ms. Wagner:

In my official capacity as [title] of [name of company], I have reviewed the permit application and mining land use plan for completeness, conformance with best management practices for erosion and sediment control and other performance criteria as established.

I hereby certify that the permit application and mining land use plan for the above referenced proposed borrow meets the minimum requirements for erosion and sedimentation control, protection of properties on the National Register of Historic Places, protection of Contiguous Natural and other Resources and provides for a mining reclamation plan.

Sincerely,

[name]

Certification for Completion of Application Review for:

County Name: _____.

Subject Facility
(Company Name & Mine Name): _____.

Surface Mining File Number: _____.

- Minimum 3 copies of Application and Surface Mining Land Use Plan (SMLUP) attached.
- Application is complete and signed by the Applicant.
- Application Notarized or Corporate Seal.
- Company name on application and SMLUP is same.
- Affected Acres = Areas to be permitted.
- Water features identified and shown on SMLUP with minimum 25 ' undisturbed buffer.
- Permanent landform changes shown in the Reclamation Plan are designed to be protective against failure, subsidence/erosion in accordance with the "Manual for Erosion and sedimentation Control in Georgia" published by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
- If Surface Mining is to be conducted within the 100 year floodplain, the SMLUP is designed to be in accordance with any applicable local floodplain management ordinance, if any.
- Copy of "Notice of Intent for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities General Permit GAR050000" included.
- If properties on the National Register of Historic Places are located within a mile of any portion of the proposed mining property, documentation is provided identifying the historic property and a demonstration is included that identifies potential adverse effects and provides alternatives or measures to avoid or minimize effects.
- When lakes/ponds proposed as final reclamation, the minimum acceptable design criteria shall meet or exceed that criteria in : Agriculture Handbook Number 590, Ponds – Planning, Design, Construction published by the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, latest issued.
- Initial Site Evaluation Conducted and Initial Site Evaluation Form Completed

Engineer's Stamp/Signed

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
SURFACE MINING UNIT

Initial Site Evaluation of Surface Mining File No. _____ Date _____

APPLICANT/OPERATOR

CONTACT PERSON

Company name: _____

Name: _____

Permittee Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Consultant Name: _____

Telephone: _____

SITE NAME/LOCATION: _____

COUNTY NAME: _____

QUAD MAP: _____ LAT _____ LONG _____

ACRES TO BE PERMITTED _____ MINERAL(S) MINED _____

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS:

Property Lines Defined:

Classification of land Use:

Topography:

Drainage:

Streams, rivers, etc.:

Adjacent Properties:

Access Roads:

State or County Roads:

Other:

RECOMMENDATIONS: