Module 19: Land Use / Vegetation
[§§77.408/77.409]

19.1 Land Use

a) Identify the present uses of land use areas within the permit area (Key land use(s) to Exhibit 18: "Land Use and Reclamation Map").
Existing Quarry Operation = 86 Acres

Proposed Farmland to be converted to Quarry = 30 Acres

b) For cropland, pastureland or land occasionally cut for hay, or commercial forest identify the productivity expressed as average yield of food, fiber, forage or wood products. Use yield data or estimates for similar sites based on current data from U.S. Department of Agriculture or Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.
Proposed Farmland to be converted to Quarry = 135 Bushels Corn / Acre
27 Tons Corn Silage / Acre
2,500 Pounds Tobacco / Acre
50 Bushels Wheat / Acre
5.5 Tons Alfalfa Hay / Acre
3.5 Tons Grass/Legume Hay / Acre
7.0 Animal Units / Month

Source: Lancaster County / USDA Soil Survey - See attached Table 6

c) Identify any lands classified as Primary Agricultural Land under Executive Orders 1994-3 and 2003-2 (The Agricultural Land Preservation Policy). If there are, then indicate the alternatives to this disturbance considered and the reasons they were not deemed feasible.
Proposed Farmland to be converted to Quarry = 4.3 Acres of DbB-Duffield Silt Loam-3 to 8% slope
8.0 Acres of HaA-Hagerstown Silt Loam-0 to 3% slope
17.7 Acres of HaB-Hagerstown Silt Loam-3 to 8 % slope

Negotiations were conducted with adjoining farmland owners. All involved Primary Agricultural Land. See attached letter from the Lancaster County Planning Commission for a discussion on how this proposed farmland conversion fits into the long range Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan and the Northwest Regional Strategic Plan. The project requires a natural resource to be mined where it naturally occurs and combined with being accesible (minimal overburden material). The project then must meet zoning requirements and be of marketable size. This project is unique in it's location since it has an existing market an will minimize impacts by using existing processing facilties. The only alternative would be to find a project site that meets all of the above requirements that is not in prime farmland.

19.2 Vegetation

Identify the percent ground cover of the natural vegetation within the permit area. If the postmining land use is fish and wildlife habitat, also identify the stocking and species composition of woody plants.
74% Quarry

26% Farmland - Soy Beans, Corn, Rotated Crops as the land owner chooses.

19.3 Fish and Wildlife (Protection/Enhancement Plan)

a) Have any threatened or endangered species and/or critical habitats of these species (includes species listed or proposed and habitats listed by the U.S. Department of Interior under the Endangered Species Act of 1973) been identified within or adjacent (within 1000 feet) to the proposed permit area? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If “yes” checked, identify the species and habitat area and include within your response to c) and d) information specific to the species and habitats identified.

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b) Have any habitats of unusually high value (e.g., wild trout streams, wetlands, riparian areas, cliffs/caves supporting raptors, areas offering special shelter or protection) been identified within or adjacent to the proposed permit area?
☐ Yes ☒ No

If “yes” checked, identify the habitat area and include within your response to c) and d) information specific to the habitats identified.

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c) Describe the measures which will be taken to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

N/A

d) Describe the measures which will be taken to enhance fish and wildlife resources. Any facilities proposed for protection or enhancement of fish and wildlife resources are to be identified on Exhibit 18.

N/A

e) If no enhancement measures are identified in d), explain why enhancement is not practicable.

N/A