According to SGI, the Western Ridge pit ceased to be quarried in 1996. That is over two decades ago! While SGI is completing the pile/mounded area is completed, the approved reclamation plan consists of planting grasses and completing reforestation activities. Backfilling of the West Ridge Quarry is proceeding and is an active operational area, with placement of fines generated from operations of the DEP-approved plan the second four years. For additional information, see §13.2 of SGI’s November 12, 2018 Responses to Public Comments (“First Response”) and §13.2 of SGI’s May 7, 2019 Responses to Public Comments (“Second Response”).

35 With regards to all existing permits for SGI’s operation at the current location in Hamilton Township Adams County PA, are there any “grandfathered permits”? SGI has no knowledge of the existence of any such permits. 

41 Overall Permitting Issues

43 How many fewer years would SGI get if it did not mine the northernmost and northwesternmost slopes? Why is this not a reasonable trade-off to make? (See Clifford Frost 2/11/2019 PDF for Photograph)

65 The existence of asbestos at Charmian was documented in 1942 and was mined. SGI has no knowledge of the existence of any such permits. See §13.2 of SGI’s November 12, 2018 Responses to Public Comments (“First Response”) and §13.2 of SGI’s May 7, 2019 Responses to Public Comments (“Second Response”).

96 This land (Pine Hill) — called the “Northern Tract” by SGI — was never supposed to be mined. It was purchased with Adams County taxpayer money to be preserved as water resources and for public enjoyment by the citizens of the County. Community residents have continued to oppose their expansion in every public hearing. At the end of January 2019, as a hearing with DEP, 18 of our speakers opposed the issuance of permits. While there can be piecemeal exceptions, there are few, if any, that deserve special treatment.

149 If the retention facility at the outfall to Miney Branch is such a wonderful retaining facility, why is it hidden behind no trespassing fences from the general public?”

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SGI has made no actual investment in any community program: No scholarships, no training programs, no ownership of 4-H, no partnerships for badly needed community programs such as after-school counseling clubs. For all the many years of complaints lodged against the company since it moved into the Stanley Pitts property and formally started mining the quality of life for so many people who had lived forever in the woods around the property. SGI has consistently chosen to take complaints as an individual basis, never creating a community outreach office.

The Adams County requirements include preserving Toms Creek (Appendix E) (See Sherry Rogers-Frost 2/13/2019 PDF for Appendix)

The Hamiltonban “Conditional Use Permit” provided to SGI (NARRATIVE TO CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION (THE “APPLICATION”) UNDER THE HAMILTONBAN TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE (THE “ORDINANCE”)) contains a requirement which has SGI choose to ignore, but when enforced by the township will make mining the NT difficult, if not impossible. 4-4: “There shall be an exception which is discretionary to the human sense of feeling beyond the immediate site on which such use is conditioned” 7E. The Adams County requirements include preserving Toms Creek. (Appendix E) (See Sherry Rogers-Frost 2/13/2019 PDF for Appendix)

Economy As explained in SGI First Responses §2.6 and SGI Second Responses §3.11, there is a well-established market for the unique roofing granules that are produced at SGI’s Charmian facility, and that market is not waning. The durability of asphalt is waning as more and more people weigh the high environmental costs associated with asphalt as compared to environmentally friendly metal roofing.

Insurance companies give discounts for metal roofs because of their strength and longevity. Solar roofs are just beginning to make an impact on the market, but once the manufacturing infrastructure is in place there is a tremendous demand which has developed and will continue to grow.

Economically feasible to do the analysis required to do a cost-benefit analysis. Metal roofs are gaining market share quickly, due to aesthetic acceptance, the ability to shape metal in many new ways, and the increased occurrence of “major storm events.” Insurance companies give discounts for metal roofs because it is stronger and higher quality.

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Hats are just beginning to make an impact on the market, but once the manufacturing infrastructure is in place there is a tremendous demand which has developed and will continue to grow.
236 WHO BENEFITS: MEGA CEOS! SGI, or predecessor limited liability companies, point to over nine decades of operations, yet NO WEALTH has been created in our community. Wealth flows up the executive chain and out of Pennsylvania. Please analyze the SGI payroll and consider whether nonresident, executive pay has any positive impact on our community.

73 Economy SGI engaged an expert economic consulting firm, Econconsult Solutions, Inc. (“ESI”), to prepare an update to the economic impacts analysis for the Charmian facility. The results of that analysis are presented in the SGI Second Responses, Appendix 3.4. In short, the ESI analysis concluded: (1) Based on SGI’s 2018 operations (not including capital investments), SGI generated $40.2 million in total economic impacts within Adams County and supported 264 jobs (both direct and indirect) and $19.2 million in wages and salaries. (2) Within the Commonwealth, SGI generated $60.9 million in total economic impacts and supported 476 jobs (both direct and indirect), $35 million in wages and salaries, and $1.2 million in annual tax payments to the state. (3) In 2018, SGI’s capital investments generated $6.9 million in total economic activity in Adams County and supported 77 total jobs and $1.7 million in wages and salaries; (4) Within the Commonwealth, SGI’s capital investments generated $10.5 million in total economic activity and supported 16 total jobs, $1.0 million in wages and salaries, and $136,000 in tax revenue. (5) SGI significantly contributes to local governmental tax revenues. SGI’s Charmian plant directly pays local property taxes, its employees pay local earned income tax, and the economic activity generated by its existence leads to additional local tax revenues. In 2018, SGI’s Charmian plant paid over $254,000 in county, township and school district property taxes; and SGI plant employees paid an estimated $157,500 in earned income taxes to area school districts. For further information, see SGI Second Responses §3.11.

225 The D.L. George truck depot along Highway 16 has been a recurring and irritating source of noise and light to the neighborhood. SGI should agree to use its influence as contractor to have D.L. George reduce this noise and light pollution.

27, 28 Trucks This comment concerns alleged light and noise pollution generated by an entity that has no corporate affiliation with SGI, at a location that is several miles from the Charmian facility. While SGI appreciates the spirit of the comment in that it agrees that noise and light impacts should generally be avoided, the specific allegations have no bearing on SGI’s Northern Tract applications.

41 Trucks How will trucks be monitored for emissions compliance on a daily basis? Has the existing quarry been required to do same? Who monitors and waters down or cleans streets affected by heavy traffic?

41 Trucks In response to the comment suggesting that trucks be monitored for emissions compliance on a daily basis, daily motor vehicle emissions monitoring is neither feasible nor required under state or federal air pollution laws. Rather, motor vehicle emissions are carefully regulated under a national system of rules developed and enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the federal Clean Air Act. In response to the comment concerning air emissions from the existing quarry, please see SGI First Responses §3, which describes in detail SGI’s compliance with applicable air emissions requirements. Reference to the comment concerning watering and cleaning of streets, SGI First Responses §5.3 explains that control of local roadways is under the purview of Hamilton Township. SGI has worked with the Township to adopt the two mile section of road between the quarry and Route 16 that carries SGI-related truck traffic. Furthermore, SGI recently purchased a street sweeper and utilizes it to clean roads near the site entrances as needed. SGI’s street sweeper is a state-of-the-art sweeper utilizing a brush system and vacuum pipes to collect debris while minimizing dust generation. (That unit is certified for PM-10 emissions control under the stringent standards of Southern California Air Quality Management District Rule 1186.) SGI will continue to work in partnership with the Township to help maintain the portion of road utilized by SGI-related trucks. SGI dedicates a crew once a month to pick up trash on the roads around the perimeter of the property. Finally, SGI is building a new access road to Route 16 which will divert approximately 75% of the truck traffic away from local streets.

41 Trucks Why are there no signs leading in and from the quarry advising the community of the truck traffic?

41 Trucks The issue referred to in this comment should be substantiated by the installation of the Route 16 connector described in SGI First Responses §5.3 and SGI Second Responses §7.1. Construction of the Route 16 connector project is currently underway. As indicated in SGI First Responses §5.3, SGI has hired a traffic consultant to review traffic patterns and controls near the site entrances where SGI-related truck traffic regularly travels. At the conclusion of this study SGI will make recommendations to the Township for improvements and the placement of additional signs or signals where needed. SGI will offer to fully pay for installation of any signage.