



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

POTTSVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE

January 29, 2016

New Hope Crushed Stone & Lime Co.  
P.O. Box 248  
New Hope, PA 18938

Re: New Hope Crushed Stone & Lime Co.  
Noncoal Surface Mining Permit No. 7974SM3  
Solebury Township, Bucks County  
Proposed Reclamation Plan dated Nov. 30, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Department has reviewed the proposed Reclamation Plan, Cost Timing and Sequence ("Reclamation Plan") dated November 30, 2015 submitted by your consultant, EarthRes Group, Inc. (ERG). The Reclamation Plan is unacceptable. The reasons for this determination include, but are not limited to, the fact that the proposed Reclamation Plan timetable does not abate the public nuisance noted in the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) Adjudication dated July 31, 2014, in a timely manner. The proposed Reclamation Plan also does not propose to reclaim the quarry as concurrently as possible. Additionally, the proposed timetable appears to be based on the time needed to mine the currently permitted mineral reserves, and not on the time needed to perform the required Primrose Creek stream work and the required highwall backfilling and reclamation work.

Therefore, the Department cannot approve the Reclamation Plan as submitted. To address the deficiencies in the Reclamation Plan, the Department is modifying the Reclamation Plan. NHCS must perform work in accordance with the following modifications to the Reclamation Plan in order for the Department to consider that NHCS is abating the public nuisance declared by the Environmental Hearing Board in a timely manner, and concurrently reclaiming the affected areas on SMP No. 7974SM3:

1. The Primrose Creek stream work and/or the highwall reclamation work currently underway shall continue to be conducted on a continuous basis until completed to the Department's satisfaction.
2. NHCS shall conduct the stream and reclamation work for a minimum of 160 hours per week, utilizing at least four (4) workers/laborers who each work a 40 hour week.
3. NHCS shall place a minimum of 200 cubic yards per hour of backfill material for reclamation purposes during the highwall reclamation phases of operation.
4. The flooding of the quarry and lowering of the required daily pumping of pit water to the permit-required minimum of 500,000 gallons per day shall begin immediately. Pumping rates may increase only if water levels rise to an elevation that prohibits safe reclamation of the quarry walls. There shall be at least two (2) safety benches below the active highwall.

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reclamation area and the pit water. The Department reserves the right to modify pumping rates based on site conditions and other related issues.

5. A reclamation progress report shall be included with the quarterly groundwater and surface water monitoring report.
6. The quarterly report shall include the Mine & Reclamation Phase Development Plan map with the current +48' MSL contour and the inflow and outflow structure locations highlighted.
7. NHCS shall install a monitoring well designed to monitor groundwater elevations on the Solebury School property within 90 days of the date of this letter. Prior to installation of the monitoring well, NHCS shall discuss NHCS' plans for placement and design of the monitoring well with the Department.

The Department reserves the right to modify this work plan should safety or environmental concerns arise that were not considered or known at this time.

New Hope Crushed Stone & Lime Co. may propose its own work plan at any time. However, any plan submitted by NHCS requires formal, written approval from the Department prior to its implementation. Until the Department approves an alternate work plan, NHCS shall perform stream and reclamation work in accordance with the requirements set forth in this letter.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or any related matters, please contact me at 570.621.3118.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Menghini  
District Mining Manager  
District Mining Operations

cc: John Stefanko  
William Plassio  
Nathan Houtz  
Michael Kutney  
Gary Latsha  
Amiee Bollinger  
Nels Taber  
Alicia Duke  
EarthRes Group, Inc.  
Solebury Township  
Solebury School  
Primrose Creek Watershed Association  
File  
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