

F.W. AGGREGARTE, INC.
DURABILITY QUARRY RECLAMATION PLAN
AMENDMENT

California Mine ID# 91-14-0017

Lead Agency

Inyo County Planning Department
P.O. Drawer "L"
Independence, CA 93526

Operator

F.W. Aggregate, Inc.
P.O. Box 732
Lone Pine, CA 93545



November 2016

INTRODUCTION

F.W. Aggregate, Inc. is proposing to amend Reclamation Plan No. 2007-04/Durability Quarry, approved on April 28, 2008.

The project site is located within the southern Inyo Range which comprises of strongly folded and faulted sedimentary rocks, approximately 10 miles southeast of Lone Pine, California as depicted in Figure 1 (Regional Location), and Figure 2, (Site Location), within Inyo County.

The proposal is to expand the Durability Quarry by 185 acres. Expanding the Durability Quarry would include the available aggregate resources from its Durability, North Pole and Translucent Claims. The requirement for the amendment is to continue to provide uninterrupted aggregate to the Owens Dry Lake Dust Mitigation Projects, and other projects in and around Inyo County.

In 2014, F.W. Aggregate had the existing Environmental Biological study for the Durability Quarry up-dated. In June 2016, an environmental study was conducted on the full 480 acre parcel of land (encompasses the Durability, North Pole and Translucent Claims).

Updated maps have been prepared to depict the expansion of the Durability Quarry.

All other mining procedures and environmental conditions remain unchanged and are the same as that stated in the existing approved reclamation plan (RP 2007-4).

Title Page

Operation Name: Durability Quarry

California Mine Identification Number: 91-14-0017

Mine Owner/Operator: F.W. Aggregate, Inc.
P.O. Box 732
Lone Pine, CA 93526

Contact Person: Dick Bowman
(519) 670-4678
dick@fwaggregart.com

Property & Mineral Rights Owner: F.W.A. Holdings, Inc.
P.O. 548
Woodstock, Ontario
Canada, N45745

Contact Person: Tony Lopez
(519) 485-5410 x 224

Assessor's Parcel Number: 027-027-008

Location: Approximately one mile north of Highway 136, 5 miles east of Highway 395, and 12 miles southeast of the community of Lone Pine, Sections 19 & 30, T. 16 S., R. 38 E., M.D.B.&M. (Lat. 36.31422 & Long. 117.53376)

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Purpose and Definition

PROPOSAL

F.W. Aggregate, Inc. (Operator) is proposing to expand the Durability Quarry mining foot print an additional 185 acres of a 480 acre parcel of private land for a total of 245 acres. The Operator is also proposing to increase their production of aggregate from 800,000 annual tons to 2,000,000 annual tons.

The purpose of the expansion is to include the available aggregate resources from it's Durability, North Pole and Translucent Claims. The requirements for the expansion is to continue to provide uninterrupted aggregate to the Owens Dry Lake Dust Mitigation Projects; allows F.W. Aggregate to follow the natural geology of the deposit; provides a long term solution to providing aggregate for the Owens Dry Lake Dust Mitigation Project and other projects in and around Inyo County area.

The proposed expansion would continue to increase employment at F.W. Aggregate, provide increased employment stability for the existing and enable the continued operations of the "North Pole". Also by F.W. Aggregate supplying aggregate to the Owens Lake Project from the Durability Quarry has minimized traffic, noise, energy consumption and emissions.

F.W. Aggregate has an approved financial assurance mechanism (Surety Bond) on file with Inyo County (lead agency) in the amount of \$380,120.

All other mining procedures and environmental conditions remain unchanged and are the same as that stated in the existing approved reclamation plan (RP 2007-4).

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Purpose

SMARA requires surface mining operators to obtain lead agency approved financial assurance for exclamation of mined lands so the public does not bear the cost of reclaiming abandoned operations. In the event of financial incapability by the operator, financial assurances funds are used by the lead agency (or the Department of Conservation) to reclaim the mined site.

Financial assurance estimates for the initiation of the operation are based on

- an analysis of the physical activities necessary to implement the approved reclamation plan;
- the lead agency's (or third party contract) unit cost for each of these activities;
- the number of units of each of these activities;
- and an amount to cover contingency cost, (not to exceed 10% of the above calculations reclamation cost) and actual lead agency administrative cost.

The following tasks will need to be completed to implement this reclamation plan

- remove heavy equipment;
- contour surfaces as necessary to conform to the existing topography and establish proper drainage;
- Manage growth media stockpile against erosion
- Distribute growth media
- Seed and Plant
- Monitoring and maintenance of the planting and seeding inspection
- Maintenance of weeding
- Data collection and reporting
- Reporting contingency

Financial assurances are reviewed annually by the lead agency. They are adjusted if necessary, to reflect changes in the estimated cost of reclamation activities, lands reclaimed the previous year.

Financial assurance mechanism (bond) will be secured by the operator in the form of a Corporate Surety Bond.

OVERVIEW OF APPROVED RECLAMATION PLAN NO. 2005-4

Site Location and Size

The project site isolated approximately 12 miles southeast of Lone Pine off State Route 136, centrally located within Inyo County. The existing quarry and processing areas occupy 60 acres of a 480 acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 027-027-008), located within Sections 19 & 30, T. 16 S., R. 38 E., M.D.B.& M, (Lat. 36.332647/Long. 117.5614), (Figure 1/Regional Location & Figure 2/Site Location). The expansion is located at the southern most properties and claims operated by F.W. Aggregate.

Surface Mining Permit

A Conditional Use Permit (#88-3) for certain processing activities (e.g. an agglomeration plant) and a Reclamation Plan (#88-1) for "Inyo Marble Company" were approved in 1988. F.W. Aggregate, Inc. the successor to Inyo Marble Company, operates its mining and processing operations based on a vested right for a non-conforming use established by over a century of continuous Mining operations.

Existing and Allowed Uses

1. Land use on and surrounding the site is visible in Figure 4/Existing Conditions Aerial Photograph. The existing land use on this parcel is Open Space and Mining. Mining activity has been continuous at this relate parcel under common ownership for over 100 years.

The Quarry site is located on one parcel zoned Open Space (OS-40), with a General Plan designation of Open Space and Recreation (OSR). Permitted uses, as stated in Chapter 18.12 (OS [Open Space] Zone) of the Inyo County Zoning Ordinance, for an Open Space designation include: single family dwelling, farms and ranches, (including activities directly related to those uses), animal hospitals or kennels, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas. Mining operations are permitted under Section 18.12.040, Conditional Uses. Inyo County Code specifically recognizes the validity of vested non-conforming uses under Section 18.78.230.

Access and Utilities

The site is accessed by an existing unpaved road off State Route 136 that has been widened for operation of this site. As noted, the road is not temporary having existed for approximately 100 years. The road will remain following Quarry reclamation to continue long term access to the property in accordance with the law and in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management.

The access road has been graded and widened as part of increased operations to provide for safe two-way truck traffic. As the road passes through public lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a right-of-way permit (CACA 050188) has been obtained from the BLM. Utilities necessary for operation are provided from portable equipment at the site, and provided as follows:

- Power - Power is provided by generator
- Water - Water for drinking purposes is bottled; water for dust control is provided from tanker trucks
- Sewage - The operation is located in rural part of Inyo County; so public sewer system is utilized. Portable toilets are used at the site.

No additional extension of utilities or alterations to existing utility service would be necessary to carry out mining and reclamation activities identified in this proposal.

Geology

The southern Inyo Range comprises strongly of folded and faulted sedimentary rocks which range in age from Ordovician to Middle Triassic. Except for the upper part of the Riassoc sequence, these rocks are arelatedly of marine origin and include limestone, dolomite, quartzite, and shale. The upper part of the Triassic sequence is predominantly volcanic with intercalation of terrestrial sediments. Paleozoic and Triassic rocks are penetrated by small-to intermediate-sized frantic bodies, by applies, and by large numbers of andesitic.

Figure 5, Site Geology, shows the unit of economic interest within the parcel, known as the Hidden Valley-Ely Springs dolomite formation. The Hidden Valley-Ely Springs formations are defined separately in other areas of the Inyo Mountains. The Hidden valley-Ely Springs formation was intruded by a small stock of quartz monzonite on the northwest side of Smelter Hill. Judging by the presence numerous prospects near the contact of this intrusive, it is likely that scary deposits were formed in the dolomite as a result of this stock.

Hydrology

Surface Water

The existing Quarry and proposed expansion is located adjacent to a southerly sloping alluvial fan that is transected by southerly trending drainages along the access road. The alluvial fan consist of deposits derived from erosion the adjacent Inyo Mountains. The annual precipitation is approximately 6 inches.

The Quarry and expansion area vegetation community is Great Basin desert scrub. Black brush shrub is the natural community (habitat) found in the area. The plant community found on the Quarry and expansion site is dominated by black brush scrub and is sparsely populated with creosote bush.

The watershed area upstream and including the Quarry site is relatively limited, consisting of only about 100 acres. The drainage area originates at elevation 4,428 feet and is located to the north of the Quarry and expansion site. The Quarry site has existing slopes varying from over 2.5:1 to 4:1 depending from the north. Elevation varying from 4,120 and 4,200 feet above mean sea level.

The Quarry site drainage area is subject to rapid runoff and highly localized peak flows due to the combined effects of rainfall intensity soil type, vegetation, antecedent soil moisture saturation and slope. High peak flows occur infrequently because high flows are generated by high intensity rain, an infrequent occurrence in the desert. During many years no significant flow occurs in the wash areas.

Site surface water drainage is shown in Figure 4, Existing Conditions Aerial Photograph. Actual surface water drainage off the site is limited or nonexistent under normal conditions due to the pervious, absorptive nature of the soils and geologic strata, and because the area receives such limited rainfall.

Ground Water

With a total rainfall of less than 6 inches on the valley floor, incident rainfall contributes little to area recharge, and most of the recharge occurs along stream zones and as sub surface flow originating higher on the mountain slopes and moving along the contact between the alluvial fan deposits and underlying bedrock, generally following surface topography.

Groundwater at the site has not been encountered in previous excavation but is expected to be located well below the floor of the planned operation and the final floor of the planned final topography at depths exceeding 100 feet below surface.

Vegetation and Wildlife

Vegetation

The Quarry sites are characterized as dominated by desert scrubland/woodland vegetation, with the dominant plant community being Blackbush Scrub, but species characteristic of Mojavean Creosote Bush Scrub also occur on site. These vegetation communities fall within the broader category of Mojave Desert Scrub, Bitterbush, Desert Needlegrass, Eastern Majove Bucket, Giant Stipa, Longstem Buckwheat, Mojave Saltbush, Quailbush, Shadscale, and Silverscale Sulfur Buckwheat.

A botanical survey completed in June 2016 offered a few more species; included in the proposal.

Wildlife

Wildlife associated with the site vicinity include primarily widely distributed species common to the desert scrub habitat, such as coyote, antelope, ground squirrel, black-tailed hare, western whip-tail lizard and other lizards. Birds include turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel and others. No species listed as threatened or endangered under either the California Endangered Species Act or Federal Endangered Species Act, are unknown or expected to occur within areas to be mined and reclaimed.

Mine Plan and Mined Topography

Existing topography at the site is shown in Figure 4. The plan for mining is shown in Figure 6/Mine Plan. The existing quarry and processing areas occupy 60 acres of a 480 acre parcel. The expansion will include an additional 185 acres.

The topography of the existing Quarry will be a flat floor with a high-wall slope from 1.25h:1v to 1.75h:1v. The existing processing area appears as a relatively flat surface consistent with the Quarry floor, and the adjacent broad dry wash.

The operation will not excavate to depths that are below the local ground water table that could create a water surface at reclamation. The quarry floor is planned at an elevation of approximately 4,080 feet amsl, with a gently sloping floor that drains southerly.

Mine plan cross-sections depicting planned configurations of quarried slopes are shown in Figure 7. The hard rock quarry walls are designed and constructed at a reclaimed grade of between 1.25h:1v and 1.75h:1v for a stable final slope condition.

Type of Mining

The operation generally involves excavation using conventional mining practices common to the industry, processing by screening and transport of the aggregate materials off site. Mining activities are initiated with removal of growth media which is stockpiling for reclamation by the Operator.

Excavated materials are crushed, screened and stockpiled. Material is transferred from these stockpiles to roadable trucks for transport to construction sites, or to other associated mining operations for further processing.

Equipment

The types of mobile equipment and/or machines employed are typical excavation equipment, such as: a dozer, front-end wheel loader, portable water pump, motor grader, conveyers and haul trucks. A water truck is used for maintenance of surfaces and dust control. The types of vehicles used vary over time due to availability, and the use of new models to suit different on-site conditions and to perform specific short-term reclamation tasks.

Quantity and Type of Materials

Maximum production levels are primarily determined by market demand. An existing on going local public agency environmental dust control project will require an approximately 1,000,000 tons of material from the site. Average annual production thereafter is expected to be relatively low (less than 100,000 tons annual), with occasional peaks (up to 2,000,000 tons annually) in the future where the market and construction projects demand.

The purpose of the proposed 185 acre expansion is to include the available aggregate resources from its Durability, North Pole, and Translucent claims. F.W. Aggregate is also proposing to increase the amount of aggregate to be excavated from 1,000,000 tons to 2,000,000, anticipating additional mitigation on the Owens Dry Lake , highway construction and improvement projects and for other construction projects within the local area.

Maximum Depth

The maximum depth of the on going hillside Quarry is approximately 100 feet from the top of slope to the Quarry floor.

Unused Materials Disposal

The geologic materials at the Durability Quarry are very uniform, with little or no non-marketable "waste". Crushed rock smaller than product specifications are to be placed on the processing area to create the planned floor for operations.

Schedule and Phasing

F.W. Aggregate, Inc. and its predecessors have operated the Durability and related properties for over a century. Reasonably foreseeable operations for the Durability Quarry are presently planned to November 2055.

Mining will occur in phases as shown in Figure 8/Mine Development and Reclamation Phasing. Figure also shows the anticipated approximately dates on each mining phase.

RECLAMATION PRACTICES AND ACTIONS

Mining activities will begin with the removal of growth media and any other overburden. Growth media is stockpiled. Grading and re-vegetation shall be designed to minimize erosion in all phases of operations.

Temporary diversion/collection ditches, berms, and catchment basins and use of erosion control materials are employed for effective water and sediment control, primarily in the form of a berm upslope of the process area, and a drainage ditch extending from the Quarry and along the access road. Maintenance includes periodic inspection, cleaning, and repair, as necessary.

Backfilling, Regrading, Slope Stability and Re-contouring

Reclamation will include the designed steepness and proposed treatment of final slopes and performance standards for backfilling and grading including settlement of filled areas. Areas mined to produce additional materials are also addressed. Where backfilling is proposed, fill material shall be compacted in accordance with appropriate codes for the approved end use. Stockpiling is to be done in a manner as to facilitate phased reclamation and final reclaimed fill slopes will not exceed 2 (Horizontal):1 (Vertical).

Backfilling for Urban Land Uses and Resource Conservation Use

Little or no backfilling will be associated with this operation. The site is not zoned for development of urban use.

Manage Stockpiles to Facilitate Phased Reclamation

As part of mining, topsoil and growth media will be removed and separately stockpiled in an area north of the mine area that would facilitate phased reclamation of the Quarry floor and processing area. This stockpile has been signed "Topsoil" to prevent accidental use.

Stockpiles will not be compacted in order to allow gas exchange between the atmosphere and micro-organisms in the soil.

Stockpiles that would be unused over winter rainy seasons will be protected from erosion by berms at their base and seeded or covered with a gravel mulch. The Durability Quarry will be completed as cut surfaces only; no fill slopes are planned.

Fill Slopes, Stability and Conformity with Surrounding Topography or End Use

The Durability Quarry will be completed as cut surfaces only; no fill slopes are planned.

Cut Slope Stability

Hard-rock cut slopes have been planned and developed in accordance with accepted slope stability as they will be cut in final reclamation to a grade of between 1.25:1 and 1.75:1.

Protection for Wetlands from Permanent Mine Waste

No Wetlands exist on the site.

RE-VEGETATION

SMGB regulation required that the vegetation cover be capable of self-regeneration without continued irrigation, soil amendment or fertilizer, cover, density, and species richness of natural habitats. Test plots are required to be planted simultaneously with mining, unless re-vegetation success has been documented from experience. Re-vegetation standards for roads include mitigating for compaction of soils

Regulations also recommend that native plants be used for re-vegetation, unless other species seen necessary for the end uses. Planting is to be conducted in the most favorable (*Fall*) season, and soil stabilization is to be practiced where necessary. If irrigation is used, it must be demonstrated that vegetation has been self-sustaining without irrigation for a period of two years. Noxious weeds are to be named, and protective measures or plants used.

Soils Analysis

Chemically unaltered, native growth media from the site will be replaced.

Soil conditions at the site are typical of desert slopes and washes, with the material nit greatly altered from the subsoil.

Reclamation will make use of the surface materials, which include fines, organic matter, and seeds. The need for incorporation of fertilizers or soil amendments is not anticipated.

Test Plots

Species to be used in re-vegetation are common to the site and surrounding area, and species that will be used in re-vegetation are volunteering on the berms throughout the site.

CCR Section 3705(b) requires that test plots be reinstalled if the re-vegetation methods have not been proven. Test plots are necessary to determine the most effective and economical ethos of re-vegetation the site. The test plots treatment redesigned to assess:

1. the effect of spreading topsoil/growth media on the site;
2. the effect of growth media and an application of a low nitrogen, high organic matter soil amendment such as Biosol; and
3. what native species are the most likely to become establish form seeding and which species become established on their own.

A test plot has been established within the Durability Quarry at the north end away from any mining activity.

Species, Planting Densities and Schedule

Species to be planted will consist of native plants that have evidenced good success on disturbed soils, and are consistent with vegetation used in the region for this purpose. Commercially available seed for species from the following list are planned to be used:

Bitterbush	Desert Needlegrass	Eastern Majove Bucket
Giant Stipa	Longstem Buckwheat	Mojave Saltbush
Quailbush	Shadscale	Silverscale
Sulfur Buckwheat		

Site Preparation and Reclamation of Roads

Scarifying or otherwise de-compacting mined surfaces for re-vegetation is planned. Roads used to access the site will, however remain at the conclusion mining operations in accordance with the law and in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management.

Irrigation, Weed Abatement

Irrigation would not be required to support the seed mix.

Re-vegetation is planned to discourage weedy species by incorporating some fast-growing species as a deterrent, and by limiting water and nutrient soil conditions to those most favorable to native species.

A program of exotic weed abatement will be implemented if weeds become a problem. Weed control may include the use of herbicides, mechanical controls or hand weeding. Serious invasive weeds will be eradicated.

Re-vegetation Protection Measures, Soil Stabilizing Practices and Short Term on Arid Lands

The reclaimed surfaces are not expected to be grazed by native species: however, if herbivory prevents grassland establishment, protective fencing screens would be used.

Erosion of cut slopes is not expected, as the surface will be hard rock. It is not anticipated that further soil stabilizing practices would be necessary.

Should soil stabilizing practices be needed, certified weed free straw mulch will be used as necessary to control erosion of growth media over the Quarry floor.

Drainage, Diversion Structures, Waterways

SMARA regulations require that erosion and sedimentation be controlled during all phases of construction, operation, reclamation and closure, ensuring that surrounding land and water resources are protected. The regulations require that the removal of vegetation and overburden, if any, must be kept to a minimum.

Additionally, stockpiles are to be managed, and erosion control facilities be constructed and maintained where necessary to check erosion.

Grading and re-vegetation must be designed in a way to minimize erosion and to convey surface run off to natural drainage courses or interior basins designed for water storage. On-site and downstream beneficial uses of water must be protected and the quality of water, recharge potential and storage capacity of groundwater aquifers are not to be diminished except as allowed in the approved reclamation plan.

Erosion Control

Erosion control facilities would be constructed as required, however as the geologic strata provides for rapid infiltration and the limited area and grade of the Quarry is such that little run off is expected. Temporary measures such as silt fences, berms, hay bales or similar means to deter erosion may be employed as necessary at locations of identified concern, depending upon the particular configuration of the grading work and roadway.

Areas that are not actively being utilized for mining would be stabilized by seeding with vegetation ground cover at the earliest feasible time.

Protection of On-site and Downstream Beneficial Uses of Water

Potential sedimentation and handling of potential contaminants will be conducted to protect on-site and downstream beneficial uses of water. Mining will not involve the placement of fill or dredge material in the waters of the United States.

Groundwater Quality, Recharge Potential and Storage Capacity

The following actions would be taken to minimize inadvertent contamination of groundwater during operations:

1. Fuel or other chemicals present at the mine site will be handled and stored using appropriate containment to prevent accidental spillage into open water bodies.
2. County-approved spill prevention and emergency response plans outlining guidelines and procedures for handling hazardous material will be implemented.

Building, Structure, Equipment Removal

SMARA regulations require reclamation plans to include the disposition of all equipment, buildings, and structures and that all waste must be disposed of properly.

During active mining operations, old and non-functioning equipment will be removed from the site and disposed of according to applicable law and standards.

Following completion of mining and reclamation activities, mobile equipment associated with mining and stationary structures at the processing plant will be removed.

Stream Protection, Including Surface and Groundwater

SMARA regulations require that surface and groundwater be protected from siltation and pollutants, which may diminish water quality, and the control of contaminants and mining waste be described in reclamation plans.

Siltation, Pollutants and Control of Contaminants

Siltation potential of the reclaimed site will be minimized by the reclaimed configuration of a flat surface providing infiltration with gently sloping perimeter slopes.

In-stream Surface Mining

Not applicable; this operation does not involve in-stream extraction of materials.

Topsoil Salvage, Maintenance, Redistribution, Topsoil Mapping and Analysis

Standards require that all topsoil for vegetation shall be removed and stored. Prior to removal, the soil must be mapped and shown in the reclamation plan. Soil salvage operations must be scheduled and topsoil used to phase reclamation as soon as can be accommodated.

Because all available growth media will be salvaged from the 15 acre processing area on the valley floor, detailed mapping of soil units, depths and planned recovery areas is unnecessary for the site.

Soil Salvage Operations and Phasing Schedule

Growth media salvage operation will be phased and completed as an initial step in the operation. Soil will be placed in a berm separated from operations.

Topsoil Storage and Use

Growth media stockpiles will be protected from inadvertent destruction by signage that states "Topsoil" other identification and/or will be of sufficient distance from areas under active mining or surface disturbance.

Stockpiles will not be compacted, in order to maintain oxygen availability to soil to soil micro-organisms.

If weeds become a problem, they will be controlled with herbicides and/or physical removal (mechanical or manual).

Redistribution of Topsoil; Establishment of a Growth Medium

Redistribution of growth media will be accomplished to establish stable, uniform thickness consistent with grazing use, and to facilitate drainage patterns. Native growth media will be applied at depths of 3 to 6 inches.

Tailing and Mine Waste Management

The operation will not generate any toxic mine waste.

Closure of Surface Opening

Standards

SMARA standards for the closure of surface openings, including drill holes water wells, and monitoring wells requires that they be abandoned in accordance with applicable state and local ordinances. Also it is required that prior to closure, openings will be grated or protected with site and local requirements.

There are no wells located within this projected footprint of the quarry.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

An interim management plan (imp) is required of each idle mine under SMARA. The purpose of an IMP is to prevent or minimize adverse environmental effects from an idle mining operation and to ensure that residual hazards to the public health and safety are eliminated while the mine is idle. As defined in SMARA, "idle" means "to curtail for a period of one year or ore surface mining operations by more than 90% of the operation's previous maximum annual mineral production, with the intent to resume those surface mining operations at a future date".

An IMP must be consistent with the approved reclamation plan, and shall describe the measures the Operator will implement to maintain the site in compliance with SMARA, including, but not limited to, all permit conditions.

This action is intended to fulfill State and adopted Inyo County interim management requirements. The County and the Office of Mine Reclamation will be notified if the Operator decides to curtail operation for a period specified in SMARA and/or the Inyo County management requirements.