

Azurite, Inc.
10001 CR 12 P.O. Box 338
Cotopaxi, Colorado 81223
719-942-4178

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Dan Tezak, President
Rocky Mountain Landscape and Materials
1087 E. Holiday Drive
Pueblo West, CO 81007

RE: BYZANTINE QUARRY HIGHWALL INSPECTION, October 10, 2022

Site visit October 10, 2022, mid afternoon under sunny skies and warm temp (65). Mine site continues to mine three relatively short benches (~20') along the north-south strike of the red stained carbonate bedrock dipping about 25 degrees east. The tendency for unstable rock unraveling along the top edge of the bench cut has been addressed by the mine operator by developing a effective mine protocol for this site. Bulldozer work is employed to push muck from one level over the face of the lower until a sizeable amount of muckpile rock in covering and immediately in front of the lower face no longer exposed, buttressed by the muckpile rock pushed over the bench face. The top bench may entail some additional machine work with a near 30'height along portions in the center of the bench run and a steeply pitched and unraveling run of loose bedding plane. The highwall face at the north end of the pit has been mined to result in a lower highwall in this area. The working faces and bedrock exposed along the back of the second bench appear stable. No water seepage, salt deposition, large clay seams, or potential failure planes were found. Given that the current mining protocol continues, minimal potential for rock failure can be maintained. Two major factors in favor:

- 1) Use of relatively short mine bench heights and bulldozer work to push muck over the face and minimize mine personnel exposure to the unstable edge of the mining bench.
- 2) Overall geologic conditions: The top (3rd) bench is adjacent to N/S drainage and topography drops off. No bedrock lying above the elevation of the bench means no loading of up gradient bedrock to the bedrock below and minimal condition for mass rock movement.

Summary and Conclusions

The Byzantine Mine site has been developed over the past few years to result in mitigation of unstable highwall conditions as well as safe mining conditions for workers despite unusual and potentially dangerous geologic parameters. No pending issues regarding rock stability or potential for mass rock failure were found during this inspection.

Kenneth S. Klco, Consulting Geologist, Azurite, Inc.

