

Dear Hunter Ridley.

On June 3rd, 2024, we received an email with some questions about the recent TR-2 application that Schmidt Construction Company sent in on May 23rd, 2024. Below you will find our responses that hopefully will adequately address the questions and concerns the Division has and I have attached to the body of this email maps and some clarification documents to help answer. If you need any further information, please reach out.

Mine Plan Update

“Technical Revision application TR-2 was submitted in response to a problem cited in the February 21, 2024 inspection report for the Menzer Quarry. This problem citation was prompted through review of the site’s Annual Report submitted in December of 2023 which indicated a planned expansion into of the southeast corner of the pit, but within the allowed affected acreage boundary. During the inspection, a determination could not be made as to whether the current bond amount accounted for this southeastern expansion or not. Therefore, the Division requested a TR to clarify the mining plan for this area so as to better assess the accuracy of the bond amount.”

The mining activities in the southeast corner are scheduled to commence approximately 10 years from 2024 depending on assumed consistent sales and market demand. Our plan is to ensure that the mining activities remain within the existing affected land boundary for the site. The area will not be excavated to day light as was briefly discussed during our first meeting at the site, but will only be mined up to a natural break in the rock that is shown on the plan submitted prior but is attached again for your review. This timeline allows us to focus on mining the central area of the current pit to create space for a new processing plant and storage area at the 6750’ level. The plan involves extending the quarry towards the west to create additional space for the new plant, ensuring it is safely distanced from future blasting activities. Once the new plant is operational, the current processing plant at the 6550’ level will be dismantled, and the space will be repurposed for storage of rock piles for shipping. This approach will allow blasting in the southeast corner without disrupting operations or damaging any plant equipment. The current plant site and equipment safety are the primary factors delaying the development of the southeast corner. We have included a map displaying the plan for this area and our permit boundary to illustrate that we will stay within the affected land area. The specific areas are the 110-1100 series of cuts on the southeast corner, as shown on both the map and the spreadsheet. We will mine up to a natural break in the rock formation to ensure a clean cleavage plane, as indicated on the map. The remaining rock to the east of this break will be left in place, as it is not economically feasible to mine due to its steepness.

Blasting Plan

“Pursuant to Rule 6.5(4) an operator who proposes blasting is required to provide an appropriate blasting, vibration, geotechnical and structural engineering analyses that off-site areas will not be adversely affected by blasting. While the Rules do not provide details of the exact type of analysis or demonstration that needs to be conducted, the Division typically follows the protective standards accepted by the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement and the Colorado Dept. of Labor and Employment, Division of Oil and Public Safety Explosives Regulations (Colorado 7 C.C.R. 1101-9). Therefore, the following adequacy item references requirements from the above sources.

2. Pursuant to Rule 4.08.2(1), At least 30 days before initiation of blasting, the operator shall provide written notification to all residents or owners of dwellings or other structures located within one-half mile of the permit area which explains how to request a preblasting survey. Please provide the Division with a list and simple map of any dwellings or structures located within one-half mile of the permit area. If no structures or dwellings are located within this radius, please state this.

Schmidt Construction hires Southwest Energy to handle the blasting at the Menzer quarry. Southwest Energy is responsible for monitoring the vibration, conducting geotechnical analysis of each blast, and documenting the blasts. If there are any complaints from neighbors, Southwest Energy provides data and analysis to address the issues. They also follow a blasting plan that includes monitoring and electronic documentation of each blast, adhering to Colorado state standards.

We have created a simple map showing the structures and dwellings within half a mile of the affected land boundary. The affected rather than the permit boundary is used because it is the affected land boundary that controls where disturbance may occur, not the permit boundary. Long ago when these boundaries were interpreted differently, the trees between the two boundaries were removed to better identify the affected land boundary. Now that would not be done.

There are 8 non-Schmidt structures and dwellings identified. Schmidt Construction has no issue with notifying the owners of these structures at least 24 hours prior to blasting, either via email or phone, which is a customary and courteous practice along the front range with many of the quarry operators. Quarry blasting is highly variable in timelines due to the size of the operations, and quarries do not have their own blasting crews, relying instead on outside blasting companies to initiate the blasts. Rule 4.08, as pointed out by Mark Heifner and you clarified in the email sent on 6.10.24, pertains to coal standards. It's important to note that coal mining blasting is different from quarry blasting, as coal mining blasts are typically larger in tonnage shot, size of holes, depth of holes, number of holes, amount of explosive material detonated and location from the surface, to remove overburden material. These deposits can vibrate differently than hard, competent rock material found within the Menzer quarry.

Regards,
Jeff Jacoby

Menzer Mine Plan Calculations										Page 4	
Year 11											
	Area	Length	Width	Depth	Volume	T/Cu Yd	Tons	Elev Begin	Elev End		
Repeat D	Repeat D	425	70	45	1338750	2.1	104125	6755	6710		
Repeat X, X7,X4	Repeat X,X7,X4	700	75	45	2362500	2.1	183750	6700	6655		
Repeat X1	Repeat X1	225	50	45	506250	2.1	39375	6735	6690		
Repeat X2	Repeat X2	200	100	45	900000	2.1	70000	6749	6704		
Repeat X14	Repeat X14	100	310	45	1395000	2.1	108500	6795	6750		
Repeat E	Repeat E	330	70	45	1039500	2.1	80850	6715	6670		
Repeat D	Repeat D	425	70	45	1338750	2.1	104125	6710	6665		
Repeat X2	Repeat X2	200	100	45	900000	2.1	70000	6695	6650		
Repeat X14	Repeat X14	100	310	45	1395000	2.1	108500	6750	6705		
Repeat E	Repeat E	330	70	45	1039500	2.1	80850	6670	6625		
Repeat D	Repeat D	425	70	45	1338750	2.1	104125	6670	6625		
						total=	1054200				
Year 12											
	Area	Length	Width	Depth	Volume	T/Cu Yd	Tons	Elev Begin	Elev End		
SW Corner trim and straightening	1512	360	40	50	720000	2.1	56000	7025	6975		
SW Corner trim and straightening	1612	400	50	50	1000000	2.1	77778	6975	6925		
SW Corner trim and straightening	1712	325	50	45	731250	2.1	56875	7025	6980		
SW Corner trim and straightening	1812	200	40	45	360000	2.1	28000	7000	6955		
SW Corner trim and straightening	1912	550	40	45	990000	2.1	77000	6975	6930		
Straightening and changing direction of mining and blasting S to N	20	800	100	45	3600000	2.1	280000	6875	6830		
Straightening and changing direction of mining and blasting S to N	21	750	60	45	2025000	2.1	157500	6830	6785		
Straightening and changing direction of mining and blasting S to N	22	750	60	45	2025000	2.1	157500	6950	6905		
						total=	890653				
Year 13											
	Area	Length	Width	Depth	Volume	T/Cu Yd	Tons	Elev Begin	Elev End		
Straightening and changing direction of mining and blasting S to N	23	1000	60	45	2700000	2.1	210000	6925	6880		
box cut to new plant floor	24	1200	200	45	10800000	2.1	840000	6830	6785		
						total=	1050000				
Year 13											
	Area	Length	Width	Depth	Volume	T/Cu Yd	Tons	Elev Begin	Elev End		
Mining south to north to ground floor	25	700	80	60	3360000	2.1	261333	6710	6650		
Mining south to north to ground floor	26	700	80	60	3360000	2.1	261333	6710	6650		
Mining south to north to ground floor	27	800	90	60	4320000	2.1	336000	6710	6650		
Mining south to north to ground floor	28	800	100	60	4800000	2.1	373333	6711	6651		
						total=	1232000				
Year 14											
	Area	Length	Width	Depth	Volume	T/Cu Yd	Tons	Elev Begin	Elev End		
Mining south to north to ground floor	29	700	100	60	4200000	2.1	326667	6710	6650		
Mining south to north to ground floor	30	700	100	60	4200000	2.1	326667	6711	6651		
Mining south to north to ground floor	31	600	80	60	2880000	2.1	224000	6712	6652		
Mining south to north to ground floor	32	750	75	60	3375000	2.1	262500	6713	6653		
						total=	1139833				

