

Questions about Act 250 Application:

Criteria #1 Water and Air pollution: (no air pollution permit because of size of generator)

A) Headwaters

At 430m—does the site provide significant recharge to aquifers? (possibly a question for the district coordinator)

In a highwater event, water runoff to the Green River would feed into the Greenfield public water supply—is this a public water supply concern?

B) Waste Disposal

m) “drilling and/or sawing will be required to free blocks or rock from the exiting location”

*How much schist dust will be generated? Will any of the dust be trucked offsite?
Is there any proposed maintenance for the ponds post- quarry?*

C) Water Conservation—water used to manage the dust comes from ponds when possible

D) Floodways

E) Streams

There is a proposed 6' diameter x 60' long culvert.

What's the status of the stream alteration permit? Filed on December 17th, 2013. For a culvert that size do you need a hydrology study?

Follow up with Todd ph. 786-5921 stream alteration engineer

F) Shorelines

Deer Park Brook is actually located along the northern border of the leased area, approximately 500 feet from portions of the shown project area (though they say “2,300ft from the project site”, however exhibit 12 shows Deer Park Brook as not along the north boundary, but still approx. 500 feet from the edge of the proposed project. What accounts for this discrepancy?

The perennial stream flows through the leased area and just to the east of the project area (approximately 100 feet away) The stormwater ponds will flow into this stream, and then into Deer Park Brook. Referring to the maps, esp. Exhibit 2-2, will there be runoff that will make its way down to the north from road construction and site operation approx. 500 feet to Deer Park Brook?

G) Wetlands

Have they gotten a conditional used determination? Or do they not need one as they say in the application?

Follow up with Rebecca Chalmer ph. 885-8851 VT DC has field reviewed the wetland delineation

Criteria #2 Water Supply

Criteria #3 Impact on Existing Water Supply

g) “A well report is enclosed as Exhibit 15 (map)”

Is there any information about the schist quarry having an impact or not on ground water/ aquifer water quality?

Criteria #4 Soil Erosion

*Winter erosion plan—concern that there wouldn't be anyone at the site or evening visiting during the winter months with the potential for erosion
Possible condition to impose regularly scheduled site maintenance or visits during the winter months.*

Criteria #5 Traffic

a) They mean exhibit 16 not 15

d) *They haven't filed a driveway permit with the town yet. Says “no improvements are proposed in connection with the use of the logging road to access the proposed project”—this is confusing because aren't they improving the access road?*

g) “The existing logging road is passable by loaded log trucks and has been in used by such trucks in connection with logging operations for a number of years. The new section of the road will be constructed with the a grade sufficient to allow safe passage of flatbed trucks loaded with stone blocks”

*This doesn't address emergency vehicles
Concerns about emergency vehicles being able to access here`--they only address truck accessibility.*

General traffic concerns:

Exactly how many truck trips per week? What size trucks? What model, make, year? How much will they weigh? What days will they operate (i.e. just weekdays or 7 days a week)? How many employees will use the road access? Will they need to leave the site frequently during the day or just one arrival and departure per day per employee? Who determines when the roads are operable? Could be a condition that they shall not move rock when the roads are posted. How many total trip ends are there going to be?

Criteria #6 Educational Services

Criteria #7 Municipal or Govt Services

Criteria #8 Scenic and Natural Beauty, Aesthetics, Natural Areas, Historic Sites

b)i) “The project involves the extraction of earth resources but does not involve onsite processing of the extraction material” *Isn't the sawing of rock a form of processing?*

b)ii) “The project equipment that has the potential to produce noise includes: a rock drill or saw, a hand drill powered by a generator, an excavator, a bucket loader, and transport trucks” *What kind of saw? How big of a saw? How will it be cooled?*

Why didn't the noise modeling include the saw?

In the Project Description of the Noise Assessment there is no mention of the saw mentioned in the above 2 responses. In the Noise Assessment there are 2 areas of concentrated loud noise and the area to the south has a truck producing 65dBA—which does not match the decibel levels in the appendix A Table A2 (shows truck high and low at 114 and 109 dBA of the noise impact study).

Criteria #9 Conformance with the Capability and Development Plan

Criteria #9D and 9E Earth Resources

c3) *Refers to reclamation plans in sheet C-8 final contours but they are not shown-- there is a full build out extraction limits but there is no reclamation plan shown. Where is the figure for the reclamation plan?*

Is \$10,000 escrow enough for reclamation? How did they come up with that figure? What would this cover? Is inflation taken into account (since the reclamation would be 50 years from now)?

Criteria #9G Private Utilities

What kind of sight security will there be?

Criteria #9H Scattered Development

b) “Although the project is not contiguous to an existing settlement, it is not anticipated that the project will result in any public costs” **if not addressed by this point, roads would be of obvious concern here**

Criteria #9J Public Utilities

How did you come up with no impact on the highways? Frequency of trips for logging is likely much less than this operation.

Criteria #9K Public Investments

Criteria #10 Conformance with local and regional Plans

In the Town Plan: Statement of Goals on page 4

“Goal #10: to encourage the continued availability and good management of lands for agriculture, forestry, and earth/mineral extraction

In the Town Plan: Conservation District Recommendations on page 22

“1. These lands are appropriate for low-intensity recreation, forestry, wildlife habitat, agriculture, hunting, and other open space uses. Development, which creates significant amount of traffic or noise, or which otherwise has an adverse impact on the environment is undesirable.”

In response to Exhibit 31:

Goals in the Town Plan for the conservation district do not include commercial and industrial uses, whereas these recommendations are present in the rural residential and village district (leading one to believe that commercial and industrial uses are not recommended for the conservation district).

On p1. “The Town Plan provides a series of specific implementation guidelines. The Implementation measures applicable to extraction of earth resources are found on Page 59 and read as follows: Goal 10...”

This is actually the town’s response to Vermont’s Planning Goals, not the Town’s Plan as implicated here.

On p2. “The project is consistent with Goal 10 in that the project is earth/mineral extraction. A specific goal of the Town Plan is to encourage earth/mineral extraction.”

Again, this is referring to the town’s response to Vermont’s Planning Goals, not the Town’s Plan.

On p4. “The project is regulated by Agency of Natural Resources, by the Natural resources board, and by the Town of Halifax. The Town of Halifax has adopted...”

We realize there is a discrepancy here in our zoning. The town believes that “earth extraction” is different than “resource industry” and this is something we need to clarify which is why we are in the process of updating and re-writing the zoning. The fact that these terms are confused in our zoning is simply an oversight and, again, one of the main reasons that we are currently updating our zoning.

Brian’s notes: They end the memo by stating that “the Halifax Town Plan has a goal of encouraging the reasonable extraction of earth resources” and “The project is in compliance with the applicable sections of the Town Plan.” Strictly speaking, the project is in compliance with the sections of the Town Plan that were carefully selected for review in the memo, however there are plenty of sections of the town plan that may not be in support of the project. For example, one of the

Town's stated goals (p.5 #16) is: "To discourage uncoordinated or incompatible development that may jeopardize or overburden public or private investment, or damage the town's resources, rural character, and overall quality of life." Other Town goals that may apply are #3, 4, 5, 9, 15. In addition, it is worth looking at the Conservation District section (pg.22), and the language in the initial Conservation District statement and the first Conservation District Recommendation (pg. 22).

Relevant Quotes from the Town Plan:

Page 22 Conservation District

"The purpose of the conservation District is to protect the natural resource value of lands that are essentially undeveloped; lack direct access to arterial or collector roads; are important upland wildlife habitat or corridors, particularly for large game animals such as deer, moose, and bear; have high forestry value; are unsuitable for land development; or include irreplaceable, limited, or significant natural, recreational or scenic resources.

The Conservation District shall be used for agriculture, forestry, open space conservation, strict resource management, recreation, hunting, and residential one-two family dwellings..."

Conservation District Recommendations

1. These lands are appropriate for low-intensity recreation, forestry, wildlife habitat, agriculture, hunting, and other open space uses. Development, which creates significant amounts of traffic or noise, or which otherwise has an adverse impact on the environment is undesirable.

Page 26 Economic Development Policies

"1. Support economic development, which provides diversified and stable local employment opportunities, enhances Halifax's small-town character, and protects the community's important natural resources.

4. Encourage the development of cottage industries, home-based work and entrepreneurial ventures which preserve and revitalize Halifax's rural character and have minimal impact on the community's environment and infrastructure.

6. Pursue economic development that does not cause excessive noise, large volumes of traffic, noxious or hazardous wastes...

8. Require that all commercial and industrial development provide adequate landscaping and safe pedestrian and vehicular access.”