Putnam County
STONE

# ROCK QUARRIES: THE HIDDEN ENGINE OF REGIONAL GROWTH

How local aggregate supply lowers project costs, attracts investment and strengthens regional competitiveness.

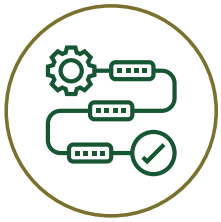
Quarry Operations

# How the Quarrying Process Works

## WHAT IS AN AGGREGATE QUARRY?

An aggregate quarry extracts essential construction materials, such as crushed stone, sand and gravel. These materials, collectively known as construction aggregates, are the foundational elements for roads, concrete, asphalt, drainage systems and building foundations. By volume, aggregates are among the most widely used natural resources in the world.

## THE QUARRYING PROCESS



1. **Site Selection and Permitting**
   - Fact: Quarries are located only where geological surveys confirm high-quality, economically accessible rock formations.
   - The site selection process includes detailed hydrogeological and environmental studies to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.
   - Operators must obtain comprehensive permits encompassing land use, environmental protection, water management, air quality and public safety.
   - Buffers and setbacks are established in consultation with regulatory agencies to protect water resources and meet or exceed minimum legal requirements.
   - Key Point: Multiple layers of government oversight, including zoning, surface water buffer requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permits and regular inspections, are mandatory for legal operation.
2. **Overburden Removal**
   - Fact: Before rock extraction begins, workers carefully remove and stockpile the upper layer of soil and vegetation—known as overburden.
   - Overburden is preserved and reused for site restoration and reclamation at the end of quarry operations.
   - This process is required under environmental permits and supports regulatory compliance by minimizing waste and preserving topsoil for future land use.
3. **Rock Extraction**
   - Fact: Hard rock quarries use controlled blasting, designed and overseen by licensed engineers in compliance with state and federal requirements.
   - Drill holes are placed and loaded following site-specific blasting plans. Blasting operations follow strict procedures to control ground vibration, limit air overpressure and prevent off-site impacts.
   - Extensive monitoring and pre-blast surveys are conducted to ensure compliance with safety and regulatory standards. Regulators establish conservative blast limits to protect nearby properties and public infrastructure.
   - Key Point: Blasting is a regulated engineering process. Operations must comply with state and federal rules, permit conditions and performance standards established to protect people, property and the environment. Blasting occurs safely every day near downtowns of major cities like Atlanta.
4. **Crushing and Screening**
   - Fact: Extracted rock is processed on-site into usable sizes with procedures meeting regulatory and permit requirements.

- Primary crushers reduce blasted material to manageable sizes, followed by additional crushing stages for refinement.
- Equipment placement and process design follow site-specific plans to ensure efficiency and compliance with safety and environmental standards.
- Industrial screens sort materials by size, and ongoing monitoring ensures final products meet quality specifications and regulatory guidelines.

**5. Stockpiling and Transportation**

- Fact: Finished aggregates are stockpiled on-site and transported directly to customers.
- Local markets are served due to transportation cost and material weight, resulting in substantial savings when the aggregate source is closer to the end user. For example, the proximity of a quarry near Eatonton reduces round-trip hauling time by 50 minutes per load compared to the next nearest quarry, directly lowering fuel use, emissions and transportation costs for purchasers.
- Trucks will deliver aggregates mined at the quarry. Operational routes and truck traffic are evaluated and managed to minimize potential impact, with reference to technical studies that account for current and projected truck volumes.

**6. Environmental Controls and Monitoring**

- Fact: Modern quarries implement rigorous environmental control measures in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- Water spray systems are used throughout the site to manage and suppress dust emissions.
- Sedimentation ponds capture and manage stormwater runoff, protecting downstream water quality as required by environmental permits.
- Noise barriers, expanded vegetated buffers and restrictions on operating hours are established to reduce effects on neighboring properties and comply with legal standards.
- Facilities are subject to regular air, vibration and water quality monitoring, with results reported to regulatory agencies as part of ongoing compliance.
- Buffer distances from perennial streams have been increased beyond minimum requirements—typically to 100 feet—to further protect local water resources.

**7. Reclamation and Closure**

- Fact: Quarries are reclaimed and repurposed when extraction operations end, in accordance with regulatory and permit requirements.
- Operators are required to re-grade quarry slopes to stable standards, replace and spread preserved topsoil, and establish vegetation or other approved uses. These measures are planned and bonded financially at the onset of operations.
- Restoration frequently results in land use conversion to recreational lakes, parks, wildlife habitats or commercial property, as specified in the site's final reclamation plan.
- Monitoring during reclamation ensures compliance, erosion control and water quality protection are maintained until regulatory agencies approve closure.

## SOURCES


- State Environmental Protection Division Land Reclamation Guidelines
- Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Environmental Standards
- Industry Best Practices and Land Reclamation Case Studies
- Bunnell Lammons Engineering Hydrogeologic Assessment
- Putnam County Stone LLC Rezoning Application and Site Plan
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Regulations
- TTL Inc. Traffic Impact Study
- Sauls Seismic LLC Sound Study

Quarry Operations

# Common Aggregate Quarries Misconceptions Clarified

## Misconception 1: Quarries are uncontrolled and unregulated

**Reality:** Quarries operate under comprehensive regulatory oversight at the local, state and federal levels. The permitting process addresses zoning, environmental protection, surface water buffers, NPDES discharge, air quality and safety. Buffers around perennial streams have been increased to 100 feet where required, and both stormwater and process water discharges are strictly controlled through permitting and ongoing monitoring. Regular inspections and mandated reporting ensure ongoing compliance and public accountability.

## Misconception 2: Blasting causes structural damage to nearby homes

**Reality:** Blasting operations are governed by strict state and federal standards. Regulators set conservative vibration limits well below thresholds for structural damage to homes or infrastructure. Blasting events are monitored in real time, and pre-blast surveys are conducted to assess existing conditions. Incidents of compliant blasting causing structural damage are extremely rare and documented vibration levels are generally limited to what might be felt as a mild ground tremor or air pressure, similar to a passing truck.

## Misconception 3: Quarries permanently destroy land

**Reality:** Quarries temporarily alter land use but are required by law to implement comprehensive reclamation plans. Overburden is preserved and reused for site restoration, and operators re-grade and stabilize quarry slopes, replace topsoil, and establish approved post-closure uses, such as recreational lakes, parks and wildlife habitats. Restoration measures are bonded financially at the onset of operations, and monitoring by regulatory agencies is mandated until successful completion and closure are confirmed. These requirements ensure land is restored for beneficial future uses compliant with state and federal regulations.

## Misconception 4: Quarries pollute drinking water

**Reality:** Quarries are managed to protect both groundwater and surface water resources. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans are implemented as part of regulatory compliance. Buffers from perennial streams are expanded to at least 100 feet on either side and no impervious surfaces or septic systems are allowed within 150 feet of streams. Operators use monitoring wells to assess water movement and maintain multiple permits for water management, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for all discharges. These controls are designed to prevent contamination, address community concerns and protect local drinking water supplies.

## Misconception 5: Dust and noise cannot be controlled

**Reality:** Dust and noise are controlled through multiple practices mandated by environmental permits and regulatory oversight. Water spray systems are used site-wide to suppress dust emissions, and noise barriers, vegetated buffers and limitations on operating hours reduce impacts on surrounding areas. Continuous monitoring and enforcement of these measures are required to ensure ongoing compliance with air and noise standards.

## Misconception 6: We do not need local quarries

**Reality:** Construction aggregates are essential. Infrastructure projects—including roads, bridges, hospitals, schools and residential developments—depend on large quantities of locally sourced aggregate. Absence of a local quarry increases transportation distances, leading to higher construction costs, significant fuel use, more traffic and elevated emissions. For example, technical analysis shows that a local quarry can reduce round-trip haul times by 50 minutes per load compared to the next nearest facility, resulting in substantial operational savings, reduced environmental impact, and greater efficiency for public and private sector purchasers. The reduced truck miles also reduce wear on county roads.

## A SIMPLE ANALOGY

Think of a quarry as a farm for stone. Just as crops grow naturally over time, rock forms geologically. The harvesting process is carefully planned and regulated. Once the harvest is complete, the land is restored. Ultimately, the outputs of both operations support fundamental human needs.

## SOURCES


- State Environmental Protection Division Land Reclamation Guidelines
- Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Environmental Standards
- Industry Best Practices and Land Reclamation Case Studies
- Bunnell Lammons Engineering Hydrogeologic Assessment
- Putnam County Stone LLC Rezoning Application and Site Plan
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Regulations
- TTL Inc. Traffic Impact Study
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Environmental Reclamation

# The Lifecycle of Aggregate Quarries

Aggregate quarries provide the essential raw materials needed to build roads, bridges, homes and hospitals. While extraction changes the landscape, quarrying is a strictly temporary use of the land. The industry operates under a mandate of environmental stewardship. Long before a quarry closes, engineers design a comprehensive reclamation plan to restore the land. Once operations cease, these sites transform into thriving natural habitats, clean water reservoirs and valuable community spaces that permanently improve the local environment.

## KEY FACTS

**Temporary Land Use**
Quarrying represents a defined and temporary phase in land use. Once resource extraction concludes, the land is restored and repurposed according to a preapproved reclamation plan.

**Regulatory Compliance**
Local, state and federal statutes require strict adherence to reclamation standards. Operators must secure financial bonds to guarantee restoration obligations and comply with all Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Division requirements.

**Buffer Zones and Environmental Protection**
Quarry operations maintain enhanced buffer zones—100 feet from perennial streams and 150 feet for impervious surfaces and septic systems—exceeding minimum legal requirements to protect adjacent water resources and habitats.

**Soil and Water Preservation**
Topsoil is preserved, graded and returned to promote site stability and enable revegetation. Stormwater and process water are managed under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, reducing risk of sediment or contaminant migration.

**Enhanced Ecosystems and Community Benefits**
Reclaimed land is repurposed into parks, reservoirs or wildlife preserves, supporting local biodiversity and providing lasting community assets.

## THE RECLAMATION PROCESS

**Site Preparation and Grading**
Reclamation is done continuously throughout the project, though some final reclamation activity can only begin after quarry operations end. Operators use the stockpiled topsoil to cover the site. Heavy equipment re-grades steep slopes into gentle inclines to prevent erosion and ensure long-term soil stability. Teams then plant native grasses, trees and shrubs to restore the natural vegetation and promote a healthy ecosystem.

**Transformation into Water Reservoirs**
Many hard rock quarries naturally fill with groundwater and rainwater over time. Because granite and similar rocks do not contain harmful chemicals, the resulting water is exceptionally clean. These deep, clear lakes frequently serve as municipal drinking water reservoirs. They provide communities with a secure and vital water supply during droughts.

**Creation of Parks and Wildlife Preserves**

Reclaimed quarries make excellent public parks and nature preserves. The varied terrain and newly formed lakes create ideal habitats for fish, birds and native wildlife. Across the country, former quarries now operate as world-class botanical gardens, golf courses, hiking trails and protected wetlands. These sites offer recreational opportunities and green spaces that might not have existed otherwise..

**Community and Economic Development**

Beyond natural habitats, some reclaimed quarries transition into successful commercial or residential developments. The solid rock foundations left behind provide incredibly stable bases for new construction. This thoughtful repurposing ensures the land continues to serve the community long after the final stone is extracted.

## SOURCES


- State Environmental Protection Division Land Reclamation Guidelines
- Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Environmental Standards
- Industry Best Practices and Land Reclamation Case Studies


Mitigation Strategies

# Dust, Noise and Traffic Mitigation

We are committed to minimizing community disruption while operating safely. Our goals are clear—we seek to maintain the quality of life for our neighbors and protect the local environment. We ensure all operations strictly comply with state and federal regulations through engineered mitigation systems and thoughtful facility planning.

## KEY FACTS

**Regulatory Compliance**
Operations follow Georgia EPD and county requirements, with perennial stream buffers increased to 100 feet and no impervious surfaces or septic systems within 150 feet of streams. Buffers and operational limits exceed state mandates, and all plans are regularly reviewed for compliance.

**Dust Control**
The facility is required to control dust at all times to meet air permit standards. Dust is managed through water spray systems, enclosed equipment and frequent spraying of travel ways. A tire wash station at the exit ensures materials are not tracked onto public roads.

**Noise Reduction**
Earthen berms and vegetative buffers, together with landscape design and strictly controlled blasting hours (Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.), reduce noise. All activities follow permitted sound limits at the property line. Modern blasting techniques minimize noise and vibration.

## DUST MITIGATION SYSTEMS

State and federal laws mandate strict air quality controls. Getting and retaining our environmental permits demands we control dust at all times.

**Water Spray Systems**
Dust suppression is maintained through water sprayers installed along conveyors and at crushers, in accordance with state and federal air quality regulations. Water trucks routinely spray access roads and travel ways to ensure permit standards are met and dust remains controlled during all operations.

**Enclosed Equipment**
Key equipment, such as conveyor belts, crushers and screens, are enclosed to further reduce dust emissions during material transport and processing, as required by environmental permit conditions.

**Site Exit Controls**
A tire wash station is installed for all outbound trucks to prevent soil material from being tracked onto public roads, supporting compliance with strict dust control and local transportation standards.

## NOISE CONTROL MEASURES

Our operations are designed so the landscape serves as a natural buffer between the quarry and neighboring properties.

**Vegetative Buffers and Earthen Berms**
The site maintains minimum 200-foot property setbacks, with substantial earthen berms and planted vegetative buffers. Buffers have been increased beyond state requirements, with 100-foot setbacks on perennial streams and non-mining areas preserved, to further limit noise and visual impact as confirmed in the technical response documentation.

**Modern Blasting Techniques**
All blasting events are engineered for precision and safety, using electronic timing to ensure activities last less than 1 second. These methods are designed to minimize vibration and noise consistent with regulatory requirements and engineering best practices.

**Restricted Operating Hours**
Blasting is strictly limited to weekdays from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., as outlined in operational commitments. No blasting is conducted on weekends or holidays to minimize community disruption.

**Sound Barriers**
Heavy-duty processing equipment uses rubber liners to dampen sound, and earthen berms are designed to keep sound levels compliant with the 70-decibel Leq property line standard. Should sound levels approach permitted limits, the site will implement additional engineered barriers or sound enclosures as outlined in technical documentation.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

An independent engineering design firm conducted a traffic impact study to ensure local roads maintain excellent operational performance.

**Designated Routing**
Truck traffic is routed primarily north on Dennis Station Road to minimize impact on residential areas. Routing strategies align with the findings of the technical response, which confirm effective mitigation of local traffic impact and maintain safe travel conditions.

**Infrastructure Investment**
We have proposed road widening and infrastructure enhancements to Dennis Station Road, as outlined in the technical comment response, ensuring road capacity and safety are maintained under projected operational volumes.

## SOURCES

- TTL Inc. Traffic Impact Study
- Sauls Seismic LLC Sound Study
- Georgia EPD Air Permit Regulations
- Putnam County Zoning Performance Standards

Job Creation

# Employment Opportunities and Economic Impact

Our new aggregate quarry in Eatonton will safely excavate natural resources to supply essential infrastructure materials. Beyond supplying local construction needs, the quarry will be a significant economic driver for Putnam County by generating substantial employment opportunities and supporting local businesses.

## CONSTRUCTION PHASE EMPLOYMENT

The initial quarry construction will require significant labor and capital investment, providing immediate benefits to the local workforce.

**211 Construction Jobs**
The construction phase will support 211 jobs in Putnam County over one year, including positions within the construction sector and associated trades.

**$9.3 Million in Total Labor Compensation**
Construction activities will result in $9.3 million in total labor compensation for workers in Putnam County during the one-year buildout phase.

## OPERATIONAL PHASE EMPLOYMENT

Once the facility opens, it will provide stable, well-paying employment for the local workforce while stimulating broader job growth.

**15 Permanent Jobs Initially Created**
Upon opening, the quarry will create 15 permanent jobs in Putnam County, providing ongoing employment opportunities for local residents. And more jobs will come as a ripple effect (below).

**$1.2 Million Estimated Annual Labor Income**
These permanent positions will generate approximately $1.2 million in annual labor income for employees in Putnam County.

**35 Contract Trucking Jobs**
Quarry operations will support 35 trucking jobs in Putnam County, dedicated to transporting aggregate materials efficiently within the region.

**38 Additional Jobs at County Businesses**
The economic activity generated by the quarry will support 38 jobs at other businesses in Putnam County, helping drive growth across a range of local industries.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

We prioritize community partnerships. In addition to direct hiring, the quarry will contract with local vendors and suppliers. This ongoing demand for services and materials will provide sustained revenue streams for small businesses in Putnam County, reinforcing the local economic infrastructure.

## SOURCES


- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Employment Impact of Construction and Mining Projects
- Georgia Department of Labor: Regional Workforce and Economic Data
- IMPLAN Economic Impact Modeling System: Aggregate Industry Analysis
- Industry Case Studies on Aggregate Quarry Job Creation and Economic Activity


Financial Impact

# Economic Benefits

## KEY FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Independent economic analysis shows the quarry will serve as a strong economic engine for the region over its operational lifespan.

**$6.7 Million**
The projected tax revenue generated directly for Putnam County over the next 20 years.

**$90.3 Million**
The total projected earnings and fringe benefits created for the local workforce over the next 20 years.

**$2.8 Million Annual Savings**
The quarry's close proximity to Eatonton results in a 50-minute haul time savings per round trip compared to the next nearest quarry. At an average rate of $120 per hour for a dump truck hauling 18 tons, this equates to a savings of approximately $5.55 per ton. With an estimated 500,000 tons sold annually, these savings total nearly $2.8 million each year. The cost benefits are realized by the county, contractors responsible for public projects and other direct purchasers, ultimately reducing costs for residents through lower infrastructure, housing and tax expenses.

## EXPANDING THE LOCAL TAX BASE

The quarry requires a significant capital investment that will directly expand Putnam County's local tax base through two primary channels:

**Annual Property Tax Revenue**
The quarry's physical footprint and infrastructure will significantly increase the land's assessed value, resulting in consistent, annual property tax payments to the county. This increase is estimated to contribute more than $150,000 in annual personal property tax and property tax revenue to Putnam County.

**Sales Tax Revenue**
The facility will extract, process and sell construction-grade aggregate products. The sale of these materials throughout Georgia will generate a large volume of recurring sales tax revenue.

## COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Keeping tax dollars and good jobs in Putnam County creates a better quality of life for the entire community. The influx of new revenue will have a positive ripple effect throughout the local economy.

**Funding Essential Services**

The increased tax revenues can be allocated to fund vital community services that benefit everyone, such as local schools, law enforcement and fire departments.

**Housing and Business Development**

By creating stable, well-paying jobs, the quarry will attract new residents. This population growth will drive demand for new housing developments and encourage the launch of new local businesses to serve the expanding workforce.

**Supporting Local Vendors**

Beyond tax contributions, our operations will directly support local small businesses by contracting with county vendors for regular services and supplies.

## SOURCES


- IMPLAN Economic Analysis, Putnam County Stone LLC, April 2024
- Putnam County Tax Assessor's Office, Property Valuation Estimates, 2024
- Local Workforce and Employment Projections, Georgia Department of Labor, 2023
- Georgia Department of Revenue, Sales and Property Tax Data, 2023


Environmental Impact

# Groundwater, Wells and Streams

We are committed to safe operations and responsible environmental stewardship and designed our proposed quarry to protect local groundwater, surface waters and the surrounding ecosystem. Our operations strictly obey all state and federal environmental laws that regulate the industry to ensure the long-term health of Putnam County's natural resources.

## KEY FACTS

**No Anticipated Adverse Effects**
Independent hydrogeologic assessments conclude mining activities will not negatively impact flow volumes in nearby surface waters or private drinking water wells.

**Comprehensive Regulatory Compliance**
The project meets all state and federal requirements, including increased buffers of 100 feet on both sides of perennial streams and no construction of impervious surfaces or septic systems within 150 feet, as outlined by Georgia regulations.

**Low Groundwater Pollution Risk**
The quarry site is in an area classified as low susceptibility for groundwater pollution, based on Georgia's Hydrologic Atlas. Site-specific hydrogeological assessments have confirmed minimal risk to local groundwater resources.

**Guaranteed Well Protection Measures**
A formal Quarry Neighbor Water Well Policy ensures protection for all private wells within 1 mile of the quarry pit. Hydrogeological studies and ongoing monitoring provide early detection and rapid resolution of potential issues.

**Engineered Erosion and Sediment Controls**
State-approved soil erosion and sedimentation plans are enforced. Site design includes established buffers, non-mining areas and best management practices to prevent sediment impacts to streams and neighboring properties.

**Self-Contained Water Usage**
Most of the water required for operations is pumped directly from rainwater collected within the quarry pit itself, resulting in no measurable effect on external water flows.

## GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER PROTECTION

We hired leading hydrogeologic firm Bunnell Lammons Engineering to assess the site's geology. Its study confirms mining activities, including any necessary dewatering of the pit, will not adversely impact groundwater levels in the vicinity of surface water tributaries to Lake Sinclair, flow volumes in those tributaries or water levels in Lake Sinclair itself.

## QUARRY NEIGHBOR WATER WELL POLICY

To ensure you continue to have a safe and reliable water supply, we established a clear, transparent policy for neighbors within a 1-mile radius of the active pit. If you experience a noticeable drop in water level or flow:

- **Fast Investigation:** Within two business days of contact, we will hire a licensed Georgia well specialist of your choosing to examine your well.
- **Quick Determination:** The specialist will provide their findings within seven days.
- **Full Financial Coverage:** If the specialist determines our activities caused the failure, we will pay 100% of the cost to provide a permanent, fully functioning water supply. You may choose to fix, deepen or drill a brand-new well of the same or larger size.
- **Temporary Water Supply:** If a permanent fix takes longer than three business days after the cause is determined, we will deliver a temporary supply of clean, drinkable water for all household needs within one business day at our expense.

## SEDIMENTATION AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

We will implement state-approved erosion and sedimentation control plans to prevent site runoff pollution.

- Stormwater runoff is managed using diversion swales, silt fencing and settling ponds.
- A designated portion of stormwater drains back into the quarry pit area, while excess water is channeled to engineered sediment control basins.
- Any water discharged from the site is routed exclusively through an approved point discharge structure to protect soil health and stability.

## SOURCES

- Bunnell Lammons Engineering Hydrogeologic Assessment
- Putnam County Stone LLC Rezoning Application and Site Plan
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Regulations
- TTL Inc. Traffic Impact Study
- Sauls Seismic LLC Sound Study

Operational Standards

# Regulatory Compliance

We are committed to full compliance with all federal, state and local regulations governing quarry operations. Our goals are clear—we seek to operate responsibly while protecting our workers, our neighbors and the environment. This fact sheet outlines the regulations and operational standards that guide the development and daily activities of our proposed aggregate project.

## KEY FACTS

**Regulatory Buffer Requirements**
Quarry operations increase perennial stream buffers to 100 feet on each side, exceeding the 25-foot state minimum and enhancing watershed and drinking water protection zones.

**Permit Compliance**
All discharges, including stormwater and process water, are monitored and permitted through the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD); National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are required, with strict sampling, treatment and reporting measures enforced.

**Low Groundwater Risk**
Hydrogeological assessments confirm the site is in a low groundwater pollution susceptibility area, and robust plans—including a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan—mitigate potential impacts.

**Sediment Control and Erosion Prevention**
The quarry complies with the Putnam County's erosion and sedimentation ordinances. Reclamation plans and site designs prioritize wide, forested buffers and best management practices to minimize sediment export and protect local waterways.

## FEDERAL REGULATIONS

**Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)**
All quarry operations comply with federal MSHA requirements, including mandatory safety training, adherence to rigorous operational protocols and frequent site inspections to maintain a safe workplace.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines**
Operations follow all EPA standards for emissions, dust management and water discharge quality, aligning with federally mandated environmental controls.

**Watershed Protection**
Per Georgia Reg. 391-3-16-.01 for large supply watersheds, the project has enhanced perennial stream buffers to 100 feet on both sides, prohibits impervious surfaces and septic systems within 150 feet of streams, and complies with local and state watershed protection criteria.

**Discharge Permitting**
The quarry holds NPDES permits for both stormwater and process water discharges, ensuring all water leaving the site meets quality standards through continuous sampling, treatment, monitoring and reporting.

**Groundwater Management**
Site-specific hydrogeological assessments confirm the site is in a low groundwater pollution susceptibility area. Mitigation measures include comprehensive SWPPP and SPCC plans to address any potential risks.

**Erosion and Sediment Control**
All operations adhere to local and state erosion and sedimentation ordinances. Updated reclamation and buffer strategies prioritize broad, vegetated buffers and best management practices to prevent sediment transport and protect local streams, including Rooty Creek.

**Stream Delineation and Non-Disturbance**
Preliminary field surveys confirmed avoidance of jurisdictional waters and wetlands, with formal regulatory approvals to follow during permitting.

## STATE REGULATIONS (GEORGIA)

**Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)**

- **Air Quality:** Operations are conducted under a Georgia EPD Air Permit, enforcing dust control with approved suppression systems, such as sprayers, wheel wash stations and enclosed crushers to maintain compliance.
- **Water Quality:** Comprehensive, state-approved erosion and sedimentation control plans are implemented to manage all stormwater discharges. The quarry site is subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting for both stormwater and process water, including strict sampling, treatment and reporting. Quarterly visual inspections are mandatory to ensure ongoing compliance. Buffers around perennial streams have been increased to 100 feet on each side, exceeding regulatory requirements and enhancing watershed protection.
- **Georgia Safety Fire Commission:** All blasting activities are engineered and executed using advanced electronic detonation technology, in full compliance with Rules and Regulations for Explosives and Blasting Agents. Procedures are designed for precision, safety and minimal offsite impact.

## LOCAL REGULATIONS (PUTNAM COUNTY)

**Zoning and Performance Standards**
The facility is designed to meet or exceed all local ordinances to ensure community protection and maintain the rural character of the region.

- **Residential Setbacks:** Mining operations are positioned more than 1,000 feet from any residential property line, with the nearest residence located approximately 2,200 feet from the pit boundary, as confirmed by site planning.
- **Property Buffers:** The quarry maintains minimum buffers of 200 feet along and within property boundaries and increases perennial stream buffers to 100 feet on each side, surpassing state requirements to strengthen water and environmental protection.
- **Noise Limits:** Operational noise is restricted to a maximum of 70 decibels Leq at the property line. Noise mitigation strategies include earthen berms, substantial setbacks and continuous monitoring to ensure compliance.
- **Industrial Footprint:** The quarry's industrial activities, including the quarry pit, plant and overburden storage, are confined to designated areas in accordance with the approved site plan. Large portions of the property remain undisturbed or serve as vegetated buffers, reducing overall land disturbance and supporting compliance with zoning and environmental guidelines.

## SOURCES


- Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Federal Regulations
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Standards
- Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Air and Water Quality Permits
- Georgia Safety Fire Commission Rules and Regulations for Explosives and Blasting Agents
- Putnam County Zoning and Performance Standards Documentation

Putnam County
STONE

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