



State of Tennessee
Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Water Pollution Control
Mining Section
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Notice of Public Meeting

Public Notice M2007-09

Issuance Date: July 18, 2007

Last Day to Submit Written Comments: September 28, 2007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in response to an application to modify and renew an existing NPDES permit, the Division of Water Pollution Control, Mining Section, will hold the following public meeting, pursuant to *Rule 1200-4-3-.06* of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Tuesday, September 18, 2007
7:00 p.m. EDT
Mountain City Community Center
214 College Street
Mountain City, TN 37683

At the meeting, the Division will present information regarding the economic and social justification for the increased discharge of treated mine wastewater and storm water to high quality waters by the following applicant:

Radford Quarries of Boone, Inc.
Doe Creek Quartzite Mine
NPDES Permit TN0071277
Johnson County

The site is located on Doe Creek Road near Butler, TN. The specific location of the site is Latitude 36°23'07" North, Longitude 81°57'53" West. An NPDES permit was first issued in 1996 for this facility at its present location.

Radford Quarries of Boone, Inc., has submitted an application to modify and renew their existing NPDES permit. The modifications include the addition of an asphalt plant, expanding the permit boundary, and construction of new treatment structures and outfalls. The modified permit would authorize the discharge of runoff from the mine site after it has undergone treatment in settling basins for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Oil and Grease.

The existing permit includes 9.81 acres, with two settling basins and two outfalls. The modified permit would include 26.6 acres, with six settling basins and four outfalls. The applicant proposes to reduce TSS in the discharge by the use of multiple-celled settling basins that have been designed for the runoff from a 10-year/24-hour storm, which is the preferred treatment method. Water from the ponds will be reused in the plant, reducing the total volume to be discharged.

Doe Creek has been identified by the Division as Tier 2 high quality waters. The receiving streams for discharges from the proposed operation will be Doe Creek and Stalcup Branch, which is a tributary to Doe Creek.

Rule 1200-4-3-.04 defines “degradation” as the alteration of the properties of waters by the addition of pollutants, but alterations having no measurable or less than a five-percent loss of assimilative capacity will not be considered degradation. The discharge parameters that would be limited by an NPDES permit are TSS, Oil and Grease, and pH. The water quality criteria for TSS and Oil and Grease are narrative, not numeric, and there are not approved methods to determine the assimilative capacity of the streams for these pollutants. The Division is considering the addition of any pollutant to the stream as degradation.

The Division has reviewed the analysis of treatment and discharge alternatives submitted with the NPDES application, and find that there is not a reasonable alternative to the proposed degradation. The applicant has provided social and economic information for their proposal to degrade. In addition to lowering the unemployment rate directly, the facility plans to supply competitively priced construction materials. This will in turn allow contractors to employ more workers and further reduce the unemployment rate and will allow affordable economic development in the county. Further, since the Doe Creek Quartzite Mine is an existing facility, any environmental costs are appreciably lower than they would be for the construction of a new comparable facility elsewhere in the county.

Written comments will be accepted at the meeting and until **September 28, 2007**.

Interested persons may obtain additional information and copy the application and supporting documentation from the permit files maintained at the Mining Section’s office at the letterhead address. There is a nominal fee for copying. These files are available for public inspection during normal visiting hours by contacting Elaine Killion by E-mail at Elaine.Killion@state.tn.us or by phone at **(865) 594-1062** to schedule an appointment for the review. A copy of the permit application will be available for review at the meeting.

ADA inquiries should be directed to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Division, 401 Church Street, 12th Floor, L & C Tower, Nashville, TN 37243, **1-866-253-5827**. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (**1-800-848-0298**). Such contact may be in person, by writing, telephone, or other means and should be made no later than **September 4, 2007**, to allow time to provide such aid or services.