

February 22, 2021

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MINING & MINERALS DIVISION

Mr. Clinton Chisler
Mining and Minerals Division
Mining Act Reclamation Program
Wendell Chino Building 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Room 363
1220 S St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Modification request to change PMLU and release Permit# SO002MN from the NM Mining Act.

Dear Mr. Chisler,

I am writing to you today regarding Permit# SO002MN, a minimal impact mining permit through the New Mexico Mining Act for the Sais Quarry. I would like to start the process of removing this quarry from the New Mexico Mining Act permit as I do not believe this act applies to the stone coming from this quarry, nor to the quarry itself.

New Mexico Travertine, Inc. has been operating the Sais quarry since New Mexico Quarries, Inc. purchased it back in 1994. The quarry was originally purchased for the Schist veneer stone. The layers of the schist stone lay between the quartz gravel deposits that, at the time of the permit, had not been explored as a marketable material. The quarry was permitted through the State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department as a Subpart 3 -Minimal Impact New Mining Operations in 1996. In 2003 New Mexico Travertine, Inc. purchased a small screening plant and the associated equipment to start making landscape gravel. Fast forward 17 years and the Sais quarry has become one of the larger quarries supplying landscape gravel to the Albuquerque and surrounding markets. Today this quarry mainly produces gravel and a very small amount of material from the schist tailings and unprocessed raw quarry material. The Schist material is taken from spoil areas in the quarry and is sorted into larger pieces. It is then hand split into flat pieces that can be used for decorative stone veneer, either in a horizontal or vertical plane. The material is essentially a flagstone by definition and as such it is exempt from permitting under the law, as it is not a mineral per the definition of the word "Minerals" in the New Mexico Mining Act Rules 19.10.1.7 section M.1.

The Sais Quarry was originally an abandoned rail road ballast quarry that operated from 1903 to 1958. The quarry area is quite large and the permitted portion is only a very small fraction of the total quarry where the previous operators dumped the schist tailings. New Mexico





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Quarries, Inc. has 1.38 disturbed acres permitted in the middle of a 100+ acre decorative gravel quarry, please see the attached map showing the permitted areas in relation to the overall quarry property along with a letter dated 2-16-96 outlining the agreement from a meeting dated 1-5-96. The agreement was an addendum to the permit application to supersede previous quarry operation design dated 12-30-94 which outlined how the total disturbed acreage was calculated and the areas in the quarry which it would affect. We understand that under the Mexico Mining Act rules, the permitted area will be required to be reclaimed. In the original permit application, we had proposed the post mining land use would be cattle grazing, however, the decorative gravel operation has become the major emphasis of this property and some of the permitted area is being used for access to active parts of the gravel operations and storage of gravel inventory. Because the permitted area is in the middle of an active decorative gravel operation, we would like to reclassify the post mining land use to decorative gravel mining and processing operations.

I have enclosed a check for \$250.00 as the Minimal Impact Modification Fee. Please let me know how to move forward from this point and exactly what is needed on my end to start this process.

Thank you,

NEW MEXICO TRAVERTINE, INC.

Jim Lardner President

## Encl.

- (1) New Mexico Travertine, Inc. Ck# 37894 \$250.00 for Minimal Impact Modification Fee
- (2) Letter on February 16, 1996 with close up map of disturbed area
- (3) Map of overall property at Sais Quarry





February 16, 1996

New Mexico Quarries, Inc.
P.O. Box 439
Belen, NM 87002

Fernando R. Martinez
Reclamation Specialist
Mining and Minerals Division
2040 So. Pacheco St.
P.O. Box 6429
Santa Fe, N.M. 87505

SAIS QUARRY No.SO002MN

RE: 3.3-A,F MINIMAL IMPACT EXISTING MINING OPERATION

Per our meeting at your office on 01-05-96, the following is an addendum to our permit application in accordance to Rule 3.3-A, to supersede previous quarry operation design dated 12/30/94.

The existing roads at the site will not be reclaimed and left as open access for post mine use such as recreational, ranching, or open access to pit locations if the site is used for crushing operations. This quarry is an abandoned rail road ballast quarry, and could be used in post mining as a crushed stone operation with very little effect on existing disturbance.

The permitted/disturbed acreage at the Sais Quarry site will now be as follows.

Site A. This site will be used for setting up a screening operation to remove the 3/4" landscape product as described in section 7 of the application. The permit size will increase to 600' x 600', while the disturbed area size will be decreased to 100' x 200', approximately 0.46 acres. This disturbed area will be considered the 'active site' and relocated in incremental portions as the material is removed. When the active site is depleted of usable material, it will be relocated to the next corresponding active site, ie. 1,2,3,4,... as outlined on the revised map. When the active site "A-1" is relocated to active site "A-2", the exhausted site "A-1" will be graded or contoured to restrict any rain runoff and will be broadcast seeded with mulch as described in section 8 of the application.

Site B. This site will be used for sorting out building stone as described in section 7 of the permit application. The permit size of this site will increase to 500' x 1,500', while the disturbed acreage will decrease to 100' x 250', approximately 0.57 acres. This disturbed area will be operated the same as described for site A. Active site "B-1" will be operated until the material is depleted, then relocated to active site "B-2". Active site "B-1" will then be reclaimed. The active site sequence is outlined on the revised map.

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site C. This site will be used for back-filling. The back-fill material will be the unusable rock and dirt removed from the current active sites of "A" and "B". The active site "C" will also be operated as the other sites "A" and "B" in that this site will be relocated when the back filling operation has reached the capacity of the disturbed size. When the disturbed size is reached, then the active site "C-1" will move to "C-2". The back filled site, "C-1", will then be graded/contoured with minimum slope to avoid erosion and it will be broadcast seeded, and mulch will be applied. Site C permit area will be 200' x > 6.80 1,500', while the disturbed active area will be 100' x 200', approximately 0.46 acres.

The Sais Quarry permitted area is now revised to approximately 32.37 acres. The disturbed area is now revised to approximately 1.38 acres.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-(505) 864-6300.

Respectfully submitted,

NEW MEXICO QUARRIES, INC.

Timothy J. Lardner President

