

2008 Mined Land Reclamation Awards

Outstanding Operator Division I - Cobb Rock, Inc., Beaverton Quarry, Washington County. Contact Vern Spierling - 503-649-5661

Cobb Rock, Inc. was chosen as Outstanding Operator, Division I, based on their long record of voluntary reclamation, a well planned and implemented operation, and their outstanding compliance record with the DOGAMI and Department of Environmental Quality permits issued for this site.

The Beaverton Quarry is located two miles west of Beaverton with access from Highway 208. Mining began at this upland quarry site in 1958. In 1972, based on aerial photography, 87 acres were deemed eligible for Limited Exempt (LE) status. LE status allows an operator to mine within a pre 1972 defined boundary with unlimited annual production if they were permitted prior to 1972.

A LE was first issued by DOGAMI in 1974 and maintained through 1986. An operating permit was issued in 1986 to expand the quarry beyond the exempt boundary. The first DOGAMI inspection report for this site, dated 08/20/74, states an excellent long term development plan was in effect, all soil material was being salvaged in vegetated stockpiles for reclamation and trees were planted along the property line for visual screening.

A DOGAMI inspection report 6 years later states even though there are no reclamation requirements, the site has been developed in a logical manner and concurrent reclamation is being practiced on mined-out areas. Soils and overburden salvaged earlier were used to construct a visual berm. The operator at this time had constructed an effective stormwater control system for the 80 acre site.

Concurrent reclamation continues to be practiced, with overburden from new areas spread over mined out areas and revegetated, thereby limiting the overall area of disturbance. Over the years the stormwater control system has been improved and refined.

In 2004, an agreement was reached between Cobb Rock and an adjacent quarry to mine the setback between the two quarries rather than leaving an 'island' of rock between the two sites. By March 2009, the island of rock had been mined through, leaving a relatively level quarry floor across both sites. Removing this setback improves the post-mine land use by eliminating two steep high walls, and increases the overall stability of both sites after mining is complete.

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The 80 acre Beaverton Quarry has an effective stormwater control system and concurrent reclamation is being practiced on mined-out areas.



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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

The Mineral Lands Regulation and Reclamation program at DOGAMI serves as a steward of the state's mineral production, while encouraging best practices within the industry. MLRR's goals include environmental protection, conservation, effective site reclamation, and operational guidance regarding other engineering and technical issues. Contact Gary Lynch, Assistant Director of Regulation, MLRR, at (541) 967-2053 for more information.

Detailed online information for each winner can be found on our website:

<http://www.oregongeology.org>

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