

## 2008 Mined Land Reclamation Awards

**Good Neighbor Award - Turner Gravel, Inc., Turner Quarry, Marion County.  
Contact Gary Clapshaw - 907-209-4584 .**

**Gary Clapshaw and Turner Gravel, Inc. received the Good Neighbor Award because of their efforts to improve their quarry operation, protect adjacent natural resources, and restore the confidence of their neighbors that a well run quarry need not be a liability.**

The Turner Quarry is located eight miles south of Salem on Delaney Road, adjacent to Mill Creek. In 1976, approximately 16 acres were deemed eligible for Limited Exempt status, having been mined before 1972, which allows an operator to mine within the exempt boundary with unlimited annual production.

By 1995, the quarry had expanded beyond the exempt boundary, requiring a full operating permit and reclamation security for the non-exempt acres. This upland basalt quarry operated with a checkered record through 2005. Violations included expansion beyond the exempt boundary, discharge of turbid stormwater, and off-site impacts from flying rock during production blasting.

The current owner/operator, Gary Clapshaw, assumed the DOGAMI permit in 2006 and began to immediately make improvements to this site. Benching of the highwall created more stable slopes, monitoring of production blasts and advanced warning to neighbors alleviated concerns, and implementing best management practices improved stormwater control on-site.

Benching of quarry highwalls is necessary not just for safety of mine workers. Benching provides slope stability and protects adjacent property lines. Benching also creates final excavated slopes that meet DOGAMI requirements.

Seismic monitoring of production blasts insures ground motion does not exceed levels known to cause off-site structural damage. This protects the operator and provides neighbors hard data on actual ground motion. Advanced warning of production blasts is probably the best measure a mine operator can take if they have to blast.

Turner Gravel, Inc. constructed a French drain in the quarry floor and the processing area to eliminate standing water. A raised gravel internal access road was constructed to reduce the generation of mud and turbid stormwater, and a series of stormwater retention ponds were created. Salvaged overburden has been used to create a buffer be-

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**Earlier this year, Turner Gravel, Inc. began a new excavation process which dramatically reduces the need for production blasting, one of the main concerns of neighbors and local officials at this quarry.**



**Salvaged overburden has been used to create a buffer between the quarry and Mill Creek, helping to contain stormwater on-site and providing visual and noise buffering to adjacent residences.**

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

tween the quarry and Mill Creek, helping to contain stormwater on-site and providing visual and noise buffering to adjacent residences.

Earlier this year the operator began a new excavation process using a hydraulic breaker on the quarry face which dramatically reduces the need for production blasting, one of the main concerns of neighbors and local officials at this quarry.

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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