

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
 Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office

**Environmental Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*

EEA#: 16040

MEPA Analyst: Alex Steysky

*The information requested on this form must be completed in order to submit a document electronically for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.*

Project Name: Quarry Minerals Management Area		
Street Address: 260 Columbia Street		
Municipality: Town of Adams	Watershed: Hudson	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 654142.97 E, 4723141.35 N	Latitude: 42°38'43.1" N Longitude: 73°07'10.8" W	
Estimated commencement date: 2021	Estimated completion date: 2071	
Project Type: Landfill	Status of project design: 20% complete	
Proponent: Specialty Minerals, Inc.		
Street Address: 260 Columbia Street		
Municipality: Adams	State: MA	Zip Code: 01220
Name of Contact Person: Ziad Kary		
Firm/Agency: Environmental Partners Group, Inc.	Street Address: 1900 Crown Colony Drive, Suite 402	
Municipality: Quincy	State: MA	Zip Code: 02169
Phone: (617) 657-0283	Fax: (617) 657-0201	E-mail: zfk@envpartners.com

  

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 Yes  No

If this is an Expanded Environmental Notification Form (ENF) (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) or a Notice of Project Change (NPC), are you requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))  Yes  No  
 a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)  Yes  No  
 a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No  
 a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)  Yes  No  
 (Note: Greenhouse Gas Emissions analysis must be included in the Expanded ENF.)

Which MEPA review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03)?  
 301 CMR 11.03(9)(a) – Solid and Hazardous Waste and 301 CMR 11.03(1)(a) – Land

Which State Agency Permits will the project require? BWP SW 01, 38 – Site Suitability and BWP SW 27 – New Medium Landfill or Medium Expansion

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an Agency of the Commonwealth, including the Agency name and the amount of funding or land area in acres: N/A

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
<b>LAND</b>			
Total site acreage	72		
New acres of land altered		72	
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
<b>STRUCTURES</b>			
Gross square footage	0	0	0
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Vehicle trips per day	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parking spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>WASTEWATER</b>			
Water Use (Gallons per day)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Water withdrawal (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wastewater generation/treatment (GPD)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of water mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Length of sewer mains (miles)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Has this project been filed with MEPA before? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (EEA # <u>Unknown, not listed under EEA Database</u> ) <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION – all proponents must fill out this section**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Describe the existing conditions and land uses on the project site:

Specialty Minerals (SMI), a division of Minerals Technology, Inc, operates a limestone quarrying and processing operation at their property at 260 Columbia Avenue in Adams, Massachusetts. Coproducts generated as part of the limestone processing are either recycled or, if markets are not available, are disposed of on-site as waste mineral solids. Two of these coproduct streams, fluosolids (FS) dust and pond solids, meet the definition of solid waste under the Massachusetts Solid Waste Regulations (310 CMR 19.000), and are therefore disposed of onsite at areas permitted by the Department of Environmental Protection. Their existing disposal areas are nearing capacity, and SMI is seeking to permit a new disposal facility that will provide for long-term management of these coproduct streams. A new coproduct disposal facility is being proposed that will be located within the existing Quarry area as part of a larger quarry reclamation effort that, when completed, will fill the Quarry and return it to a vegetated slope. Land use within the proposed Quarry Minerals Management Area boundaries according to MassGIS is classified as mining.

Describe the proposed project and its programmatic and physical elements:

The Quarry Minerals Management Area will be approximately 72-acres in area and is to be permitted, constructed and operated in accordance with DEP regulations for solid waste facilities. The facility is to be used solely for SMI's coproducts and rock mineral waste. No public use or access to the project will be allowed. The landfill area will be outside established wetland and stream buffer areas.

The facility will be constructed following the same design and operations approach approved by DEP for SMI's existing coproduct disposal areas. Groundwater elevations will be permanently maintained below the base of the disposal area through a gravity drainage system that will prevent contact of groundwater with the coproduct material. To ensure that adequate separation is maintained between the base of the disposal area and groundwater, the Quarry will be backfilled with rock material to a base elevation that will allow gravity drainage of the Quarry area to settling ponds on the property to occur. As interim and final grades of the disposal area are reached, the surface will be loamed and seeded with native, drought resistant grasses such as Little Bluestem and Albany Pine Bush. These native species could potentially attract rare bird species such as grasshopper sparrows and eastern meadowlarks. This facility will be located entirely on SMI's property, and will not have any impacts or reliance on infrastructure owned and maintained by Adams.

Describe the on-site project alternatives (and alternative off-site locations, if applicable), considered by the proponent, including at least one feasible alternative that is allowed under current zoning, and the reasons(s) that they were not selected as the preferred alternative:

Alternatives considered by SMI for the Quarry Minerals Management Area include:

- 1) **Baseline/No Action** – Under this alternative, SMI would not permit a new minerals management facility and would continue current operations until the existing minerals management areas have reached their permitted capacity. SMI, a significant economic contributor to the Town of Adams, would therefore be forced to cease operations until a coproduct disposal program can be implemented that is financially viable. In the No Action Alternative, the site would become unutilized and would have no economic value to the Town of Adams. Additionally, under this alternative, restoration and reclamation of the Quarry area and consequential aesthetic and environmental benefits to the area would not occur. This alternative was therefore considered but rejected.
- 2) **Recycling/Beneficial Reuse** – Under this alternative, SMI would continue to actively seek markets for their coproducts to reduce the volume of material requiring disposal. SMI's experience has been that these markets have sporadic and uncertain needs, and therefore cannot be relied upon as a long-term management strategy for their coproduct disposal. This alternative was therefore considered but rejected.

- 3) Offsite Haul and Disposal – Under this alternative, SMI would rely on an off-site landfill for disposal of the FS dust and pond solids. The nearest off-site landfills which would be able to accept SMI's annual generation of waste are located solely in Ohio, at a distance of greater than 500 miles from SMI's Adams facility. The annual cost for this disposal to SMI was determined to be over \$9 Million/year. In addition to not being economically viable to SMI, this alternative would result in increased traffic, noise, and greenhouse gas emission impacts associated with the estimated 5,600 truck trips per year. For these reasons, this alternative was considered but rejected.
- 4) Onsite Disposal at Northwest Area – Under this alternative, SMI would construct a minerals management area on the northwest-most region of their property. Due to the elevations in this area, it was determined that this site would provide minimal disposal capacity and would be highly visible from the Greylock Reservation and abutting areas. Additionally, construction of a minerals management area in this location would require the disturbance of previously undisturbed land. For these reasons, this alternative was considered but rejected.
- 5) Quarry Minerals Management Area (the Proposed Project) – Under this alternative, SMI would construct the proposed Quarry Minerals Management Area within the southern area of the existing Quarry. This alternative was selected as the preferred approach because it will provide a long-term (~50 years) mechanism for disposal of SMI's coproduct streams in an environmentally sound and financially viable manner. Further, it will allow SMI to reclaim the deep Quarry area by filling it in an engineered manner and restoring it with a vegetated surface.

Summarize the mitigation measures proposed to offset the impacts of the preferred alternative: The Quarry Minerals Management Area will be constructed and operated within the Quarry area utilizing SMI's existing equipment, material and forces used for their daily Quarry operations. There will be no increase in noise from the existing operations, and the project will not result in any increase or change in current traffic generations rates from SMI. As with their current disposal areas, SMI will operate the Quarry Minerals Management Area in accordance with the DEP Solid Waste Regulations (310 CMR 19.000), and will continue to monitor dust and noise conditions from these operations to minimize any potential impact to abutters and the Adams community.

If the project is proposed to be constructed in phases, please describe each phase: The Quarry Minerals Management Area will be constructed in accordance with a DEP Authorization to Construct permit. The site will be prepared by creating the base grades of the facility by filling the Quarry with onsite rock and soil material to a base elevation of approximately 765' (NAVD 1988) to ensure that groundwater elevations remain below the base of the fill area. A landfill sequencing plan for its operation will be reviewed and permitted in 5-year increments. As grades are achieved through filling in accordance with the sequencing plan, each area will be capped with soil material and vegetated.

**AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN:**

Is the project within or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

- Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  
 No

if yes, does the ACEC have an approved Resource Management Plan? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No;  
 if yes, describe how the project complies with this plan.

Will there be stormwater runoff or discharge to the designated ACEC? \_\_\_ Yes  No;  
 if yes, describe and assess the potential impacts of such stormwater runoff/discharge to the designated ACEC.

**RARE SPECIES:**

Does the project site include Estimated and/or Priority Habitat of State-Listed Rare Species? (see [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/regulatory\\_review/priority\\_habitat/priority\\_habitat\\_home.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhosp/regulatory_review/priority_habitat/priority_habitat_home.htm))  
 Yes (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)  No

**HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:**

Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?