

Galasso Quarry Expansion

East Granby, Connecticut



Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team Report

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Environmental Review Team Report

Prepared by the
Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team
of the Eastern Connecticut
Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

for the
First Selectman and Planning and Zoning Commission
East Granby

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Report No. 588

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Acknowledgments

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the East Granby First Selectman and the Planning and Zoning Commission to the North Central Conservation District and the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) Council for their consideration and approval. The request was approved and the project reviewed by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Elaine Sych, would like to thank and gratefully acknowledge the following Team members whose professionalism and expertise were invaluable to the completion of this report.

The field review took place on Wednesday, September 22, 2004.

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I would also like to thank Charlie Francis, town engineer and planner, Fred O'Brien and Bill Skinner, planning and zoning commission, Frank Kilby and Joyce Kennedy Raymes, inland wetlands/conservation commission, Fred Hanks, Galasso Materials, Mike Zizka, Murtha Cullina LLP (for Galasso), and Cory Garro, Kevin Johnson and Wes Sargent, Close, Jensen and Miller, engineers for the applicant, for their cooperation and assistance during this environmental review.

Prior to the review day, each Team member received a summary of the proposed project with location and soils maps. During the field review Team members were given plans and additional information. Following the review, reports from each Team member were submitted to the ERT coordinator for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report represents the Team's findings. It is not meant to compete with private consultants by providing site plans or detailed solutions to development problems. The Team does not recommend what final action should be taken on a proposed project – all final decisions rest with the town and landowner/applicant. This report identifies the existing resource base and evaluates its significance to potential and existing development, and also suggests considerations that should be of concern to the town and

landowner. The results of this Team action are oriented toward the development of better environmental quality and the long term economics of land use.

The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council hopes you find this report of value and assistance in reviewing the proposed quarry expansion.

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Introduction

The East Granby First Selectman and the Planning and Zoning Commission have requested assistance from the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team in conducting a review of the proposed expansion to a traprock quarry.

The site is located off of Route 187 next to the Metacomet Ridge in central East Granby south of Route 20. The Metacomet Trail runs along Hatchett Hill and is on the quarry property.

The Roncari Company, the original owners of this quarry, began mining the traprock in the 1950's prior to the adoption of zoning regulations in East Granby. Mining began in the northern end of the site and as excavation was completed the area was used for the construction of various industrial facilities for traprock processing, the production of ready-mix Portland cement concrete and bituminous concrete, and various maintenance and related production support facilities.

Over time several adjacent properties were added to the ownership that totals approximately 550 acres. Roughly half of this area is currently devoted to mining, processing and the other related industrial and support activities and the balance is largely undisturbed forest land.

The East Granby Zoning Regulations now include a "Quarry Zone" under which all uses are subject to granting of a Special Permit by the Commission. The undisturbed portions of the property are mainly in the Q-quarry, I-industrial, and B-business Zones. The forested portion of the property is in the A-agricultural Zone.

In 1991 Roncari applied for a Special Permit for an 87.3 acre portion of the Q property. The Special Permit was granted for excavation on 59.5 acres (27.8 acres remained as a buffer) to an ultimate depth of elevation 230' from approximate surface elevations that varied from about 250' to 400'.

Shortly thereafter the property was sold to Galasso Materials, the current operators. Galasso has completed excavation to elevation 230' on a portion of the approved area and anticipated completion of Phase II mining within the next five years.

Galasso recently approached the Commission informally to discuss a new special permit application to extend the excavation of Phase II downward to elevation 210'. One motivation is to confine operations to the current "footprint" for as long as feasible and this expansion would extend mining in Phase II for another seven years beyond the current five year reserve according to preliminary Galasso estimates.

Objectives of the ERT Study

The town originally requested an ERT review for the entire Galasso property, including the undeveloped portion of the property to the south of Phases I and II. The applicant took the position that the ERT should review only the pending proposed quarry deepening for Phase II and exclude the undeveloped land to the south. The applicant felt that it was "premature for the ERT to examine "horizontal expansion" without any actual proposals to do so." The Planning and Zoning Commission agreed to the change in scope and the review was conducted with the understanding that the ERT would evaluate the quarry deepening proposal, as well as evaluate and make recommendations concerning the Metacomet Trail and the areas known as Phase I and II, as requested by the town.

The major areas of concern with the present proposal as relayed by the East Granby Planning and Zoning Commission are:

- Concerns about impacts of downward expansion including the affects on wells, wetlands, storm drainage and groundwater;
- Preservation of the Metacomet Trail through the Galasso Property with continued public access;
- Concerns with long-term phased reclamation and restoration plans; and
- Best management practices relating to "primary habitat areas" identified in the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project.

The ERT Process

Through the efforts of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the First Selectman this environmental review and report was prepared for the Town of East Granby. This report provides an information base and a series of recommendations and guidelines which cover the topics requested by the town. Team members were able to review maps, plans and supporting documentation provided by the town and applicant.

The review process consisted of four phases:

1. Inventory of the site's natural resources;
2. Assessment of these resources;
3. Identification of resource areas and review of proposed uses; and
4. Presentation of education, management and land use guidelines.

The data collection phase involved both literature and field research. The field review was conducted on Wednesday, September 22, 2004. The emphasis of the field review was on the exchange of ideas, concerns and

recommendations. Being on site allowed Team members to verify information and to identify other resources.

Once Team members had assimilated an adequate data base, they were able to analyze and interpret their findings. Individual Team members then prepared and submitted their reports to the ERT coordinator for compilation into this final ERT report.



Location and Topography

Scale 1" = 2000'



Area and Zone Map
Not to Scale



SUMMARY OF ZONING AREAS
GALASSO MATERIALS, LLC PROPERTY

ZONES	EXISTING AREAS
I - INDUSTRIAL	138.6
A - AGRICULTURE	136.0
B - BUSINESS	6.4
R-40 RESIDENTIAL	54.8
R-20 RESIDENTIAL	30.7
Q - QUARRY PHASE MA	87.3
Q - QUARRY (PRESENT EXCAVATION)	94.6
TOTAL PROPERTY	549.4 AC.

LEGEND

-  ROW AREA BOUNDARY
-  QUARRY ZONE PHASE V A
-  QUARRY ZONE (ORIGINAL QUARRY)
-  ZONE BOUNDARY / EXIST. ZONE



Geology Review

The Galasso Company is mining a layer of basalt (also called "trap rock," a Scottish term) referred to as the Holyoke Basalt by the geologic community (Rodgers, 1985; Schnabel and Eric, 1964 and 1965). The Holyoke basalt is part of the youngest series of rocks in Connecticut that occupies the central region of the state from New Haven into Massachusetts. This series of rocks formed through sedimentary and volcanic processes during the Mesozoic era (~210-180 million years in age). The Holyoke Basalt formed as an ancient lava flow that issued from vents and fissures that stretch diagonally across the state from Milford on the south to West Stafford on the north. The lava flowed into a low lying area, called the Hartford Basin, in the central part of the state and formed a large lava lake. As the lava cooled (~1200°C) it hardened into a finely crystalline rock we call basalt. As the rock cooled further it contracted (most substances expand when heated and shrink when cooled) causing near vertically oriented fractures (cracks) to develop downward into the rock. The vertical fractures are randomly oriented and run into each other forming a network of interconnected fractures. These fractures create void space (porosity) within the rock into which rain water and snow melt seep forming groundwater and supporting the water table. Some time after fracture formation the rocks were deformed by tectonic tilting (toward the east) and faulting into their present configuration.

The operation has been mining basalt from a layer that is tilted about 20 degrees toward the east. (The upturned edge of the tilted layer forms the ridge on which the Metacomet trail runs.) The basalt is a well jointed (joints are fractures that are equally, relatively, spaced from each other), finely

crystalline rock that is dark greenish gray in color. Quarry operations exposed the base of the basalt in the northwest corner of the quarry. The layer is 250-300 feet in thickness. Knowing the degree of tilting one can predict the elevation of the basalt-layer base everywhere in the quarry. This simple exercise reveals that there is sufficient trap rock to justify deepening the quarry in all but the northwest corner. Several high angle faults with a north-south orientation are exposed in the quarry that, on their east side, elevate the base of the layer, but these faults have not brought the base closer than the requested deepening-elevation of 210'.

The quarry floor was dry everywhere the Team observed it during the site visit. This indicates that the quarry operations do not presently intersect the water table. The operation engineers accompanying the ERT during the site visit reported monitoring wells intersect groundwater at depths between 10 and 20 feet below the surface throughout the quarry. Thus deepening operations likely will intersect the water table at some places and this will tend to slightly lower the local water table. Neighboring wetlands associated with Holcomb Brook are, however, at sufficient distance and low enough in elevation that they likely will be unaffected by the activity. Supporting this contention is the observation that the northern area of wetlands (intersection of Holcomb Street with Rte. 20) has an elevation of just less than 270' and has been unaffected by excavation to less than 210' elevation in the northern part (old section) of the quarry. The elevation of the southern wetlands is just less than 230'.

Melting of glaciers ~14,000 years ago, after the last ice age, left deposits of till and sand and gravel on the parcel (Colton, 1960). Till is an unsorted non-stratified mixture of mud, sand, and cobbles deposited directly by the glacier either beneath it or as a residue when the ice melted. Sand and

gravel deposits are yellowish-brown to grayish red and stratified. They contain features indicating that they were deposited by melt-water streams adjacent to remnants of the glacial ice. The sand and gravel on the site likely were depleted some time ago. East of the town-site of East Granby is a gently easterly-dipping flat plain that was a delta-top formed when the melt-water streams fed a short-lived glacial lake (Lake Hitchcock, see Bell, 1985).

References

Bell, Michael, 1985, *The Face of Connecticut*. Connecticut Geol. And Nat. Hist. Survey, Bull 110, 196p.

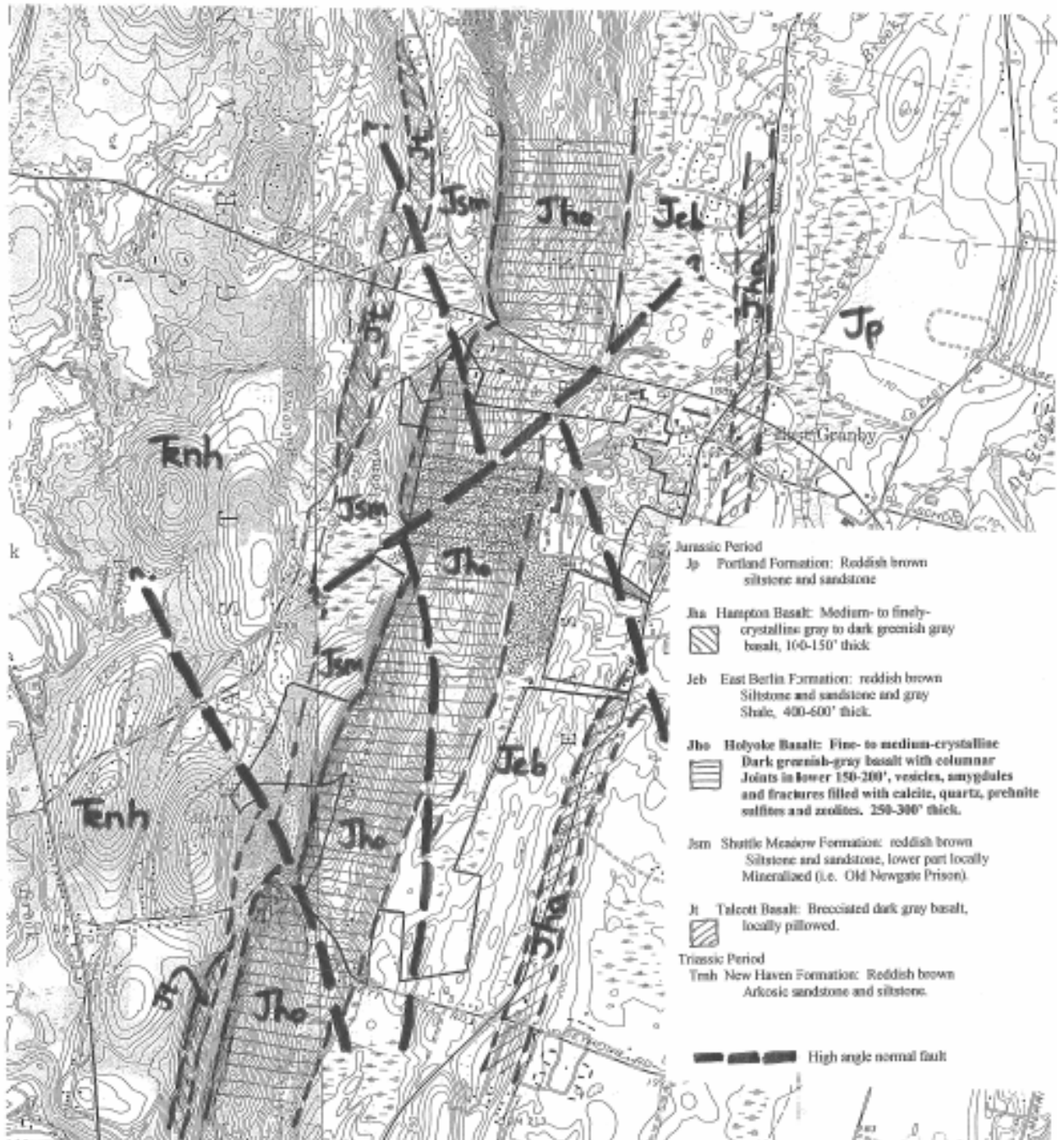
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Geologic Map
Scale 1" = 2000'



Conservation District Review

General resource issues typically addressed by the North Central Conservation District Inc. include soils, wetlands, erosion control, and stormwater. These issues are not a concern with the proposed downward expansion of the quarry to elevation 210. The current stormwater system is permitted by the DEP and the expansion is not expected to significantly alter the current drainage pattern or function of the stormwater system. The existing and proposed outflow elevation for the system is 210, so it should function as is once the expansion is completed. Based on a discussion with town and DEP staff, the system currently functions adequately in terms of water quality.

Based on the material provided to the ERT, the proposed expansion will allow the quarry to operate for another twelve years, without increasing the footprint of the operation. The downward expansion is preferable because expanding the quarry outward raises a number of significant issues, including the need for a zone change for continued quarrying, and potential impacts to "Primary Habitat Areas" recently identified as part of the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project.

Other long-term issues not currently addressed (in terms of specific plans) include the fate of the Metacomet Trail, and ultimate reclamation of the site. Based on the Town of East Granby Plan of Conservation and Development (page 4-15) addressing the issues outlined above is part of the towns "Quarry Management Strategies." The strategies identified appear to outline all of the significant issues that need to be addressed within the next twelve years, as the quarry operation either approaches the end or plans for further expansion are developed.

The District recommends that as part of the permitting for the expansion to elevation 210, the town and applicant develop a timetable for discussing the issues identified. A possible approach would be to assemble a group of representatives from the town's land use commissions and staff for a regular workshop style meeting with representatives from Galasso Materials LLC. If regular meetings are made part of the condition for approval, it may be useful to outline the issues to be discussed and expected outcomes. However, it does not seem necessary at this time to attempt to predetermine any outcomes (with the possible exception of reclamation, discussed below) since a significant planning effort is likely to be required by both the town and applicant for any future activity.

The town should have some reasonable protection against any liability associated with the operation being prematurely abandoned. For that reason, the first priority should be discussion of reclamation and associated bonding.

The District is available for consultation for future planning efforts.

Stormwater Management

Galasso Materials LLC ("Galasso") is currently registered for the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity ("the industrial general permit"). Permit Number GSI000104 covers stormwater runoff from Galasso's quarrying, rock crushing, and asphalt manufacturing operations and requires a registration, the preparation of a Pollution Prevention Plan ("PPP"), and the annual sampling of stormwater. The Department of Environmental Protection has recently reviewed the PPP and provided review comments, the most significant of which, relating to the cessation of unpermitted (non-stormwater) discharges from industrial activities at this site and the employment of additional stormwater management measures to prevent discoloration/ turbidity in Creamery Brook.

Galasso's proposal to excavate to elevation 210' in the Phase 2 area should minimize any additional impact to the environment from stormwater. By staying within the same footprint, in an area which is currently mined, runoff characteristics (including peak flow and volume of stormwater) will remain the same. Additionally, since the water table has not been intercepted in other portions of the quarry which are at elevation 210' and the quarry floor was dry during the site walk after a significant rain event; the issue of dewatering should not be a concern.

Since the elevation of the detention basin must be lowered to receive runoff from a deeper excavation, the PPP will need to be revised to outline a sequence for conducting this work. Also, as the basin is reconfigured, temporary measures (such as a temporary basin) may be needed to provide treatment of runoff, along with a plan for the stabilization of disturbed areas.

Longer term, if more land is disturbed, treatment of stormwater from the additional area must be required. The installation of a retention basin (sized to hold a 100 year storm) would be the best way to mitigate any downstream impacts. Any further expansion of related industrial operations may increase the potential for adverse impact on groundwater and surface water resources. Pollutants associated with these operations include, but are not limited to, oil and grease, heavy metals and sediments.

Any long-term restoration plan (or plan to develop the area) would be subject to the requirements of the General Permit for the discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters Associated with Construction Activities ("the construction general permit"). Sites between 1-5 acres of disturbance are not required to register for the construction general permit provided local review and written approval (for erosion and sediment control) is obtained and the 2002 CT Guidelines for Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines ("Guidelines") are followed. Sites with 5 or more acres of disturbance are required to register for the construction general permit. The construction general permit requires the preparation of a Pollution Control Plan ("PCP"), an integral part of which must be an erosion and sediment control plan which is consistent with the guidelines. The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan that would be approved by the Town in conjunction with the CTDEP Inland Water Resources Division (IWRD) and/or the local soil and water conservation district can be included in the PCP.

The Natural Diversity Data Base

The Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) maps and files have been reviewed regarding the area delineated on the map the ERT provided for the proposed Galasso Quarry Expansion in East Granby, Connecticut. According to the information, there are known extant populations of state listed plants and animals in close proximity to this quarry. Many of the plants are associated with either the Metacomet Ridge or wetlands that are adjacent to the quarry property boundaries. The DEP Natural Diversity Data Base program ecologist Mr. Ken Metzler reviewed the map and materials in the ERT package that was sent prior to the field visit. Mr. Metzler cannot determine the impacts of the quarry expansion to the state listed plants that are in this area. The expansion activities would have to be more specific and outline the affect on the wetlands, adjacent watercourses and trap rock ridge before Mr. Metzler could determine what impact the activities would have on the state-listed plant species.

Some of the unconfirmed state-listed bird records from the general vicinity of this property include Acadian flycatcher, alder flycatcher and brown thrasher. These records are considered unconfirmed because a sighting was reported to the Natural Diversity Data Base program, but they do not have the field data or documentation of nesting for these species.

As for unconfirmed records of the flycatchers and thrashers, the alder flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) can be found in Connecticut during the breeding season (approximately May through July) and also during spring and fall migration. As a nesting species, it only regularly occurs in northwestern Connecticut. The alder flycatcher prefers areas with shrubby

understory that are near streams or open water. They most often select alder or buttonbush for nesting. It migrates to South America for the winter. The state species-of-special-concern brown thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) is a shrubland specialist. It prefers areas of brushy second growth tangles, briars, and dense thickets. Its breeding season is approximately from April through August and it is during this period that the species is most susceptible to disturbances in its feeding or nesting habitat. If work is done outside of the breeding season, the potential for destruction of nests, eggs, or young is reduced. Jenny Dickson (860-675-8130) can further assist you in planning details and its impact on flycatchers and brown thrashers.

At least one of the state-listed annual species found in the vicinity of the quarry is wetland dependent. The species is state special concern *Ambystoma laterale* (blue-spotted salamander "complex"). This salamander also utilizes upland habitat that may be within the quarry property boundaries. A site survey done by a herpetologist familiar with the habitat requirement of this species would be a valuable resource to determine the impacts on this species.

This blue-spotted salamander "complex" results in the hybridization of the blue-spotted salamander with the Jefferson salamander. The hybrids can only be reliably distinguished by karyological and biochemical analyses. Blue-spotted salamanders are associated with riparian red maple swamps. They breed in March and April and may be found on the road surface on wet rainy nights. They favor grassy, flood plain wetlands for breeding.

If any blue spotted salamander habitat, as described above, occurs on the site the Wildlife Division recommends that a herpetologist familiar with the habitat requirements of this species conduct surveys. A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include habitat descriptions, amphibian species list and a statement/resume giving the herpetologist's qualifications. The DEP does not maintain a list of qualified herpetologists. A DEP Wildlife Division permit may be required by the herpetologist to conduct survey work; you should ask if the herpetologist has one. The results of this investigation can be forwarded to the Wildlife Division and, after evaluation, recommendations for additional surveys, if any, will be made.

Please be advised that should state permits be required or should state involvement occur in some other fashion, specific restrictions or conditions relating to the species discussed above may apply. In this situation, additional evaluation of the proposal by the DEP Wildlife Division should be requested. Please be advised that the Wildlife division has not made a field inspection of any of this project nor have they seen detailed timetables for work to be done. Consultation with the Wildlife Division should not be substituted for site-specific surveys that may be required for environmental assessments.

As noted in the site visit package, the town of East Granby participated in the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project in conjunction with the Farmington Valley Watershed Association and other conservation groups. In looking at the maps provided to the NDDB program by the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project it is seen that many important focal species were found along Hatchett Hill and adjacent wetlands. Furthermore, much of this area was identified as "primary habitat" by the biologists working on the Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project. This Team member believes that the

Farmington Valley Biodiversity Project coordinators would be an important resource for the town to utilize in making their land use decisions. You may wish to speak with Mr. Hank Gruner (CT Science Center 860-231-2824) to better understand the data and assistance that that group can provide to the towns that participated.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Planning Considerations

Despite the substantial size of the existing Galasso Quarry, topography and visual screening have thus far ensured that most residents and visitors of East Granby are largely unaware of the quarry's presence. Blasting events are, of course, an exception to this. The quarry exists within an existing Quarry/Industrial Zone and will require no re-zoning to expand per their current application and plans. The current application proposes to extend the excavation downward to elevation 210' in the existing Phase II. At this point, no lateral expansion of the quarry is proposed, and all of the visual impact will be within the quarry itself.

The area of Phase II that is under review, however, abuts the Metacomet Trail, and extends quite close to the ridgeline. A safety fence and appropriate signage have been installed between the trail and the quarry, and these do not need to be expanded with the expansion of the quarry. Since the application for the quarry expansion is a Special Permit, it provides the Town of East Granby with an opportunity to consider this area and their future plans for the Metacomet Trail through East Granby. Following are references to this area:

- *Achieving the Balance: A Plan of Conservation and Development for the Capitol Region* (2003) includes a Conservation Focus Area policy map that highlights the Metacomet Trail through East Granby as a significant resource that warrants protection.
- Though the Town requires a 200' blasting buffer, no official setback in Town regulations is required from the Metacomet Trail.

- o East Granby is a member of the Metacomet Ridge Conservation Compact and has participated in the National Parks Service's Monadnock-Metacomet-Mattabeset Trail Study.
- o The draft Town of East Granby Plan of Conservation and Development highlights the Metacomet Trail as a key trail for preservation, referencing the Compact and calling the trail a "significant feature."

The problem, however, is that on no available Town or applicant map of the area is the specific location of the Metacomet Ridge or the proposed/existing Trail evident. The applicant and the land use officials seem to know generally where it is, but no definitive study has been made with any precision. It is therefore recommended that the Town require the applicant to define, or to define itself, more exactly where the Metacomet Trail is relative to the quarry site. Further, the Town is recommended to require specific setbacks, continued safety vigilance (signage, fencing, etc.), and some assurances concerning future excavation plans protecting the Trail.

With the adoption of the Plan of Conservation and Development and the quarry expansion proposal, the Town has a unique opportunity to strongly embrace its connection to the Metacomet Trail and establish the Trail as a priority for conservation.

Recreation Planner Comments

Site

The subject of this ERT is a 59.5 acre portion of a large trap rock quarry within a 550 acre property on the east slope of Metacomet Ridge in East Granby. Quarry excavation to the 230' elevation as approved by the Town in 1991 should be completed in five years.

Proposal

Galasso proposes to further excavate the site to the 210' elevation, as controlled by the need for gravity flow to Creamery Brook (206' elevation). This would provide an additional seven years of reserves.

Comments

This project could be reviewed in either narrow or broad terms. Narrowly-considered it is simply a request to further excavate an existing quarry operation, subject to the 210' gravity drainage limitation discussed above. In providing needed construction material from an existing quarry without impacting undisturbed trap rock ridge habitat, it seems relatively noncontroversial.

However, a broader planning proposal is needed to properly evaluate this proposal. The Town of East Granby has a number of concerns including the preservation of the Metacomet Trail and the need for a long term site

reclamation and restoration plan. Thus the entire property and its eventual reuse should be considered in terms of the town's long term wellbeing. Although these are policy issues for the town to debate and decide, this reviewer will offer some observations, questions, and suggestions for consideration as follows:

1. The Town's intention to protect the Metacomet Trail is commendable and should be solidified by requiring a permanent trail easement on the entire length of the Galasso Property as a condition for granting an additional Special Permit as requested by Galasso.
2. The Town should establish an official policy on the desired future use of the currently A Zone southern section of the Galasso Property. Should quarrying activity be extended into the area as existing reserves in the approved Special Permit Area are exhausted – or should existing zoning be maintained to minimize impact on the environment and neighborhood values? On the other hand, what would be the economic impact of such limitation on Galasso's existing industrial operation and thus on town tax base concerns?
3. The town should require at least a schematic site reuse proposal. Already the northern, older quarry area has been mined down to the underlying sandstone along its western edge and is reportedly close to the water table. Thus reclamation here could occur in the near future. Assuming approval of excavation to the 210' elevation on the 59.5 acres in question with this ERT, again fairly short term reclamation could be considered. In the reviewer's opinion, the Town in concert with the landowner should brainstorm possible mutually beneficial options using the available stockpiled overburden for reclamation.

Is industrial use the most likely long term use or could an office-research park be feasible? Would additional mining below the water table be a desirable win-win option in providing additional trap rock plus a central waterbody as the focal point of an eventual site reuse? Although not necessarily relevant to this situation, the reviewer must mention the gardens developed in the former quarry at Butchart Garden in Victoria, British Columbia, or Rocky Hill's Quarry Park (which lacked overburden for ideal reclamation). With some imagination, residential reuse could be an attractive option also.

ABOUT THE TEAM

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of professionals in environmental fields drawn together from a variety of federal, state and regional agencies. Specialists on the Team include geologists, biologists, foresters, soil specialists, engineers and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the supervision of the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area — an 86 town region.

The services of the Team are available as a public service at no cost to Connecticut towns.

PURPOSE OF THE TEAM

The Environmental Review Team is available to help towns and developers in the review of sites proposed for major land use activities. To date, the ERT has been involved in reviewing a wide range of projects including subdivisions, landfills, commercial and industrial developments, sand and gravel excavations, active adult, recreation/open space projects, watershed studies and resource inventories.

Reviews are conducted in the interest of providing information and analysis that will assist towns and developers in environmentally sound decision-making. This is done through identifying the natural resource base of the project site and highlighting opportunities and limitations for the proposed land use.

REQUESTING A REVIEW

Environmental reviews may be requested by the chief elected official of a municipality and/or the chairman of town commissions such as planning and zoning, conservation, inland wetlands, parks and recreation or economic development. Requests should be directed to the chairman of your local Conservation District and the ERT Coordinator. A request form should be completely filled out and should include the required materials. When this request is reviewed by the local Conservation District and approved by the ERT Subcommittee, the Team will undertake the review on a priority basis.

For additional information and request forms regarding the Environmental Review Team please contact the ERT Coordinator: 860-345-3977, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, P.O. Box 70, Haddam, Connecticut 06438.