SUMMARY DOCUMENT
FOR APPLICATION TO AMEND
COLD SPRING GRANITE CO. MINE PERMIT 8

Applicant: Cold Spring Granite Co.
17482 Granite West Rd.
Cold Spring, Minnesota 56320

Type of Mining: Large scale mining operation for granite/dimension stone

Legal Description: Portions of Sections 7, 8, and 17; T120N-R47W, Grant County

General Location: Approximately 6 miles east of Milbank, South Dakota

Local Contact: Steve Chouanard
Environmental Engineer
Phone (320) 685-3621

Description:

On April 6, 2022, the Minerals and Mining Program of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources received an application from Cold Spring Granite Co. (Cold Spring Granite) to amend Mine Permit 8. The amendment would allow Cold Spring Granite to add 59.31 acres of contiguous affected land for an overburden (sand) stockpile, grout (waste granite) crushing pad, and block storage area and remove granite blocks from two pre-1971 grout piles for crushing. There is no change to the permit boundary or the post mining land use of wildlife habitat for the amendment area. The quarry is located approximately 6 miles east of Milbank, South Dakota.

The overburden (sand) stockpile will be located on 3.70 acres of new contiguous affected land just to the north of the Milbank #2 Quarry. A grout crushing pad will be located on 35.50 acres of land to the northeast of the quarry, which was previously permitted as a grout disposal area. The current crushing pad located east of the quarry, which is operated by Fisher Sand and Gravel, will be moved to this new area in 2025. The crushed material can be used for road construction and other projects. 28.80 acres of new contiguous affected land to the west of the new grout crushing pad will be used for future expansion of the crushing pad. Topsoil stripped and removed from the permit amendment areas will be placed into a new topsoil stockpile on 13.64 acres of new contiguous affected land and one acre of permitted affected land around the west, north, and east perimeter of the crushing pad.

Cold Spring Granite also plans to add 5.47 acres of new contagious affected land to the north of the Milbank Shop and 3.47 acres of new contiguous affected land to the south of the shop.
for granite block storage. Finally, the company plans to remove granite blocks from two pre-1971 grout piles from the Milbank #1 Quarry for crushing, which accounts for 4.23 acres of new permitted affected area. These areas were not required to be included as permitted affected acreage under Mine Permit 8 when it was issued since they were affected before 1971 and Cold Spring Granite had no plans to disturb the grout piles at that time. After the granite blocks are removed, the two areas will be reclaimed.

The mine permit amendment will extend the life of Mine Permit 8 to 2070.

Reclamation:

The areas covered under the mine permit amendment application will be reclaimed to wildlife habitat, which is the approved postmine land use for Large Scale Mine Permit 8. The reclamation will follow the approved reclamation plan in the mine permit. The slopes of the overburden stockpile will be reduced to a 4:1 (H:V) slope. The remaining permit amendment areas will be graded to original contours after granite blocks and crushed material are removed. Any depressions will be filled with excess crusher pad material or sand from the overburden stockpile. Topsoil will be spread in a one-foot layer across the regraded areas. The areas will then be seeded with the approved seed mix for Mine Permit 8.

Environmental Concerns:

Potential environmental impacts from the permit amendment areas appear to be minimal. The area in and around the amendment areas have already been affected by past mining activities. The current quarries in this area have been in existence since the 1920’s. Cold Spring Granite uses no processing or hazardous chemicals, and none will be used in the permit amendment areas.

The Permit 8 wildlife and vegetation surveys identified no threatened or endangered species. The proposed crushing pad and block storage areas are currently used as farmland. No significant impacts to vegetation or wildlife are anticipated in the permit amendment areas. After these facilities are reclaimed, wildlife habitat will be enhanced.

Regarding surface water impacts, no erosion or sedimentation issues have been noted in other Cold Spring or Dakota Stone quarries in the area. The site geology indicates that the granite mined contains no heavy metals or other hazardous compounds that could be liberated. Cold Spring Granite collected water samples from the quarries under Mine Permit 8 and found no impacts to water from its mining operations. In addition, no problems have been noted at abandoned quarries in the area. Local residents and others have used the quarries for swimming and fishing, and no adverse health effects have been reported. The abandoned Hunter Quarry has filled with water and is now stocked with fish annually and is operated as a state park.
A tributary of the North Fork of the Yellow Bank River is the only drainage in the permit amendment areas. The only permit amendment area that would impact the tributary would be the block storage area north of the Milbank Shop. Cold Spring Granite plans to follow its Storm Water Pollution Prevent Plan and install a silt fence along the tributary to prevent any stormwater flow from entering the tributary. There are no plans to divert the tributary.

There should be no impacts to ground water since there will only be surface disturbance in the permit amendment areas. Only topsoil will be removed prior to establishing the overburden stockpile, crushing pad, and block storage areas. No new quarries will be developed.

Current Status – May 6, 2022:

The department notified Cold Spring Granite that the application was considered procedurally complete as of May 6, 2022. For more information, contact the Minerals and Mining Program, Joe Foss Building, 523 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota, or call (605) 773-4201.