NYSDEC- Region 6 Utica Sub-Office-Permits
207 Genesee St. State Office Building
Utica, NY 13501

Re: Application ID: 6-3038-00081/00003; Tom Sunderlin/White Lake Granite Quarry

Dear Mr. Goodale,

Thank you for comments outlined in your NOIA letter dated April 26, 2021. Please find the following summarized response in this letter Addendum and revised Mine & Reclamation Plans for the White Lake Granite Quarry project site.

Department comments and responses of the applicant are presented in summary for the convenience of the reviewer.

1. *Describe and illustrate in the narrative and Mining Plan Map all erosion and sediment control structures that will be installed to retain all storm water on site, if any.*

The proposed White Lake Granite Quarry is designed to operate above the water table and without surface water discharge. The receiving portion of the site that will be established as mining support area is underlain by Adams Series soils which are characterized as “excessively drained”. However, during initial ground disturbance and subsequent periods of stabilization erosion sediment control devices may be needed to contain localized surface water drainage. If need arises, silt sock/silt fencing or equivalent devices will be installed in downslope portions of the disturbed area to contain potential drainage. Notes have been added to the revised Mine Plan Map in areas where E & S controls may be needed, as requested. However, should need arise E & S controls will be deployed in any portion of the affected area where the potential for surface water discharge may occur.

2. *All soils and overburden stockpiled for reclamation must be stored within the permit term area (affected area) which is ultimately in the life of mine.*

For clarification, all soils and overburden storage piles shall be placed within the approved affected area. Also, no mining related activity or disturbance shall occur outside the approved affected area throughout the life of the mine.

3. *Describe and illustrate in the narrative and Mining Plan Map a general location of the portable processing plant and stockpiles.*

The operator requests that occasional temporary processing of waster rock fragments be permitted as necessary to produce limited quantities of crushed stone for use making on site...
improvements or for external sales based on market demand, if any. The plant will be placed within the mining support area in the general location of the “portable processing plant area” note added to the revised Mine Plan Map. Based on necessity of safe and efficient operations the plant will need to be placed on relatively flat ground roughly at the lowest elevation practicable.

With regards to potential additional noise impacts related to the portable plant operations, a portable crushing plant rated at a capacity of less than 150 tph generates less than 82 dBA measured at 50 feet. The sound level is less than most of the equipment modeled in the NIA (refer to Section 4.2.1.2 of the MLUP). Calculation of the plant operating simultaneously with all other equipment will not add to sound levels emanating from the site. It should also be noted that attenuation of sound from distance, barriers and vegetation will further diminish the potential for impacts to receptors.

4. Include in the blasting section that all blast events will be monitored with a seismograph at the property line, or a nearby receptor if a complaint is received.

Blast monitoring will be conducted as directed in the MLR Permit using a properly calibrated seismograph placed at a location designed to measure ground vibration and air overpressure at or near the property line of the project site. If an alternative location of seismograph monitoring becomes prudent it should be determined by Department staff with input from the Agency and the Blaster-in-Charge. The applicant is amenable to placement of the seismograph as directed by the regulating community.

5. Describe the final grade of all slopes, besides the vertical bedrock face, during the reclamation process.

Proposed final grade is generally shown on the revised Reclamation Plan Map included with this submittal. Final grade of all slopes not shown as vertical or sub-vertical shall be no steeper than 1.5 to 1. For instance, the quarry floor will be backfilled using native residual rocky waste fragments to a slope 1.5 to 1 or less and subsequently covered with soil overburden for revegetation. The mining support area will be finish graded to approximate original contour, covered with soil overburden and seeded for revegetation. Please also refer to Section 5.0 of the MLUP for a detailed description of proposed final reclamation.

6. The Department does not anticipate any significant impacts from mining activities during the proposed hours of operations, except drilling and blasting activities. Revise hours of operation for these activities.

Blasting activities, when necessary, are proposed to occur during the seasonal operating period of mid to late April to early November. The hours during which blasting is proposed will be between the hours of 9am-3pm with no more than two events to occur in a single day. Blast monitoring will be conducted as required in the MLR Permit using a properly calibrated seismograph placed at a location designed to measure ground vibration and air overpressure at or near the property line of the project site or alternative location determined by the Department.
7. The proposed application illustrates all excavation within a 5.2 acre area of the 26.7 acre life of mine. Does the applicant anticipate excavating outside the 5.2 acre area in the future for granite reserves or unconsolidated minerals within the life of mine? If so, the modification would need to be reviewed through SEQRA.

The applicant/operator does not plan or anticipate excavation beyond the proposed 5.2 acre excavation area shown on the revised plans. Mining of unconsolidated materials is not proposed and there are no plans to conduct any type of mining or excavation beyond that described in this Addendum and the MLUP. The applicant is aware that any changes to the permitted activity will require an application to modify and full review under SEQR as well as Agency and local approvals.

Please feel free to contact me with questions. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

David A. Shank, PG
Strategic Mining Solutions, LLC

c. Chris Lucidi, NYSDEC Mined Land Reclamation
Andrew Abbott, NYSDEC Mined Land Reclamation
Adirondack Park Agency
Tom Sunderlin, Applicant/Owner

Enclosures:
- Deed: September 20, 2005
- Deed: March 14, 2012
- "MINE PLAN MAP" dated February 15, 2021; last revised April 2021
- “RECLAMATION PLAN MAP” dated February 15, 2021; last revised April 2021