



Mid-Continent Quarry

BLM Colorado State Office

July 2020

Rocky Mountain Industrials, Inc. (RMI, formerly RMR) is proposing to expand the Mid-Continent Quarry near Glenwood Springs from about 23 acres to more than 300 acres, and potentially increase truck traffic from about 20 trips a day to over 450 a day. This expansion would be highly visible from Glenwood Springs and the City of Glenwood Springs. Garfield County and the local community have expressed concern.

The Colorado River Valley Field Office currently anticipates beginning an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed expansion in 2021. The EIS process will include multiple opportunities for public involvement.

A number of baseline studies are planned to help inform the EIS, including a hydrologic study that involves drilling five water-monitoring wells, which has also generated local concern. The field office is conducting an environmental assessment of the well-drilling proposal, with the City of Glenwood Springs and Garfield County on board as cooperating agencies. The EA will be released for public review later this summer or fall. The study is intended to provide important information about ground water quality and quantity in the area to better assess the potential impacts of the proposed quarry expansion on the local aquifer.

Additionally, BLM mineral examiners are currently conducting a common/uncommon variety determination of the proposed expansion and current operation. This study looks at the chemical grade of the limestone and the end-uses of the mined limestone. High-grade limestone used for “uncommon” purposes falls under the 1872 Mining Law as a locatable mineral. Common variety limestone falls under BLM saleable regulations, which give BLM more permitting discretion. The BLM anticipates completing this study by late summer 2020.

When RMI purchased the Mid-Continent Quarry in 2016, it inherited several non-compliance issues, such as the mine’s disturbance occurring partly outside the BLM permitted area. CRVFO is working with RMI to address these non-compliance issues through the expansion EIS. Additionally, the City of Glenwood Springs and others have raised the issue of RMI selling aggregate that could potentially fall under saleable regulations, which would require a payment to the Federal government. BLM’s common/uncommon variety determination will address this issue and could require payments to BLM for past sales if warranted. RMI is currently paying into an escrow account to help cover this potential payment.