

Moreover, while NCSA cannot disprove this assertion, we would suggest that the 8-percent figure is much too high and we would be most interested in learning how the total acreage figures upon which it is based were determined.

As the industry's nationwide association, we know that a stone quarry involving as much as 30 acres is considered to be a very substantial operation and most quarries are even smaller.

A second distinctive feature of the typical stone quarry is the fact that the amount of overburden and other nonsalable material which is excavated, and which, presumably, would be available for reclamation purposes, is extremely small in proportion to the quantity of stone which is removed and sold.

In this respect, the response to the industrywide survey conducted by NCSA indicated that, nationwide, an average of more than 84 percent of the total material excavated results in a salable product.

In many instances, the amount of nonsalable material was so small as to not be susceptible of percentage comparison with the amount of stone which was removed and sold.

Finally, crushed stone products, in common with sand and gravel, are notable for their low value, high volume and heavy loading characteristics. Statistics developed by the Bureau of Mines disclose that the average sales price of our industry's aggregates is only \$1.42 a ton.

This has required that stone be produced as close to the sites of the construction which it intends to supply as possible and has resulted in stone producing operations being concentrated in and near urban areas.

At this point I would note that in recent years this fact has caused quarries by and large to be subject to strict zoning and municipal laws.

These unique characteristics of stone quarries and their products make at least three general conclusions quickly apparent as follows:

1. The extremely long productive life of typical stone quarries makes before-the-fact planning of reclamation at least highly unrealistic and any attempt to estimate the cost of reclamation impossible;

2. At best, only a very small amount of overburden and other material resulting from quarrying operations will be available for reclamation purposes. I would interject here that, even in those quarry operations which do produce any significant amount of such nonsalable materials, the high cost of storage makes it impossible for the operator to retain the material the 80 years or so until reclamation would begin;

3. Because of the extremely low price of our products, proposals whose cost impact upon our industry's operations can be measured in any significant number of cents per ton plainly would have the direct effect of causing a significant increase in the costs of all construction.

For example, highways would cost more because concrete, black top, and base course would cost more, dams and other structures would cost more because concrete would cost more, steel would cost more because limestone would cost more and on and on and on.

Other conclusions will become apparent in our discussion of our basic reasons for opposing these proposals. To those reasons we now turn.