

SAND, GRAVEL AND THE COMMUNITY: A LOOK AT NORTH AMERICAN RECLAMATION PRACTICES

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TODAY'S Society is heavily dependent on THE AGGREGATE INDUSTRY, RELYING ON IT FOR THE ESSENTIALS OF CONSTRUCTION. THIS DEPENDENCY IS NOW EVIDENT AROUND THE WORLD. THE AMOUNT OF DERELICT LAND BEING PRODUCED AS A RESULT OF THE INDUSTRY IS WELL OVER ONE MILLION ACRES FOR THE UNITED STATES ALONE. DERELICT LAND AROUND THE GLOBE RESULTING FROM POOR AGGREGate practices is impossible to ESTIMATE. ABANDONMENT OF DEPLETED SAND AND GRAVEL PITS IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE AND MINING COMPANIES ARE BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RESTORATION OF DERELICT LAND TO A MORE USEFUL STATE. THE PROCESS OF RECLAMATION IS BEST UNDERTAKEN WITH THE COOPERATION OF ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, THE MINING COMPANY AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. THE EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC CANNOT BE EMPHASIZED ENOUGH SINCE THE LAND RECLAIMED DIRECTLY CONCERNS THE COMMUNITY. THERE ARE THREE BASIC TYPES OF RECLAMATION: PASSIVE REHABILITATION, NATURALIZATION AND URBANIZATION. EACH HAS POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES TO OFFER TO THE PROCESS. RECLAIMED AGGREGATE PITS USUALLY CONSIST OF A MIXTURE OF THESE THREE COMPONENTS AND CAN BE INTEGRATED INTO THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF SUCCESS. A REVIEW OF THESE MINING ACTIVITIES IS PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED.