

6.0 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

6.1 Geologic Resources

Mining of the proposed site will create the unavoidable result of removing rock from the desired geologic formations present in Becraft Mountain. However, the mining operations will be conducted at a rate necessary to meet the demand for various products. Excess volumes of material used in the Colarusso operations will be stockpiled to meet anticipated demand for its product. Aggregate produced from the property will not be wasted.

6.2 Noise

Expansion of mining onto the former Lone Star property has the potential to increase noise levels at the nearest residential receptors due to blasting and the operation of loading and hauling equipment. However, the mine design includes the preservation of a rock barrier between the mine and the receptors. A *Sound Level Assessment Report*, prepared for this DEIS, shows that noise levels generated by mining in the proposed excavation area will result in no noticeable increase in noise levels above current levels. As a result, noise from mining within the expansion area will not cause a noise impact on the nearby receptors.

6.3 Visual Resources

The extraction of rock from the property will alter the location of the existing mine faces. However, the *Visual Impact Assessment Report* (Appendix 13.6) demonstrates that the site is not visible from any sensitive aesthetic resources. A vegetated rock ridge will be preserved along the east side of the property to screen all operations from potential viewpoints to the east. The only remaining public view point is Newman Road; travelers on the road currently pass other active and inactive quarried areas. The proposed action will not introduce new or contrasting elements to the landscape and, therefore, will not result in a significant visual impact.

6.4 Ecological Resources

All of the vegetation within the excavation area and much of that in the support areas will be removed during development of the mine. An average of about 4-5 acres of land will be cleared per year, at the projected rate of mining. The impact is temporary as the affected land will be reclaimed following excavation. Ultimately, the successional woody species will again populate the area from adjacent seed sources. Much of Becraft Mountain is covered with transitional communities; as a result the upland wildlife species displaced by mining activities, will be able to move into similar habitats nearby.