

The Need for More Lee County Mines

Prepared for the DR/GR Advisory Committee
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1. Permitted mines in the DR/GR contain 13,496 acres of which 7,645 acres are mineable;
2. Between 1980 and 2006 4,520 acres out of the 7,645 acres have been mined. However some of this land has been mined for "fill" only, thus only 3,597 acres were dedicated to rock excavation between 1980 and 2006. This 26 year effort resulted in the following estimated amounts of excavated rock:
 - o 141,216,680 cubic yards
 - o 190,642,518 tons, or 7,332,405 tons per year during this 26 year period
3. According to Dover Kohl Lee County's existing permitted mines contain 3,576 acres of land for future limerock extraction. These lands contain the following estimated amounts of limerock for future extraction:
 - a. 152,166,373 cubic yards
 - b. 205,424,604 tons
4. There is a rough correlation between the amount of aggregate produced annually in Florida and the State's permanent population. This relationship produces a ratio of 9 tons of limerock products consumed each year per permanent Florida resident. The Dover Kohl Report suggests that this methodology overestimates the demand for limerock inasmuch as the existing permanent residents do not need new housing and, unlike new residents, are not generating increased demand for workplaces, retail establishments or infrastructure, but rather for maintenance and rehabilitation of these existing facilities... a much smaller need.
5. The amount of aggregate mined in Lee County annually between 1980 and 2006, 7,332,405 tons, when divided by 9 tons per permanent resident would supply 812,000 southwest Florida residents. During this period all of southwest Florida, from Sarasota to Collier County averaged 1,014,809 permanent residents. Thus since 1980 Lee County has been supplying 80% of the region's total demand for limerock products.
6. In 2005 Lee County had 37.4% of the region's population...thus between 1980 and 2006 over half of Lee County's limerock production was exported to other southwest Florida counties.

7. Using the 9 tons per permanent resident assumption, Lee County could easily supply its own needs for limerock products between now and 2030 from already permitted mines. Lee County's population is expected to grow from 549,442 in 2005 to 1,053,900 in 2030, for an average population of about 832,150 permanent residents during this period. This population would require 7,489,350 tons of aggregate per year or 179,744,400 during the 24 year period between 2007 and 2030. Dover Kohl estimates that the already permitted mines in Lee County have 205,424,604 tons of limerock available for extraction, 25,680,204 tons more than would be needed to meet Lee County's demand during this period.
8. Much additional limerock supply will likely be forthcoming from Florida Rock Mine #2 if it ultimately gains all the necessary approvals. This land includes 4,839 acres of which 2,471 acres are presently considered mineable. If approved at this level Florida Rock #2 would be by far the county's largest mine. Approval of this mine as presently configured would increase the future permitted DR/GR mining capacity by 69%. Even if this mine is scaled back somewhat it will extend the ability of DR/GR permitted mines to supply the area for another decade or more.
9. The future demand of other southwest Florida counties may well be supplied from some or all of the following new limerock sources:
 - a. Collier: Using the 9 ton per permanent resident formula Collier County needs 22.7% of regional limerock production between 2007 and 2030. Collier has substantial limerock reserves and according to Dover Kohl has recently approved three new limerock mines that should contribute greatly to satisfying this need.
 - b. Glades and Hendry: Using the 9 ton per permanent resident formula Glades and Hendry counties will need only 2.26% of regional limerock production between 2007 and 2030. In April the Palm Beach County Board approve two rock mines south of Lake Okeechobee totaling 11,000 acres that could supply the limerock needs of these two counties for decades to come.
 - c. Charlotte County: Using the 9 ton per permanent resident formula Charlotte County will need 9.7% of regional limerock production between 2007 and 2030. The County's limerock needs could most efficiently be supplied by mines located within the County. The closest Palm Beach County mine is located only about 65 miles from the Babcock Ranch mega-development.

- d. Sarasota County: Using the 9 ton per permanent resident formula Sarasota County needs 22.6% of regional limerock production between 2007 and 2030. The Manatee County Port Authority is located only about 25 miles from the City of Sarasota while the Port of Tampa, which is in the process of increasing its limerock handling capacity fivefold, is 62 miles from the City. On the other hand Lee County's Alico Road mining corridor is over 90 miles from the City of Sarasota.
- e. Desoto County: Using the 9 ton per permanent resident formula Desoto County will need only 1.9% of regional limerock production between 2007 and 2030. Its needs can most efficiently be met by the Port of Tampa, the Manatee County Port or by the limerock mines in Charlotte County.