

27.8 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Each person, firm, or corporation to whom a mining operation permit is issued may engage in mining upon lands described in the license, subject to the following operational performance standards:

Subdivision 1. General Requirements.

(1) Compliance. The mining operations shall be conducted in compliance with the laws of the State of Minnesota and the Federal Government, especially as related to safety standards, and ordinances and resolutions of Houston County, as amended from time to time, and in compliance with and furtherance of the approved reclamation plan for the affected land.

(2) Operation of Equipment. All equipment used for mining operations shall be constructed, maintained and operated in such a manner as to minimize, as far as is practicable, noises and vibrations which are injurious or substantially annoying to persons living in the vicinity.

(3) Explosives. When explosives are used, the operator shall take all necessary precautions not to endanger life and damage or destroy property. The method of storing and handling explosives shall conform with all laws and regulations relating thereto.

(4) Mine Area Standards. The maximum cumulative total excavation and stockpiling area permitted by a single permit shall be as follows:

(a) Permits for the excavation or mining of gravel, stone, or other nonmetallic minerals shall be on sites of less than forty (40) acres.

(b) Permits for the excavation or mining of sand shall be on sites of less than 20 acres.

(5) Mine Density Standards. New sand mining permits shall be limited to sites located no closer than ½ mile from all existing permitted or legal non-conforming sand mines. Measurements shall be taken from the proposed boundary of the new site to the approved boundary of the existing site.