

[Print](#)[Close Window](#)

RIVERDALE - Quarry's end in sight

(by Leslie Scott - Staff Writer - January 28, 2009)

RIVERDALE - The governing body is expected to approve a new operational license for the quarry as it prepares for the final years of local activity and eventual transformation of the property.

On Jan. 19 representatives of Tilcon, New York Inc. presented the mayor and council with an update on the quarry's operations.

Tilcon Engineer Kevin Page, of Page Engineering in Warren, explained that the municipality is looking at the final years of quarry operations for the plant in Riverdale.

"We're on our last six plus years. We anticipate being done in six to eight years depending on what happens with the economy. If it stays slow we will be a little longer. If the government pumps all that money into infrastructure, it may go a little quicker," said Page.

Turning the site into developable land will begin during its last operational years.

"One and a half to two years before the end of quarrying, we are actually going to start implementing the reclamation. The crusher is in the middle and we are going to start working around the perimeter," said Page.

There is a separate quarry site in nearby Bloomingdale, which crosses into Pompton Lakes. Tilcon attorney Brian Montag explained that this site is not part of the reclamation and it will be open for many more years.

"Each quarry has varying amount of quarry reserves," said Montag.

Once the Riverdale site is cleaned up, it will hold 65 acres that could be developed. Once cleared, it will be flat with a slight pitch for draining.

"We will start bringing in materials to form the base of our final layer, which will consist of about 3 feet of earth and rock. This will basically provide for a root zone for future plantings," said Page.

This method of transformation, the engineer said, would allow any type of development to occur on the site.

During the presentation, Tilcon representatives also discussed what the company has done to improve traffic and control the dust in the area.

Plant Manager Brad Carroll explained how the company purchased a new street sweeper and routinely sweeps Hamburg Turnpike from the railroad at Mathews Avenue to the underpass for Interstate 287. Also, it has upgraded the dust suppression system, increased the amount of fresh water at the site, purchased a backup water truck to hose down vehicles exiting the site, and made it a practice to water down the stockpiles.

"All these things come together to keep the dust at a minimum," said Carroll.

In addition, to improve traffic at the site, there is a system in place to make sure that all the trucks are covered when they exit the site and that traffic speed is monitored.

The plant manager also explained that if the dust suppression system fails, the plant is shut down until it is fixed and if the watering trucks are down, hauling is also stopped.

The Borough Council is scheduled to finalize the license approval during its Feb. 2 meeting.

Some required conditions under this new license are to present operational updates every two years, purchase a \$1.4 million bond for the reclamation process, and upgrade the reclamation maps to include a service road.

The borough also asked the company to list all operations that were held after hours.

The borough had requested this information from the company last year so it can properly issue fines if necessary. The

plant is allowed by law to operate only from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

During the hearing, Montag explained that nighttime operations were held when an emergency order came in from the government.

^ [back to top](#)