

10<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

The Director  
Environmental & Resource Authority,  
Hexagon House,  
Spencer Hill, Marsa

Our ref.: 541/17  
PA Ref.: PA 02581/18

**Description: Proposed storage of foreign aggregate in unused quarry including the placing of separator blocks.**

**Site: Barriera Tas-Sghajtar, Triq il-Germanja / Triq l-Ingilterra / Triq l-Awstralja / Triq is-Saghjtar, Naxxar, Malta**

### **Project Description Statement**

This report is being submitted in support of a development application for the proposed storage of foreign aggregate in an unused quarry in Tas-Sghajtar, Naxxar. This report explains in detail the proposal of this application.

### **Scope of the Application**

The applicant is Central Cement Limited which is a local company specialising in the importation and local distribution of cement, sand, gravel and other related building materials. The company imports these materials in bulk and stores them in its' stores at Coal Wharf, Paola before distribution to local companies / businesses.

The company needs to import large amounts of foreign aggregate used in the production of concrete to supply the local construction industry.

The company's stores (photos below) are limited in size and capacity. Thus, due to lack of storage space within the company's premises, it is being proposed to store this foreign aggregate in the Quarry in Sghajtar in subject upon importation in Malta by sea vessels.



Photos 1 & 2 – Central Cement Stores at Coal Wharf, Paola  
(Image from: <http://www.centralcementltd.com/products.html>)

## **1. Project Description**

### **a. Description of the Physical Characteristics of the Whole Project**

The quarry in subject belongs to Blokrete Ltd, and is currently unused and closed. It is being proposed for foreign aggregate to be temporarily stored onsite at the bottom part of the quarry on an area of approximately 2500sq.m, with another 1000sq.m. of land being used for manoeuvring purposes. A number of 1m by 1m concrete oversize blocks will be placed on top of the existing rock face up to 3m heights to form five separators to store imported aggregate of different sizes.

The concrete blocks will be delivered onsite by heavy vehicles and hoisted to their proposed positions as indicated in the proposed drawings. The area of intervention is several storeys beneath road level and is currently screened from the public streets, by masonry boundary walls. Thus, the visual impact will be minimal.



Photo 3 – Proposed location of temporary storage



Photo 4 – Proposed location of temporary storage

No interventions on the existing material within the site is being envisaged. The rock face is level enough to enable the concrete blocks to be placed directly on the existing rock surface without the need of levelling material of any sort. Thus, no excavation or backfilling works are being planned or proposed.



**b. Proposed Location of the Project (Temporary Storage)**

The quarry in subject is currently unused and closed. It is located in Tas-Sghajtar area, between Naxxar and Mosta (as per attached site plan). The site is abutting Triq il-Germanja and Triq l-Ingilterra, Naxxar and is accessed from Triq l-Awstralja, Naxxar. The quarry is surrounded by residential areas built mainly in the 1990s as part of the Government’s HOS on the North, West and East sides, and a busy main road on the South side separating the quarry from a busy industrial estate.

The quarry was operational in the past and is equipped with all necessary site entrances and heavy vehicle passages making it ideal for this storage operation. It has a heavy vehicle access gate and a footpath passage with separate access gate in Triq l-Awstralja, Naxxar.



Photo 5 – Existing heavy vehicle site access from Triq l-Awstralja, Naxxar



Photo 6 – Existing heavy vehicle site access and footpassage from Triq l-Awstralja, Naxxar

### **c. Envisaged Operations (Site Usage) and Process Flow**

When a vessel importing the foreign aggregate docks in Malta, most of the imported material will be delivered to local clients in third party locations directly from the vessel. Any remaining material will be transported to the Sghajtar quarry in a single day by trucks making a number of trips as required. The truck driver will enter the waiting area, open the quarry gate, enter the site to deposit the material in the indicated areas and leave to make another trip until all material from the vessel is delivered to the quarry. The entire process is to be completed within one day.

The material will be kept in the quarry until it is required to be delivered to any other local company. When a local delivery is planned, a single truck driver will enter the waiting area and open the quarry gate upon arrival onsite, load the material and leave again, closing the quarry gates behind him. The frequency of this process will depend upon the demand of the company's clients.

No employees will be deployed to the quarry as the truck driver himself will open and close the quarry gates during deliveries.

### **d. Traffic Management and Access**

The existing vehicle entrance is well positioned and designed so that it can be accessed and existed without danger or inconvenience to other road users or to pedestrians. The visibility from the entrance / access along the road and the internal visibility are also adequate.

The existing waiting area before the heavy vehicle gate will ensure that there are no heavy vehicles parked or waiting in Triq l-Awstralja. The existing space after the access gate provides adequate internal circulation and manoeuvring space to ensure that all heavy vehicles will enter and exit the site in a forward gear.

Since no operation is being planned in the quarry, no new infrastructural services shall be required.

Since no employees will be deployed to the quarry, there will be no need for any parking arrangements at the quarry gates.

## **2. The Aspects of the Environment to be Affected by the Project**

The project is not envisaged to have any affect on the environment either within the site itself, or at large. The only affect on the immediate surroundings will be the small amounts of noise and pollution generated by a single truck being driven in and out of the quarry when a delivery is to be made. Since the imported material to be stored in the quarry consists mainly of inert (dolomite) material and other similar rock derivates intended for the local production of concrete, no other environemntal affects are being envisaged.

## **3. The Affect of the Project on the Environment**

### **a. Changes Caused to the Site**

As per above, the rock face is level enough to enable the concrete blocks to be placed directly on the existing rock surface without the need of levelling material of any sort. Thus, no excavation or backfilling works are being planned or proposed.

The intervention is being planned as a temporary measure to make up for storage-shortages within the applicant's premises. Thus, the site can be easily turned back to its' current state at the termination of this temporary operation. The concrete blocks will be removed and the site returned back to its' current state.

### **b. Expected Residues, Emissions & Waste**

No residues of any sort, emissions and production of waste are planned or envisaged in the process of this temporary storage. The inert material will simply be placed on the existing ground until it is hoisted up again to be delivered to local companies.

### **c. Use of Natural Resources**

Since all of the material to be stored in the quarry is foreign material imported by sea vessel, there will not be any use of local natural resources (including soil, water and biodiversity). The use of the land in the quarry is planned to be temporary as per the project proposal statement. Once the permit expires, the remaining material and separator blocks will be removed and the quarry land will return to its' current state immediately.

### **Conclusion**

The above details outline the adequateness of the site for the proposed temporary use and clearly show that no permanent intervention of any sort is being proposed. The usage of the site shall be minimal and will not create nuisance to the surrounding areas and communities.

Yours sincerely,



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**Perit Charlene Sammut**

**B.E. & A. (Hons), MSc Cardiff, A. & C.E.**

**Warrant no. 683**

*c.c. Central Cement Ltd (Attn. John Mary Sammut)*

*Attachment: Site Plan*