

Attachment 2 to the Green Tier Application

U.S. Silica Sparta Plant
WDNR Facility ID: 642078800

Commitment to the Environment

US Silica is a charter member of the Wisconsin Industrial Sand Association. As part of our commitment to the association, we are applying for Green Tier Status.

U.S. Silica's Sparta Plant was under construction for much of 2012, with the first phase of operations beginning in August 2012 and full operations anticipated to begin in December 2012. As part of the pre-construction and construction activities, U.S. Silica undertook a number of environmental steps "above and beyond" environmental compliance, including: (1) USS conducted pre-mining surveys of the wells on adjoining properties, measuring water elevations and quality to establish baselines; (2) USS performed air dispersion modeling prior to the final layout of the plant on the site, to develop a plant site layout that minimizes the potential off site dust and other air pollutants; (3) USS retained Boldt Company as the general contractor. Boldt, headquartered in Appleton, WI has been a Green Tier Level 1 participant since 2009; (4) USS worked closely with the Sparta community and hosted several public meetings to make its activities transparent to the community, and, to the extent possible, incorporate the legitimate concerns of the community into the plant design, construction and expected operations.

US Silica has released two annual sustainability reports demonstrating our commitment to people, planet and prosperity. A copy of the executive summary of the 2011 report is enclosed. To view the full 2010 and 2011 reports, please visit: <http://www.ussilica.com/why-us-silica/sustainability>.

The Sparta Plant represents the fourteenth active sand processing facility currently in operation at US Silica. Each of our plants has a community outreach committee. The Sparta Plant is presently developing such a committee within the local community.

Operating at Sparta

U.S. Silica's Sparta Plant is a sand mining and processing operation in Monroe County. Wetland studies, a cultural resource survey and a threatened and endangered species study were conducted as part of our permitting activities. The plant is subject to a non-metallic operations general mine permit, an air pollution control construction permit, and a general permit to discharge water from non-metallic operations under a WPDES permit. Process water is closed-loop; the only discharge of process water will be to recharge groundwater through the dredge pond and other open ponds. Flocculent will not be used on property. The plant maintains current copies of SPCC and SWP3 plans subject to permit requirements.

Mining by dredge began in August 2012 and the first phase of the plant, the wet process and stockpile area, became operational on September 6, 2012. When the plant is fully operational, it will include two sand dryers, screens, storage bins, and a rail load out facility will be added. Full start up is currently planned for December 2012.

Compliance Activities

In accordance with permit requirement, site personnel conduct routine fugitive dust emission observations. Haul roads are watered and activity is recorded according to air permit requirements. A PM10 ambient air monitor was installed as required by the air permit and sample collection began on September 6, 2012 with samples collected every sixth day. Silt fences to control stormwater pollution also serve as protective measures for wood turtles. The fences are inspected and maintained regularly.

Visibility berms around the mine site have been constructed and seeded; vegetation is becoming established. Trees have been planted to serve as a visual buffer.

Staff Training

Sparta employees receive environmental awareness training including spill prevention techniques, stormwater pollution prevention and managing materials to avoid fugitive dust. The plant has a full-time environmental health and safety coordinator who is trained on staff.

Internal Environmental Audits

USS will conduct internal audits at the site beginning in 2013. Both a compliance audit and, pending the development of an EMS, an EMS audits will be performed as required by Green Tier.