

Mineral Resources

Mineral production in Albemarle is limited to crushed stone and sand and gravel. During 1995, more than 1,145,000 short tons of gneiss, greenstone, and sand and gravel were produced in the County. Crushed stone of meta-basalt or greenstone is produced near Shadwell, and crushed stone of granite gneiss is produced at Red Hill for roadstone, asphalt stone, and concrete aggregate. Sand is produced at two locations on the Rivanna River. A crushed stone quarry near the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir and a soapstone quarry near Alberene are no longer in operation. Soapstone is a relatively important mineral in Albemarle, and production could be economically viable.

Soapstone was quarried in the southern part of the County until 1995; the company had produced soapstone fireplaces, wood stoves, and other products. Other minerals and rocks found within the County which have been produced in the past include iron ore, slate, clay, sandstone, and limestone. Other minerals known to exist in Albemarle are amethysts, asbestos, barite, copper, feldspar, garnets, gold, limonite, hematite, and pyrite.

There are currently thirteen parcels in Albemarle County with owned or leased mineral rights.

It is not intended that mineral resources be protected like other natural resources. There are two concerns: that mineral resource production should not conflict with adjacent land uses, and that mineral resource extraction should be accomplished without adverse effects to other environmental resources or the public health safety, and welfare. Regulation is currently provided by the Natural Resource Extraction Overlay District in the Zoning Ordinance.

Mineral Resource Standards

The following **GENERAL STANDARDS** should be followed for mineral resources:

- Avoid development of natural resource extraction areas where incompatible to existing or proposed development.
- Include analysis of geological formations in terms of shockwave transmission in review of proposed developments in proximity to active mining operations involving blasting.
- Require disclosure of mineral rights leasing as a part of rezoning, subdivision, site plan, and other applications for County review. In the case of land subdivision, a prominent disclosure statement regarding leased mineral rights shall be required on the subdivision plat.
- Prohibit dredging operations during the months of March through June to protect the aquatic environment during spawning/mating season and the following months of egg incubation and larval development.

