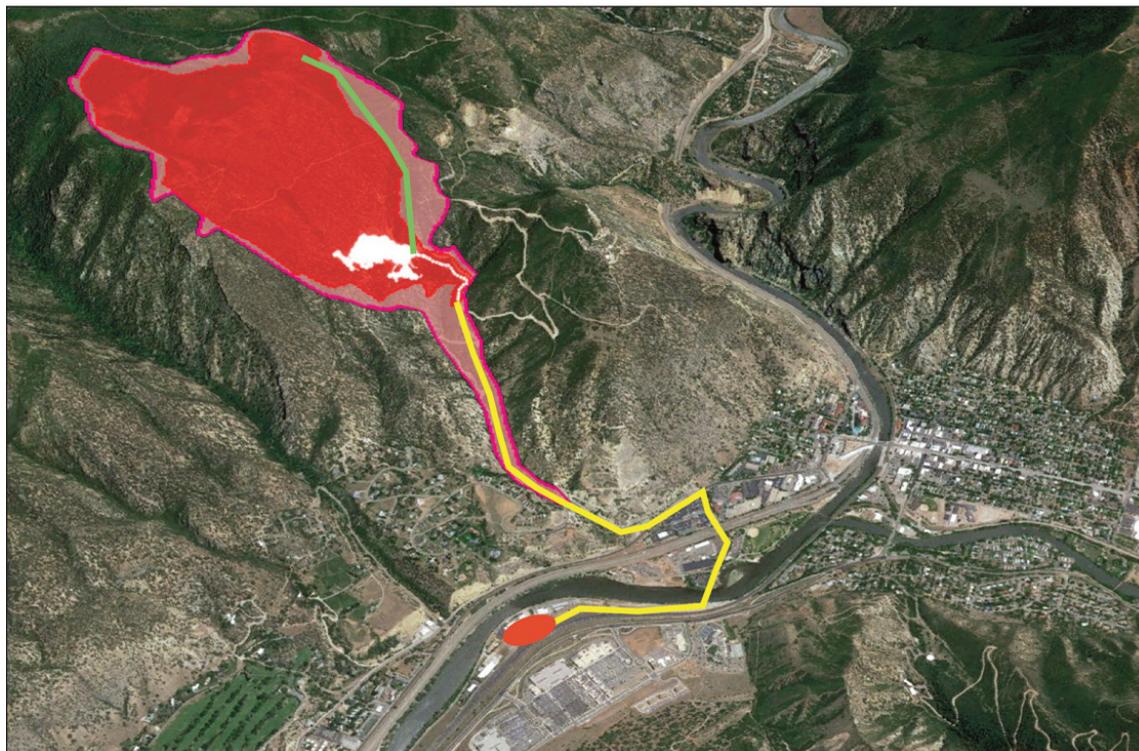


About the RMI limestone mine expansion proposal

Bad for our community, our environment and our economy



The existing quarry and proposed expansion are on public land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Red area:
Proposed 321-acre mine expansion area.
(excavation 175' deep)

Pink area:
Proposed 447-acre mine permit area.

White area:
Existing quarry, 20 acres.
(Permit is for 15.7 acres.)

Yellow line:
Proposed truck haul route on Transfer Trail, Traver Trail, Highway 6, and Devereux Road to the railyard.

WHAT IS ROCKY MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIALS PROPOSING?

- Expansion of the permitted 15.7-acre quarry to a 321-acre mine and total permit area of 447 acres.
- Blasting and crushing 5 million tons of rock per year over the next 20-plus years.
- Operations seven days a week, year-round.
- Development of a wider haul route along Transfer Trail, from the mine to Highway 6.
- Hauling truckloads of rock from the mine site to the rail facility, up to 450 round trips per day.
- RMI has not described where the mined material is going or how it will be transported through Glenwood Springs.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

- A mine scar running 1,800 vertical feet down the mountainside, visible from most of Glenwood Springs.
- Constant truck traffic between mine and rail yard, one truck each direction every 96 seconds, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.
- Noise from rock blasting, crushing, loading and hauling.
- Potential risk to the delicate groundwater network feeding the area's hot springs aquifers.
- Dust, air pollution and carbon emissions.
- Consumptive use of water to control dust at the mine.

- Potential risk of polluted storm runoff or debris flows from the exposed mine area.
- Obliteration of the recently-discovered Witches' Pantry Cave and other karst formations.
- Destruction of habitat for wildlife, including deer, bighorn sheep, bear, mountain lion, bald eagles, hawks, songbirds and bats.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

- Long-term daily impacts to quality of life for residents and visitors.
- Acute impacts to vital tourist attractions: Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, Iron Mountain Hot Springs and Glenwood Hot Springs Lodge & Pool.
- Disruptions to boating, fishing, activities at Two Rivers Park, and recreation on Transfer Trail.
- Severe community effects, including truck traffic, dust, noise, light pollution, health risks, and a permanent, unsightly mine scar.
- Congestion and road damage from heavy truck traffic.
- Decline in property values, tax revenues and community vitality.



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ABOUT THE PERMITTING PROCESS

Permits for the project would have to be approved by federal, state and local governments.

The lead permitting agency is the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), since the proposed quarry area is on public land managed by BLM.

BLM plans to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) review process.

Prior to starting the EIS, five advance studies are being conducted to provide baseline information.

1. Mineral Examination:

expected in 2021.

- Also called “Determination of Common Variety” or DCV.
- Determines whether the

Locatable deposits have less stringent permitting requirements. Mining companies extract minerals without payment to the government or taxpayers.

Saleable deposits are subject to increased environmental and public health protections. Minerals are purchased from the government under a sales contract.

limestone deposit meets 1872 Mining Law standards as a “locatable” mineral, or is of a common variety and thus a “saleable” mineral.

- Also must consider geologic evidence and evaluate RMI’s potential customer base and profitability.

2. Hydrologic Groundwater Study:

- A separate Environmental Assessment (EA) review process is planned to analyze risks and impacts of drilling five proposed groundwater test wells.
- Community has raised widespread opposition to proposed drilling over potential to permanently damage the area’s groundwater network that feeds geothermal hot springs.
- EA process is expected to begin after results of the Mineral Examination are released.

3. Cave and Karst Study: pending, study status unknown.

4. Ethnographic Study: pending, study status unknown.

5. Standard Biological and Cultural Surveys: pending, study status unknown.

MATTERS IN LITIGATION

Current quarry operations are the subject of two lawsuits.

1. Rocky Mountain Industrials v. Garfield County

In 2019, Garfield County took steps to enforce the county special use permit that governs quarry operations. After a fact-finding period and public meetings, Garfield County issued a Notice of Violation.

The Notice cited five areas of non-compliance. Rather than comply, RMI filed suit against the county, alleging it did not have authority over mining on federal lands.

The case was heard in Garfield District Court in Glenwood Springs. In 2020, the court allowed the City of Glenwood Springs to intervene as a co-defendant.

In January 2021, the court upheld three of the county’s citations, and in June 2021, the court granted Garfield County’s motion for summary judgment, ending the lawsuit. RMI appealed the ruling to the Colorado Court of Appeals in December 2021.

2. Glenwood Springs Citizens’ Alliance v. U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Since 2018, GSCA members observed certain mining activities at the RMI quarry that we believe are not allowed under RMI’s federal mining permit.

GSCA raised these issues to BLM, and filed Freedom of Information Act requests to BLM in 2018. A year later, BLM released documents showing that RMI had been mining and selling large quantities of “common variety” limestone without the required mining permit or sales contract.

In a letter to BLM in February 2020, GSCA detailed BLM’s failure to properly regulate RMI’s mining activities. BLM replied, confirming its decision to allow RMI’s current operations to continue.

In March 2020, the Citizens’ Alliance filed suit against BLM in U.S. District Court, charging the agency with failing to properly regulate mining activity at the RMI limestone quarry. The suit is focused on BLM regulation of RMI’s past and current mining operations. It does not address the mine expansion proposal.

Later in 2020, the court allowed Garfield County to intervene and join the GSCA in its legal battle with BLM.

Attorneys Roger Flynn and Jeffrey C. Parsons with the Western Mining Action Project of Lyons, a non-profit public interest law firm specializing in mining issues in the West, represent the GSCA pro bono in the case.



Use the QR code to sign our online endorsement and join our mailing list.

ABOUT ROCKY MOUNTAIN INDUSTRIALS

RMI is an LLC that invests in agribusiness, oil and gas, industrial processing and mining. The firm’s parent company is in Beverly Hills, Calif., with offices in Denver. Brian Fallin is CEO, Chad Brownstein is chairman of the board, Robert Wagner is VP for mining operations.

The quarry was first approved in 1982 at 15.7 acres for Mid-Continent Resources to extract limestone rock dust for its coal mines. CalX Minerals acquired the quarry in 2009, expanding its permit to 100,000 tons per year, 20 trucks per day, and on-site rock crushing.

RMI acquired the quarry in 2016. It produces rock for construction projects and limestone dust for industrial uses.

Info: rmrholdings.com / U.S. SEC CIK # 000 155 6179

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