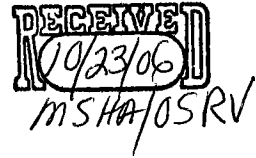


**MILLSTONE QUARRY
A DIVISION OF GREENE COUNTY QUARRIES, INC.
P. O. BOX 96
ELBERTON, GEORGIA 30635**

**PHONE 706-283-2656
FAX 706-283-1910**

October 18, 2006



MSHA
Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances
1100 Wilson Blvd. Room 2350
Arlington, Va. 22209-3939

For the Record – Statement of Objection

I would like to go on record as being opposed to the changes in the manner in which fines are being issued as stated in the proposed changes. I do not believe the point system is fair; it gives the inspector too much power which is based on assumption that he knows it all.

Even if the industry had the same number of citations the cost will be double due to the new system. If they reduced their citations by 50% they would still payout the same as the present amount – not much incentive there.

Our small business needs the support of our government not more fines and government intervention. I ask that the dimension stone operators be issued a variance from these rules and increased assessments. Don't penalize us for what has happened in other segments of the mining industry.

In my opinion the assessments are excessive and will discourage development of existing operations. We would also like to have the time allowed for comments from the public to be extended. Many people affected by these changes are not aware of the proposal.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Paul, Jr." in a cursive style.

Robert E. Paul, Jr.
Vice President
Millstone Quarry

AB51-COMM-72