



## Hunterdon County Democrat

### Nockamixon quarry pays fines for polluting creek

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By Kevin J. Guhl

A Nockamixon Township quarry has agreed to pay \$10,545 in fines to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for pumping too much sediment into a state-protected creek.

Hanson Aggregates Quarry was given two separate fines totaling \$11,595 in July and August for pumping too much clay silt, a byproduct of the quarry's mining operations, into Rapp Creek. The silt had coated the rocks, smothering the insects on which fish feed.

Quarry representatives met with the DEP last week and agreed to pay a fine of about \$1,000 less. According to DEP spokesman Gary Latsha, the fine was reduced because the quarry is working with the DEP to fix the problem.

"They're a good outfit. They just had a couple of things go wrong," said Latsha.

The quarry has been barred since August from further pumping operations until its plan to install a new and bigger settling pond system to hold the silt is approved by the DEP. Mining operations that do not require pumping water have continued in the interim.

The quarry also was fined \$5,000 and \$2,300 for the incidents by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Two separate tests done in Rapp Creek showed the silt in the water to be higher than the maximum of 90 parts per million of suspended substance allowed in the water. The first test showed 488 parts per million of silt at the Hanson Aggregates quarry's drainage pipe and 310 parts per million downstream. A second tests showed 104 parts per million at the drainage pipe.

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