

## I. INTRODUCTION

Article 66B states that if current geological information is available, a mineral resources plan should be developed. The plan should:

- *Identify undeveloped land that should be kept in its undeveloped state until the land can be used to provide or assist in providing a continuous supply of minerals, as defined in §7-6A-01(i) of the Natural Resources Article;*
- *Identify appropriate post-excavation uses for this land that are consistent with land planning process;*
- *Incorporate land use policies and recommendations for regulations to balance mineral resource extraction with other land uses and, to the extent feasible, to prevent the preemption of mineral resources extraction by other uses; and*
- *Be reviewed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to determine whether the proposed plan is consistent with the programs and goals of the Department.*

Approximately eighty percent of Harford County is underlain by crystalline rocks that are a rich source of crushed stone and granite materials such as gneiss. Large amounts of gneiss are found in the Setters and the Port Deposit Formations and are currently being mined in the County. The Port Deposit gneiss formation begins at Franklinville (Harford County), west of MD 152, and runs in a northeasterly direction toward the Susquehanna River. Small areas of this formation are located along the Susquehanna River and run south toward Havre de Grace.

Mining activity in Harford County is concentrated in the US 40/I-95 corridor. There are eleven active, licensed surface mining sites in Harford County. No such mining activities exist within the corporate limits of Havre de Grace, however the Arundel Corporation is a crushed stone quarry located adjacent to the City. Located to the immediate north of the City, the Arundel Corporation owns over 650 acres, 231 acres of which are permitted and zoned by Harford County for mining. This operation is expected to move incrementally over the course of the next several decades.

The Harford County Master Plan/Land Use Element Plan designates the area north of Havre de Grace as industrial/commercial because of the current mining activity at this location. This plan also aims at channeling non-mining development away from mining sites. Where mining activities occur adjacent to other land uses, such as low density residential, buffer zones must be provided.

## II. RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Havre de Grace should:

- Allow new or expanding quarrying operations only as a special exception, subject to extensive conditions.
- Require substantial buffer zones between a quarry and any development that may occur adjacent to it.
- Meet with the mining operators on a periodic basis to identify appropriate post-excavation uses for the existing quarry which are consistent with the land use planning process.
- Ensure, with the cooperation of Harford County Government and the State of Maryland, that the effects of mining operations on the immediate neighborhoods are minimized and that existing infrastructure, such as the road system, can accommodate the increased demand of any mining operation expansion.
- Work with Harford County Government and the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway to establish a hiking trail around the perimeter of the Arundel Corporation mining operation in their required buffer.