

## **Baker County sand mining update for the proposed Oldcastle Southern Group Inc. and E. R. Jahna Industries, Inc.**

In May, 2013, Oldcastle Southern Group Inc. (Oldcastle) submitted to Baker County an application for a Special Exception to develop a sand mine. Oldcastle proposes to operate this mine on +/- 436.9 acres in eastern Baker County, south of Interstate Highway I-10 and east of County Road CR 228.

E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc. (du Pont) is currently conducting mining and mineral extraction on the property. If Oldcastle's application is approved, du Pont and Oldcastle will be conducting mining activities on the property at the same time for the foreseeable future. Oldcastle's mining activity will occur in areas of the property where du Pont has completed its mineral extraction activity. However, the concurrent mining activities could be in close proximity to each other.

The mining will be conducted using an electric hydraulic dredge. The mined material will be pumped to the plant, where the commercial grade sand will be separated and dewatered, and the non-commercial sand will be pumped back to the active mine settling pond and lake.

After the mining has been completed, the mined areas will be converted into three lakes of varying sizes. The estimated life of the proposed mining activities is fifty years.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has issued an Environmental Resource Permit for the mining operation and for Sand and Limestone Mines.

Oldcastle is proposing to construct a pipeline from the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to the mine processing plant and, in accordance with the long-term agreement with the City, will take all reclaimed water generated by the City up to 1.3 million gallons per day (mgd). This agreement allows the City to discontinue direct discharging to Turkey Creek (1.3 mgd is the current maximum amount the City can discharge). The City of Macclenny would like Oldcastle to build a pipeline capable of accepting 3.2 million gallons per day for future growth. I would like permission from the SMRMC to speak on behalf of the committee at the City of Macclenny Council Meeting to encourage them to find a way to work out how to let Oldcastle have the reclaimed water. It is in our best interest and everyone's best interest to recharge the aquifer as opposed to direct discharge into Turkey Creek.

The only consumptive use permit (CUP) that will be required from the St. Johns River Water Management District will be for the office which will consume less than a normal household (i.e. no showers, dishwasher, laundry, etc). The SJRWMD CUP for 2.5 mgd is on hold per Oldcastle's request pending the City's contract is approved or no agreement can be reached. Baker County must also grant a zoning variance to Oldcastle.

Finally, E. R. Jahna Industries, Inc. permits are on hold, presumably pending the outcome of Oldcastle's efforts.