

Quarry Report
Utley Quarry, Utley, WI
Prepared by Rocks & Docks

The first impression of the Utley Rhyolite Quarry is very deceptive. The land resembles a hunting area with many trees and overgrown foliage. Upon closer inspection this impression rapidly changes as one enters the quarry. In the NE corner of the quarry, not visible from the road, a group of nine to ten rhyolite blocks were discovered. Visual inspection of the blocks and measurement for approximate size showed some real rhyolite 'gems'.

According to the information provided by Midwest Construction, these blocks were quarried 80 to 90 years ago. The blocks ranged in size from approximately 5 to 20 tons with two of the blocks being over 14 tons (photos 1 and 2). The blocks showed natural discoloration from weathering, but no fractures from freeze thaw cycles were evident. The reports and testing of 1978 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers showed a 0.199% loss from 80 cycles from accelerated weathering tests and stated the material is "apparently suitable for intended use" as armor stone in the 10 to 20 ton range (see attached).



Photo 1



Photo 2

These blocks were impressive, but did not prepare us for what we discovered upon further examination of the quarry. After navigating through overgrown and a thickly wooded area, a magnificent 50 to 60 foot rhyolite wall was discovered. The wall shows



Photo 4

seams that are capable of producing 10 to 20 ton armor stones. Within a short walking distance from this wall, another rhyolite wall was found of similar height and seams. Our exploration also revealed several 10 to 15 foot walls. These walls hold a wealth of rhyolite and would be a natural for producing material for the marine construction industry. One great advantage we discovered is that several walls have no overburden to remove and are ready for drilling and blasting.



Photo 3



Photo 5

From our previous experience of rock inspection in Wisconsin, the only other quarries in the state capable of producing rhyolite armor stone of this size are located one hour north of Green Bay. Further, only one limestone quarry is capable of producing stone on a consistent basis over 10 tons. This quarry is located approximately one hour south of Green Bay. The basic economic principal of supply and demand shows a small supply of this size stone and as with most 'non-renewable' natural resources the demand will only grow as quarries are depleted.