

11.19 Construction Aggregate Processing¹⁻²

The construction aggregate industry covers a range of subclassifications of the nonmetallic minerals industry (see Section 11.24, Metallic Minerals Processing, for information on that similar activity). Many operations and processes are common to both groups, including mineral extraction from the earth, loading, unloading, conveying, crushing, screening, and loadout. Other operations are restricted to specific subcategories. These include wet and dry fine milling or grinding, air classification, drying, calcining, mixing, and bagging. The latter group of operations is not generally associated with the construction aggregate industry but can be conducted on the same raw materials used to produce aggregate. Two examples are processing of limestone and sandstone. Both substances can be used as construction materials and may be processed further for other uses at the same location. Limestone is a common source of construction aggregate, but it can be further milled and classified to produce agricultural limestone. Sandstone can be processed into construction sand and also can be wet and/or dry milled, dried, and air classified into industrial sand.

The construction aggregate industry can be categorized by source, mineral type or form, wet versus dry, washed or unwashed, and end uses, to name but a few. The industry is divided in this document into Section 11.19.1, Sand And Gravel Processing, and Section 11.19.2, Crushed Stone Processing. Sections on other categories of the industry will be published when data on these processes become available.

Uncontrolled construction aggregate processing can produce nuisance problems and can have an effect upon attainment of ambient particulate standards. However, the generally large particles produced often can be controlled readily. Some of the individual operations such as wet crushing and grinding, washing, screening, and dredging take place with "high" moisture (more than about 1.5 to 4.0 weight percent). Such wet processes do not generate appreciable particulate emissions.

References For Section 11.19

1. *Air Pollution Control Techniques For Nonmetallic Minerals Industry*, EPA-450/3-82-014, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC, August 1982.
2. *Review Emissions Data Base And Develop Emission Factors For The Construction Aggregate Industry*, Engineering-Science, Inc., Arcadia, CA, September 1984.