

# A second chance proves successful for SC Rock and its Bell ADT fleet

When Bill Griste decided to run an aggregate and rock mining distribution outlet again, he knew that his former Carolina Aggregates Product's Goretown Mine was a sound business opportunity.

Goretown Mine, near Loris in South Carolina, USA, has many millions of tons of marine limestone buried within the earth and this rock makes for excellent roadbuilding material throughout North and South Carolina.

Bill first opened the Goretown Mine in 1998 after discovering the deposit. After several years he sold the business to an Alabama-based company, Grand Stand Aggregates, before re-acquiring it in 2014 and renaming it SC Rock LLC.

"I wanted to make a successful, prosperous business. We are sitting on about 70 million tons of deposit here," he said. "The math convinced me to go back into this business."

He just needed the right equipment to process and haul the rock for SC Rock to be successful.

The mine already had machinery from May Heavy Equipment, a Bell dealer with locations throughout the two Carolinas, and Bill immediately realised the value of maintaining that business relationship.

On May's recommendation of the 50-ton (45,4t) Bell Articulated Dump Truck (ADT), SC Rock now owns two B50D workhorses that it needs to keep the mine successful for several more decades.

The company's mine, processing plant and product yard can handle from 400 000 to 1 million tons

(362 873 to 907 184t) per year of various sized rock. This rock is used in concrete, pipe bedding, asphalt and road building, among other things.

The mined rock goes through the company's processing plant, which screens and crushes it before it is made into either a clean stone product or road base. Several washed aggregate products are made, such as 89s for concrete companies, 5s for septic tank beds and French drains, 57s for water and sewer projects and washed screenings for asphalt and concrete. The unwashed material is processed into fine base, commercial base or NCDOT or SCDOT spec base.

more economical, but with tremendous strength," Bill explains.



The durability of the mine's product is because it is a recrystallised limestone material that seems to get tighter and more compacted the longer it is used, with a cement-like quality to it. "Another great feature of our material is that it is fairly porous, so if you want stone that will drain water, we have it.

This is a pretty wet area that we are building in, so our customers need a material that will help stabilise the ground, while also letting water pass through."

Bill adds: "We are a state-approved aggregate supply source for North Carolina and South Carolina, so our material can be used for anything that the states approve for aggregate, like concrete and asphalt on highways and major roads. Plus, we do a lot of private work for both developers and individuals."

Ideally located in the northeast corner of South Carolina, near the Myrtle Beach area and just a few miles from the Atlantic Ocean, many of the company's products are used on the region's roads, which are often in need of repair due to high tourist traffic and the coastal climate.

One of the current road projects being served by SC Rock is a widening of S.C. Highway 707 near the south end of S.C. Highway 31, also known as the Carolina Bays Parkway, just to the west of Myrtle Beach. The Goretown Mine also supplied stone for the Parkway itself during its construction.

"A lot of the roads around here are being built using a cement-treated base specified by the state. That base is first put in place under the asphalt. We supply base for that kind of work a good bit. One of the benefits of our material is that it requires less cement than, say, a granite-based material, making it

recommended the Bell trucks and in looking at some of the specs and their production so far, it looks like they will do the job."

The Bell trucks bring material from the pit and move it into SC Rock's feed hoppers. The new haulers are also vital in getting product to more distant areas from the plant and it is SC Rock's hope that they can one day have only 50-ton trucks in their hauling fleet.

Among the other equipment moving around SC Rock's 700-acre spread are machines from other OEMs including two wheeled loaders and a pair of dozers, an excavator, other off-road trucks and several mining machines.

"All of these machines have given us great service," Bill said. "We have lots of different kinds and makes and May has the capability to work on all of them when we need them to. We have our own mechanics, but when we need something done that is beyond what we feel we can do, we call them in to solve the problem.

"We're happy that they have helped us get back in a position where we can continue to grow in the marketplace for many years."

Article and photos courtesy of Construction Equipment Guide.

"With May, you couldn't ask for a better relationship between a company like ours and a vendor," Bill said. "They have been right beside us when we have needed them. If we have a problem, they help us solve it. Plus, they are always fair as far as their pricing is concerned."

"We are getting ready to open into a new area that will take us further from the plant, so we needed to utilise something that's going to be more cost-effective than smaller trucks," Bill said. "And, of course, fuel costs are always a determining factor. In talking with May they

