

Dimension Stone Shooting With Low Strength High Explosives

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the authors present a step-by-step discussion of dimension stone production at a New England granite quarry. The quarry mines a rare pink granite which is used for facings and panels in the construction of high rise buildings around the world. The discussion includes geological considerations, block layout, drilling, explosives loading, block handling, and mobile equipment utilization.

The economics of dimension stone production are controlled by the proper use of explosives. This paper provides details on powder factor, initiation system, and the use of a domestically-produced low strength high explosive as a replacement for black powder, high energy detonating cord, or imported low strength high explosives.