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Stoneco using new high-tech sensors to monitor excavation activities

Stoneco, one of Michigan's largest aggregate companies, has started using a high-tech seismic monitoring system to ensure that its operations have minimal impact on encroaching residential development.

Stoneco, a Michigan Paving and Materials company, has implemented a remote satellite seismic monitoring service in all of its Monroe County facilities, covering the Maybee, Denniston, Ottawa Lake and Newport Quarries, that will continuously record vibration intensity of its operations and outside activities to inform and protect its neighboring communities.

"This new monitoring system allows us to safely and accurately monitor all our blasting operations, increasing public confidence that all occurrences are being properly recorded, and comparing them to other naturally occurring events," says Rick Becker, aggregates division manager for Stoneco's Michigan Quarries. "This process will give us and the community accessible data that will continue to improve our operations and continue Stoneco's reputation of being the best neighbor possible."

The Vibra-Tech system consists of environmentally sealed seismographs and accessories installed at Stoneco facilities in secure and durable steel encased stations with multiple power options. Programming and data retrieval is accomplished via remote satellite communications 24 hours a day, automatically initiated a recording to any ground or air vibration equal to or greater than the pre-set trigger levels. These results can be immediately accessible via fax or email.

"I appreciate Stoneco's willingness to inform neighbors about this activity," says James Vaslo, Berlin Township Supervisor. "This system lets Berlin Township and Monroe County be aware of these activities and keep accurate, credible data to make sure they are not harming our community."

Stoneco has been proactive in informing the nearby communities about its operations and facilities, talking with residents and giving presentations to neighboring townships and villages. Stoneco is happy to continue this process and will do so until all residents concerns are addressed.

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