and material tested on increments of 500 tons,” Zocколо said. “That means that for every 500 tons, the company pulls a different sample to make sure that all stones meet the specifications designated by the federal standard.

The sample is weighed, oven-dried and rolled into a cylinder. Then, a waist test is performed on 3.8 pounds of the sample to determine whether it meets specifications before it is sold or rejected.

The materials are re-tested about every four months for specifications in kiln on and off the site. The DIP tests the products on a quarterly basis for heavy metals and contaminants. If the materials do not meet the standard specifications, the company can either adjust, run it through for machine again, or sell it for industrial or residential use.

All equipment, including scales, shakers and navs, must be recalibrated and approved by the state, usually weekly. Consulting with the “green” pharmacist, the machine is powered by electricity rather than diesel.

While the stones are used in all types of construction, the metal scraps are melted and sold to mills for use in their products.

More than 100,000 tons of aggregate materials were sold last year, which ended up in bridges, roads and lots. Among them were the Highland Road widening project in Hermitage and two bridges in Greenville.

Aggregate materials, specifically brick chips, are used as mulch for landscaping. Occasionally, something called agricultural slag is used as fertilizer, which many people mistake for granulated slag. Granulated slag is missing the chemical makeup that qualifies it as a fertilizer.

Zocколо is hoping to get a grant for a 7,000-foot-long rail siding that will bring in about 30,000 tons of limestone and talc over 25,000 square yards of the highlights. He has already received engineering proposals and will begin to clean up the site. The company plans to sell the slag.

The company has already removed 100 feet deep into the site and has yet to see the bottom. “The DEP is not present at the site,” he said. “District 1 from PennDOT has been helpful in getting the site up and running.” Zocколо said that he considers himself fortunate to be able to work with employees from the state transportation department and the borough in the cleanup process.

Karen Hearp of Queens, N.Y. is a senior journalism major at Penn State University’s main campus.

Material processed by Development of Sharpsville splits off a conveyor belt at the company’s operations at the 1930s, shows the now-defunct Shenango Furnace operating at full bore when it produced iron in its blast furnaces. Now the site is being mined for such materials as slag, the remnant of iron that was considered a waste product. It later was found to be recyclable in applications such as road construction or to strengthen concrete and asphalt.

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