

BULLETIN

News from SubTerra, Inc.®

Blast Monitoring & Expert Testimony for Black River Quarry Renton, Washington

Stoneway's Black River Quarry in King County, Washington, has been active since the late 1920's. However, a recent county review of the operation prompted Stoneway to seek the assistance of SubTerra, Inc.

SubTerra, contracted to provide blast monitoring, permit support, and geological engineering services for the rock quarry. The scope of work included:

1. Monitoring production blasts;
2. Developing input for blast design,
3. Evaluating whether any locations at the site would classify as landslide hazards areas according to King County criteria; and,
4. Providing expert testimony at a public hearing on geologic and blasting issues.

InstanTel MiniMate blast monitors were used to record data from production



Monitoring at nearby apartment complex.



blasts at the quarry's property boundary nearest the blast, and adjacent to the nearest apartment building. Recorded data were used in third party compliance monitoring reports, and in development of site-specific criteria for blast design.

A detailed site investigation was performed in conjunction with an analysis of county criteria to determine the presence of any landslide hazard areas.

SubTerra also provided expert testimony at a public hearing scheduled as part of King County's new five-year permit review - the first such hearing resulting from the new review process. The hearing emphasized the viability of independent, third party blast monitoring, and the importance of maintaining blasting records for each production blast.