

Voluntary agreement extends the ban on Becker's Quarry concrete 2 years

State blames pyrrhotite from site for foundation failures

By KATHLEEN McWILLIAMS

The quarry believed by the state to have supplied concrete aggregate that caused hundreds of failing foundations in Connecticut has agreed to not sell concrete mix for another two years.

According to a voluntary compliance agreement between the Connecticut attorney general's office, the Department of Consumer Protection and Becker's Quarry in Willington, the concrete supplier has "agreed to not sell any aggregate or crushed stone containing pyrrhotite from Becker's Quarry for use in residential concrete foundations within the state of Connecticut."

This year's agreement will last two years,

expiring June 30, 2021.

In 2016, as the state investigated the cause of the widespread foundation failures in Northern Connecticut, Becker's Quarry entered into a one-year agreement to not sell concrete for residential buildings. The agreement was renewed annually.

The agreement requires Becker's Quarry to provide its customers a notice that warns against using concrete containing more than trace amounts of pyrrhotite, the mineral believed to cause the collapse of foundations. Pyrrhotite breaks down when exposed to oxygen and water, destabilizing the home.

A 2017 investigation by then-Attorney General George Jepsen and the Department of Consumer Protection found that the quarry contained a vein of rock with significant amounts of pyrrhotite.

The agreement also requires the owners of Becker's Quarry to notify the attorney

general and the Department of Consumer Protection if the quarry is sold at any point within the next two years.

Crumbling foundations have touched at least 41 towns in Connecticut, including South Windsor, Vernon, Tolland and Willington.

An estimated 34,000 homeowners could be affected by the issue.

It is believed that most of the faulty concrete came from Becker's Quarry and was poured by a now-defunct Stafford Springs company, J.J. Mottes Co. Both companies cooperated with the state's investigation.

Insurance companies have denied claims to replace the foundations, leaving homeowners to foot the bill for more than \$150,000 of repairs.

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