



State of Vermont
Department of Public Safety
45 State Drive
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-1300
<http://dps.vermont.gov/>

October 29, 2021

Mr. David Camara, Jr.



Poultney, VT 05743

Re: Explosive License #1947

Dear Mr. Camara, Jr.:

I am writing today to take steps to resolve safety concerns stemming from blasting operations that occurred earlier this year. It has come to my attention that on July 16, 2021 you conducted a blasting operation at a quarry on Blissville Road in Castleton, Vermont. Residents were not notified in advance of this planned blasting operation and no blasting mat was used. This explosion caused rocks from the quarry to be ejected a significant distance on to multiple adjacent residential properties on Blissville Road and Mary Lane, causing damage to lawns, fencing and a home's roof. The Castleton Police Department, State Fire Marshall personnel, and Vermont State Police Trooper Gelder, who is a bomb technician and a user of explosives, responded to this incident.

The investigation revealed that rock debris was distributed onto nearby residential properties. For example, one resident on Blissville Road described rocks of varying size flying into his yard. Consistent with this description, an investigator observed several large pieces of slate embedded in the grass and multiple smaller pieces of slate distributed throughout the resident's yard and garden. One rock was embedded into the fencing of a dog pen. Another residence suffered similar damage. A third residence located on Mary Lane, a residential area east of Blissville Road, also suffered damage. Rocks from the blast flew onto a Mary Lane home damaging its roof damage and a second-floor ceiling. Of note, a roughly twenty-five-pound rock was located a good distance from the blast area. Luckily no one was injured. When questioned, you



admitted fault. The Fire Marshall's investigation noted the following violations: (1) your failure to take proper precautions to prevent fly rock from leaving the pit, (2) your failure to notify abutting property owners of the impending blasting, and (3) your failure to provide proper pre-blast warning signals. Based on these violations, you have failed to demonstrate your competency to use explosives. *See* attached report.

Moreover, the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration inspector issued a citation, noting a violation had occurred and negligence was moderate and substantial injury was likely.

Under Vermont law, the Public Safety Commissioner may issue an explosive license to an applicant. Explosive license applicants must meet certain qualifications including competency in the handling and the use of explosives. *See* 20 V.S.A. § 3072(b)(4). Subdivision (e) grants the Commissioner authority to revoke any license issued under this statute if, in the Commissioner's opinion, the license holder has "violated any provisions of this division" or is ineligible to acquire explosives or to obtain a license. 20 V.S.A. § 3072(e).

Given your July 16, 2021 blasting operation and the ensuing damage to nearby residential homes, you have demonstrated a risk to public safety, and I no longer find you competent to handle and use explosives safely. Thus, I am revoking your license pursuant to 20 V.S.A. Section 3072(e). I have not ruled out a pathway for licensure should you wish to engage in agreed upon training and examination demonstrating your competency to safely handle and use explosives. In the event that you would like to explore this option, please contact Director Michael Desrochers at michael.desrochers@vermont.gov.

You may appeal my decision within fifteen (15) days of the date of this revocation letter, by requesting a hearing. If you request a hearing, we ask that you do so in writing.

Sincerely,



Michael Schirling
Commissioner of Public Safety

