

VIOLA MATERIALS, INC., MINE NO. 1

Data compiled and report prepared by
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Reclamation Project Location: Mercer County, Illinois; T14N, R2W, Section 4, W ½, SE ¼

Name of Mine Operator: Viola Materials, Inc. (also listed as Viola Materials Corporation)

Plats/Atlases:

1966 – nothing of relevance shown (p. 26)

1969 – Viola Materials, Inc., owned 100 acres in the NE ¼ of Section 4 and 20.4 acres in the NW ¼ of Section 3; Larry Brown, General Superintendent and Superintendent of Mines, owned 115 acres in the NW ¼ of Section 4 and 30.45 acres in the NW ¼ of Section 3 (p. 23)

1972 – Viola materials, Inc., owned 20.4 acres in the E ½, SW ¼, NW ¼ of Section 3 and Larry Brown owned 30.45 acres in the NW ¼, NW ¼ of Section 3 and 115 acres in the NW ¼ of Section 4 (p. 20)

1975 – Viola materials, Inc., owned 158 acres in the SW ¼ of Section 3 and 40 acres in the NE ¼, SE ¼ of Section 4; Larry Brown owned 61.27 acres in the W ½, NW ¼ of Section 3 and 115.51 acres in the NE ¼ of Section 4 (p. 15)

1979 – Viola Materials, Inc., no longer owned property in Sections 3 and 4; Larry Brown owned 216.73 acres in the W ½, NW ¼ and the SW ¼ of Section 3 and 155.51 acres in the NE ¼ and NE ¼, SE ¼ of Section 4 (p. 20)

Annual Coal Reports:

1967 – Viola Materials, Inc., Mine #1 operated a total of 15 days with a production of 230 tons of coal by two employees (pp. 34-35)

1969 – Viola Materials, Inc., Mine #1 operated a total of 17 days with a production of 5,566 tons of coal by four employees (pp. 24-25; 34-35); Mine #1 was a strip mine extracting the No. 1 Coal from a 3' 6" seam fifty feet below the surface; mine opened in 1969 (pp. 42-43)

1970 – Viola Materials, Inc., Mine #1 operated a total of 14 days with a production of 6,057 tons of coal by four employees (pp. 22-23; 30-31)

1971 – Viola Materials Corporation suspended mining operations in February 1971 (p. 18); Viola Materials, Inc., Mine #1 operated a total of 54 days in January, February, November, and December 1971 with a production of 16, 863 tons of coal (pp. 26-27)

1972 – Viola Materials, Inc., Mine #1 operated a total of 29 days in January, March, April, May, and September 1972 with a production of 10, 623 tons of coal (pp. 24-25)

1974 – Viola Materials, Inc., suspended mining operations in May 1973 (p. 16)

Summary and Conclusions:

Viola Materials, Inc., Mine #1 was a strip mine operation extracting the No. 1 Coal (Rock Island) from a 3' 6" seam fifty feet below the surface. The mine officially began operation in 1969, but apparently was in existence in 1967 when an extremely small quantity (230 tons) of coal was mined. Employment never exceeded four individuals and annual production averaged just under 10,000 tons over a four year period from 1969-1972. Coal production apparently ceased permanently in 1973 and the mine closed.

Land owned under the names Viola Materials, Inc., and Larry Brown (General Superintendent/ Superintendent of Mines for Viola Materials, Inc.) included, for the period from 1969 through 1979 as depicted on the relevant county plat maps, portions or all of the SW ¼ and the NW ¼ of Section 3 and the NE ¼, the NW ¼, and the NE ¼, SE ¼ of Section 4, T14N/R2W. Evidence was not found that showed ownership of land in the W 1/2, SE ¼ of Section 4 (location of proposed reclamation project) by Viola Materials, Inc., or any obviously affiliated individuals.

A shaft mine (ISGS Index No. 2964), located in the northwest corner of the proposed reclamation project area, was in operation from 1901 through 1923 under a number of different company names and mine names (*Directory of Coal Mines for Mercer County, Illinois* 2000:2).