

Heavy Duty Eriez® Vibratory Feeders Ensure Constant Pre-Crushed Sandstone Flow at Edwards Sand & Gravel

Aggregate and quarry handing operations require equipment that can perform well during high volume production and withstand dirt, dust and corrosive conditions. That's the situation at Edwards Sand & Gravel where the six decade old company mines and sells high-grade aggregate to surrounding customers near its main quarry in South Sterling, PA.

Moving crushed sandstone out of the quarry requires the use of two Eriez® Model 75B Vibratory Feeders, which are positioned over a belt conveyor in the quarry tunnel. The units function as pile discharge feeders and meter minus 2 ¾" stone to an inline belt conveyor. The 75B Vibratory Feeder has a feeding capacity of up to 350 tons (315 mt) per hour, 20 percent greater feeding capacity than previous Eriez models.

The Edwards sandstone quarry sits on 238 acres and has been in operation for about 25 years, according to President George Edwards Jr., the son of the company's founder. He explains, "My dad started the company back in the 1950s and we now have 40 employees, including my two brothers. We have always been in the sand and gravel business and have developed a strong customer base."

The South Sterling sandstone quarry, which produces 750,000 tons annually, has about 80 years left in reserves, according to Edwards. Highway departments from local municipalities are prime users of the aggregate during road construction season. Other customers include local power companies which use the aggregate to build access roads for power lines.

Feeders run continuously in harsh environment

"We have one 20-year old Eriez feeder and another feeder that was installed just recently," Edwards says. "The feeders run five days a week, about eight to nine hours per day, both feeding onto the same conveyor belt with the crushed stone. We can crush stone at the rate of 500 tons per hour and run the feeders at 300 tons per hour. We have the ability to regulate how many tons per hour we can run on the belt."

Benefits of the 75B Vibratory Feeders include their low profile and the lack of space they take up in the tunnel, giving employees more room to work, according to Edwards. The heavy duty 75B Vibratory Feeders work well in the tunnel's harsh environment because of their electro-permanent magnet drive design. The feeders have no rotating parts such as shafts, cams or bearings, thus eliminating the need for lubrication. The advanced AC feeders can be wired to any AC line and do not require a control to operate.

75B Series standard units operate at temperatures up to 135 degrees F (57 degrees C). The high-temperature units are available for temperatures up to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).

Relying on past knowledge

Edwards explains that he re-engaged with Eriez representative Tom Brittain of PennQuip in Muncy, PA when the time was right to purchase the new feeder. "I've been around this business since 1968 and you build confidence in the people you deal with. They know your needs and know the industry," he says. "We bought an Eriez feeder from them many years ago and purchased the new feeder based on their direction. They have always treated us right."

##

Eriez is recognized as world authority in separation technologies. The company's magnetic lift and separation, metal detection, materials feeding, screening, conveying and controlling equipment have application in the process, metalworking, packaging, plastics, rubber, recycling, mining, aggregate and textile industries. Eriez manufactures and markets these products through 12 international facilities located on six continents. For more information, call toll-free (888) 300-ERIEZ (3743) within the U.S. and Canada. For online users, visit www.eriez.com or send email to eriez@eriez.com. Eriez World Headquarters is located at 2200 Asbury Road, Erie, PA 16506.