

## product update

project management, gabion-wall construction, road rehabilitation, concrete-protection products, grouts, sealants, concrete blocks & paving, resurfacing, waterproofing solutions

### Quality aggregate for less

AfriSam's Sub Nigel is not your run-of-the-mill quarry or mine-dump processing operation. This aggregate-producing operation, located in Johannesburg's "East Rand", is the largest of the group's mine-dump operations, with as much as 4.5-million t of rock lying bare on gold-coloured dumps; waiting to be crushed and screened into various products for players in the surrounding construction and building market, writes Tessa Kruger of *Civil Engineering Contractor*. The operation differentiates itself from aggregate-producing quarries by virtue of the fact that loading and hauling, and drilling and blasting activities are eliminated; saving the operation about 50% in costs compared to that of a quarry as the rock is ready to be processed in the plant. Ben Lubbe, maintenance team leader, says it also more economical to establish a mine-dump operation than a quarry where infrastructure has to be built to remove overburden in order to reach the rock. He says that the quality of rock loaded from the Sub Nigel dump is similar to that of rock found in a quarry despite the fact that it has higher silica content due to the

Loading and hauling, and drilling and blasting activities are eliminated to lower costs substantially.



processes of gold mining. AfriSam bought the Sub Nigel operation from Mintails which extracted gold from the waste ore at the beginning of 2009 and started with the production of various aggregate products from the mine dumps in June 2009. The operation is projected to have a 10-year life. Sub Nigel achieves a 50% saving in costs; comprising a 40% saving in loading and

hauling costs, due to much lower diesel consumption, and a 10% saving in drilling and blasting costs.

These cost-savings flow naturally through to the bottom line; boosting the operation's profit margin.

*Read more about the Sub Nigel operation in the March 2010 edition of Quarry Southern Africa.*