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Old Masters Safe in the Hands of Maine Drilling & Blasting

Gardiner, ME (June 12, 2008) – Imagine this ... a drilling and blasting operation virtually on top of a priceless art collection. Works by Old Masters such as Botticelli, Rembrandt and Raphael, modern masters such as Cézanne, Renoir and Van Gogh, and significant American artists such as Homer and Eakins are just part of the world-class collection housed at The Hyde Collection in Glens Falls, NY. The Museum's collection spans art from the 4th Century BC through the 20th Century and consists of approximately 3,000 paintings, sculptures, works on paper, furniture and decorative arts. *And* The Hyde Collection is located in close proximity to Jointa Galusha's Glens Falls Quarry.

The fall of 2007, blasting by Maine Drilling & Blasting, for customer Jointa Galusha, progressed towards an area of the quarry that had not been blasted for quite some time, and with The Hyde Collection located approximately 500 feet at the closest point to the new area to be blasted. Naturally, Hyde representatives were anxious to know what could be done to allay their concerns and minimize any impact on this priceless art collection.

As a first step, Maine Drilling & Blasting instituted a notification plan to assist in handling the issue of startling employees and visitors. After this step Maine Drilling & Blasting put its head together with Jointa to review what else could be done. A program was implemented modifying blast design and verifying the accuracy of the drilling program to the design using the digital technologies of laser profiling, and boretracking. Lastly, we introduced electronic detonators into the blast design. More accurate than non-electronic detonators, electronic detonators facilitate better energy usage, which increases breakage, decreasing vibration.

The Hyde was very satisfied with the results. Maine Drilling & Blasting was pleased to be able to satisfy concerns without sacrificing production or breakage. Jointa Galusha was happy, as well. According to John Davidson, Vice President of the company, "The electronic system gave us very positive results, under a couple of special conditions. Notwithstanding being 500 or so feet from The Hyde's priceless art collection, we also had peregrine falcons nesting with eggs just above the active face. The cost of going with electronic detonators is significant, but it's saving us on oversize materials. We're getting better results out of the blasts in addition to better accuracy and reduced vibration." Noting improved production, Jointa Galusha requested continued use of electronic detonators despite the fact that the "original mission" had been accomplished. Production was up and wear and tear on loaders, etc., was down.

Maine Drilling & Blasting, recognized as a leader in the industry, offers drilling and blasting services to the construction and quarry markets, along with a variety of specialty services throughout the Northeastern United States. In addition to the corporate office in Gardiner, Maine, Maine Drilling & Blasting has offices in New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Quarry Division of Maine Drilling & Blasting services 140 quarries across 7 states, in pits from 10,000 to 1.5 million tons/year, offering turnkey drilling and blasting, laser profiling, bore tracking, seismic monitoring, public relations, and an in-house Engineering Department for comprehensive quarry planning.

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