



# Roxsand

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## Ortonville Settling Ponds

By: Jacob Hughes / Plant Manager - Ortonville, MN

The settling ponds at Ortonville have undergone significant improvements for the purpose of enhancing safety, efficiency, and overall operational effectiveness. The decision to shore up the edges of the ponds was driven by the need for a safe cleanout process. By engineering one delineated wetland pond into two separate ponds, the capacity to manage tailings and increase production has been optimized.



The increased production from our secondary screen update in 2022 has resulted in approximately 55,000 tons of tailings being generated per season. To accommodate the reach of Ortonville's Komatsu PC490 and facilitate a more comprehensive cleanout process, the pond area was expanded by 25%. This expansion not only allows for easier access and cleaning but also minimizes the introduction of solids into the pond that supplies fresh water to wash plants.

The division of the old settling pond into two ponds was a strategic move to improve the efficiency of the cleanout process and minimize the wear on the recently installed vertical turbine pump. Working around delineated wetlands and overcoming challenges such as natural water flow, unstable ground, and congested work areas required meticulous planning and execution.

The success of carrying out the project to near completion today, was made possible by the leadership of Wayne "Ellis" Dixon, who led the project after the shutdown. Starting as an equipment operator with LGE in June 2021, Wayne was promoted to Plant Foreman in November 2023 due to his dedication to learning, leadership skills, and commitment to delivering solutions for LGE customers. Originally from Fouke, Arkansas, Wayne now resides in Beardsley, MN, with his wife.

Wayne's work experience in dirt work, pipeline/oilfield operations in North Dakota and Oklahoma, and Cut Granite in South Dakota has equipped him with the skills and expertise needed to tackle the challenges of the settling pond project. In his free time, Wayne enjoys spending time with his wife, hunting, and fishing, showcasing his passion for the outdoors and dedication to his work.



Original pond



Engineered drawing of project

## Anniversaries

**Terry Fjellanger – March 9**  
Dell Rapids West

**Herschel Pies – March 11**

Summit

**Jayson Kriz – March 13**

Nelson – Recycle

**Matthew Noteboom – March 13**

L. G. Everist

**Albert Clutter – March 14**

Firestone

**Daniel Roach – March 14**

Ace Ready Mix – Sioux Falls

**George Neuharth – March 14**

Ortonville

**Jaimie Addy – March 14**

L. G. Everist

**Jose Pena Martinez – March 14** Ragsdale

## Happy Birthday!

**Daniel Rust – March 9**

Dell Rapids West

**Cyrus Kezar – March 11**

L. G. Everist

**Jordan Eisdness – March 13**

Brookings

**Lyle Kaskie – March 15**

Hawarden



## We want your photos!

Submit your photos from across LGE locations for a chance to be featured in the Roxsand.

Email your photos to:

[cbklingensmith@lgeverist.com](mailto:cbklingensmith@lgeverist.com)

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