

LONG LIFE, GREAT REACH WITH THE NEWEST KCM 11527





Going from their older Kawasaki 115 to their new 115Z7, Thompson Contracting has nearly cut their fuel consumption in half while easily loading 65/70-ton haul trucks.

“We’re a big fan of Kawasaki-KCM wheel loaders, ever since changing brands in 1997,” says Danny Seay, Operations Manager. “This newest 115Z7 is our fourth and it may be our best. But I’ve got to say, the dependability of all of them has been very good.”

The older 115 did a very good job of reaching into the bed of both our Terex and Hitachi trucks and with over 40,000 hours on it, we’ve still got it around for special projects. And even though it uses a minimum of 12 gallons an hour, it seemed to be the industry norm. But now, with the same, experienced operator in the new 115, we’re getting 6 gallons an hour working the stockpiles and at worst, when he’s working the face and loading as fast as he can, he’s around 9. And that is a big improvement!”

The company typically uses their 115 loader to remove overburden and then work the stockpiles of crushed and screened rock. A Hitachi EX1200 shovel is used to work the face, loading the trucks with shot rock. The 115 then loads the same fleet of trucks to haul the stockpiled material to a nearby asphalt plant by private road. Their two Kawasaki-KCM 90 loaders work the stockpiles of 10 different products and load contractor dump trucks.

IT’S A HORSE!

When this story was developed, the Hitachi shovel was down for an engine replacement and the new 115Z7 was working the face and loading some pretty big rock.

“I really think the new 115Z7 is much stronger than our older model. It’s a horse!”



“Our newest loader is our fourth and it may be the best. I’m quite impressed with the new design.” Danny Seay, Operations Manager



The new 11527 model easily loads 70-ton haul trucks and has fast cycle times.



The company uses their 90-sized loaders of different generations to tend their yard and load highway trucks.

“The hydraulics work differently and there is more tractive force. The breakout is better. The raise speed is faster. Working the face with our shot granite gives you a real idea of what a machine can do,” says Seay. “And another thing I like is the way the Kawasaki-KCM 115 is more compact. All the others with the same capacity are a lot longer. This is a much easier machine to work on benches. It’s just, overall, a very good machine.”

The new cab design with its improved visibility has worked well for the company.

“The operator we have on the 115 is very good, I’ll give him that. But, because of the visibility of the new design, and especially his expertise, he’s able to load even pickups with that machine by carefully working just the right amount into the bed of the truck. He can load anything from a pickup to the biggest truck we have!” enthuses Seay.

DEPENDABILITY A STANDARD

Since the early 1940’s, Thompson Contracting has dependably been paving streets and highways throughout the region. The quarry where the loaders work was opened in 1965 and the company’s offices and shop sit in front on the highway, in the country, near a suburb of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Thompson Contracting is 100% about dependability. From providing a dependable product, to the people and equipment that produce that product.

Thompson Contracting is serviced by May Equipment, Lexington, North Carolina.