

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR - WEB MAIL CORRESPONDENCE

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Message:

January 3, 2010 Gov. Rick Perry State Capitol Room 2S.1 P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711

RECEIVED BY OPA TRACKING # 10807 ASSIGNED TO: DPA

JAN 04 2010

DUE DATE: 1-15-10

Ref: Air Quality Permit No. 83755 Rock Crushing Plant 5900 FM 482 New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas

TCEQ Docket No. 2009-1842-AIR

Dear Gov. Perry:

The purpose of this letter is to request a public meeting and contested case hearing on Air Quality Permit No. 83755. I am a resident of Comal County in Mission Valley Estates on FM 1863 in New Braunfels, TX and my neighborhood is approximately 2.3 statute miles from the proposed rock crushing quarry at 5900 FM 482. I strongly object to the construction of this new facility for the following reasons:

- 1. The impact of PM2.5 emissions can increase air pollution affecting the environment, wildlife and health of residents, particularly the young and old. These fine particle emissions have been associated with premature mortality and other serious health effects and may be in violation of the EPA's Clean Air Act.
2. The proposed facility is 1.3 miles from Comal Elementary where children play outside on a daily basis and increased byproduct emissions and increased truck traffic is not conducive to the children's health and personal safety.
3. Vibrations from blasting can cause damage to residential and commercial foundations, already occurring with existing quarries, significantly decreasing property values. Also, the structural integrity and preservation of Natural Bridge Caverns 4 statute miles from quarry and other natural landmarks may be compromised by the continuous blasting.
4. It is estimated that 300 trucks will run daily. This additional traffic will cause increased congestion, air pollution, road maintenance and possibility for accidents and fatalities.
5. The well and septic systems may be affected by blasting. Groundwater and the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone may be negatively impacted by blasting. Most recently, in Miami, FL, the Lake Belt benzene contamination has stopped quarrying since drinking water was compromised.
6. New Braunfels Code of Ordinance 2003-34, Sec. 82.9 Noise Prohibitions may be in violated due to the nuisance of facility operations.
7. Aggregate Industries, a subsidiary of Holcim, International Cement Corporation, has received numerous violations and millions of dollars in fines from the E.P.A. for continual violations of the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants without changing their business practices.
8. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has repeatedly fined Holcim for emitting air particulates more than seven times the legal limit.
9. Holcim has received E.P.A. citations and fines for violations of the Clean Air Act in Clarksville, Missouri; Midlothian, Texas; Clarksville, Missouri; Dundee, Michigan; and South Carolina for falsifying emission reports, exceeding temperatures in their bag houses, and improper installation of appropriate air ventilation.
10. The Endangered Species Act protects the Golden Cheeked Warbler, whose habitat will be destroyed should this additional quarry be allowed to develop in our community.
11. F.M 482 is a designated portion of the National Historic Trail from the Texas Historic Commission. There are also several historic cemeteries along 482, as well as Solms Park. We cannot allow these areas to be destroyed.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Rick Perry
Governor

January 4, 2010

Mr. Charlie C. Baker
cbaker_21@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Office of the Governor.

I am asking Mark Vickery, Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, for his staff's assistance in reviewing and responding both to you and this office on the information shared.

Please let us know whenever we may be of service in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dede Keith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dede Keith
Constituent Communication Division
Office of the Governor

DK:bn

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ON ENVIRONMENTAL
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