

March, 2009
Larry Bueler, Project Manager
Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

TEXAS
COMMISSION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
2010 JAN -4 AM 8:54
CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

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

Dear Mr. Bueler:

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.

It is my understanding that the Texas Commission of Environment Quality is responsible for maintaining and protecting our environment, not knowingly and intentionally destroying our air and the safety of the children and residents in Comal County.

Sincerely,

- Beverly Johnson