

June 10, 2010

PUBLIC INTEREST COUNSEL, MC 103
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

2010 JUN 16 AM 9:35

CHIEF CLERKS OFFICE

**RE: TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2010-0660-AIR
TOMMY DAVIS DBA SLICK MACHINES
(Air Quality Permit Number 82199L002)**

I would like to present several items of concern regarding the proposed rock mining and of the dynamiting, crushing and removal of rock from the area just west the State Highway 67 West, in the Chalk Mountain Scenic Overlook area of Somervell County in the State of Texas. This area was built by the State of Texas for everyone to take a moment to stop and enjoy a wonderful view of Texas at its best. I will be referring to the danger that will be set forth to the wildlife and other natural resources in the area. This also includes the birds that are on the endangered list that have been observed in the immediate area. It will this also address the problems created by the traffic of large vehicles which would be using the small, narrow county maintained roadways. This alone will be a problem for the local school bus and resident traffic. Since our county receives no compensation for the maintenance for the roadways the burden of the cost and repair would be divided upon the local county residents by an increase in taxes in order to maintain constant repair to the roads. I also would address that the dynamite that would be used to unearth the rock in order to use the crushers that would run on diesel which would bring the quality of the air in Somervell to a complete disaster. This letter also addresses the air quality which would soon mingle with the pollution from the metroplex and would soon be a major health hazard. I believe our neighboring counties are currently struggling with this issue.

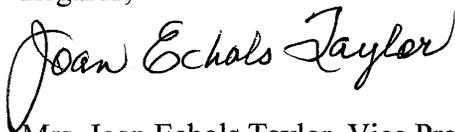
Another concern to be addressed with strong reality would be the destruction of important archeological sites. Since this is the area the great dinosaurs roamed and many of the footprints remain undiscovered even today, what might be lost is always in question. Since the tracks are found in the rock in every area of the county how much more can we afford to lose? Fossils from ancient seas are seen in almost every small stone or rock in the area. Surely this must cause great concern to those who would protect these treasurers. These are a great calling card for our county and city. Our resources depend upon those who visit Glen Rose and Somervell County. The Fossil Rim Wildlife Preserve would be another factor in the pollution of the area. Sensitive animals and endangered species have thrived in our area because of the clean water and clean air and the quiet country atmosphere. These issues would also be in question. This compound is known for its care and protection to the endangered exotic animal species representing countries around the world.

At this present time our county and city are overburdened with the gas industry and the Barnett Shale project. I address the use of our water supply which supports the needs of the drilling and the existing waste water disposal which returns its deposits back into the aquifer that provides water to far reaching areas of our state. I address the problem of traffic since we have only one avenue across the Paluxy River going east and west direction. All traffic east and west is through our downtown historic district and has a constant flow of large trucks transporting rock, water and equipment through our streets of historic buildings. These cannot be replaced and they are the history of Glen Rose and Somervell County. The vibration from the trucks stopped at the courthouse square are loosening and destroying the mortar between the original rock structures. Pedestrian accidents occur far too often due to the truck traffic and our streets are in disrepair, damage to the buildings, sidewalks wreak havoc on a daily basis. How long can we continue to maintain a safe environment? It seems very short indeed without your help.

I continuously work in areas of preservation of our city and county to encourage the preservation of the Historic Downtown District and to initiate a plan for expanded the historic district as allowed by the Texas Historical Commission and with the State as a Certified Local Government. In the allowable plan, as a Certified City, we have included specified historical sites and structures outside the designated historic area. This includes the areas of Chalk Mountain, all the petrified wood structures in the county. It also includes such places as designated to be of historical significant interest. This could possibly be 'Panther Cave' and a dozen of other sites before they are lost in time and from memory. As citizens we must be diligent in the protection of our area. In the direct area in which rock blasting are currently being made are areas of historical significance. A historical cemetery, churches, Chalk Mountain community itself is the location of one of the oldest and highly historic Masonic Lodges in the State of Texas dot the acres of land surrounding the blasting sites. A study of the area of Somervell County, including the Chalk Mountain Area, was completed by Dr. T Lindsay Baker of Tarleton University his class of graduate students May of 2010. His recommendations for environmental and historical preservation of the counties historical areas are a study in the need to protect our natural essence for the future of Somervell County's economic development. If this is destroyed millions of dollars of tourist revenue will be lost to our small county. A wealth of income that would be used by the whole county and not just a small operation that will not contribute anything of value to anyone but himself and a small amount in any measure that would most likely be. It does not weigh evenly on any judicial scale.

I ask for a withdrawal of the permit made to the TCEQ for issuance of Air Quality Permit #82199L002 which would authorize a rock crushing facility at 11209 US Hwy 67, Glen Rose, Texas, Somervell County. Tommy Davis, dba Slick Machines, of Brownwood, Texas is the applicant. I ask that all operations of Mr. Davis cease immediately on this permit and the area in question be returned to the original state and that the State of Texas consider the Chalk Mountain Area and all other endangered areas of Somervell County be protected by the State of Texas as a designated as a State Archeological Landmark site. I am opposed to this permit and any other permit that would endanger the natural habitat of Somervell County, a historic and natural beauty found in this part of our State. Permits of destructive nature to the land and its beauty should and must cease to be issued in Somervell County. The public speaks loud and clear and falls on the deaf ears of Tommy Davis. His contempt for his neighbors has been seen and acted out at any and every meeting and his refusal to try to work with the people of Somervell County has been and relentless. His statement is still rings loud and clear, "I will Take Down That Mountain". And I say this is the home of my ancestors who settled here and it is my charge to protest with their pioneer spirit.

Regards,



Mrs. Joan Echols Taylor, Vice President
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