

Melissa Schmidt

From: PUBCOMMENT-OCC
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 10:14 AM
To: PUBCOMMENT-OCC2; PUBCOMMENT-OPIC; PUBCOMMENT-ELD; PUBCOMMENT-WQ
Subject: FW: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0015940001

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From: aldrimel@comcast.net <aldrimel@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 7:22 PM
To: PUBCOMMENT-OCC <PUBCOMMENT-OCC@tceq.texas.gov>
Subject: Public comment on Permit Number WQ0015940001

REGULATED ENTY NAME CONTINENTAL HOMES OF TEXAS

RN NUMBER: RN111115465

PERMIT NUMBER: WQ0015940001

DOCKET NUMBER:

COUNTY: HAYS

PRINCIPAL NAME: CONTINENTAL HOMES, KY-TEX PROPERTIES LLC

CN NUMBER: CN601721871, CN605862895

FROM

NAME: Melissa Aldrich

E-MAIL: aldrimel@comcast.net

COMPANY: ADBF, LLC

ADDRESS: 3739 DRUMMOND ST
HOUSTON TX 77025-2417

PHONE: 7132482642

FAX:

COMMENTS: Dear TCEQ administrators, The proposed discharge from the proposed new water treatment plant will potentially flood property that I co-own. The property lies along FM2001, adjoining to Plum Creek Conservation District Reservoir Site 12 (2 tracts, ~40 acres and ~14 acres, west of the reservoir), as well as south of FM2001 (2 tracts, ~98 acres each). The reservoir is set to be rehabilitated within the next two years, and the specific plans for this rehab, as well as the expected effect on my property, have potentially not been considered with this permit application. Currently, the

reservoir level drops 2-5 feet when rainfall is not as plentiful, and this drop creates reserve for when there is heavy rainfall (May and November, typically). There is a spillway on the northeast side of the reservoir. I am concerned that, if the reservoir is to be raised several feet, and the reservoir stays at a "full" level most of the time, as I would expect, if there is constant flow in from a new water treatment facility, some of my property will be flooded and lost, particularly if capacity is later added to the treatment plant. The permit seekers own a great amount of land around the proposed water treatment plant, and I wonder if consideration could be given to evaporation acreage, which is, I believe, utilized by municipalities such as San Marcos and Austin. The permit seekers should be required to show that the reservoir's capacity to contain floodwater, and water levels on my property, would not change with their inflow and the reservoir rehabilitation. Brushy Creek, a dry creek bed, is little more than a crack in the earth along much of its length, at least the portion on my property. Running significantly more water, in a constant stream, through the "unnamed tributary" (another dry creek bed?) between the proposed water treatment plant and the reservoir will certainly erode soil on that property (not mine), changing how rainfall will run to the reservoir and surrounding properties. I am not opposed to development--I know people need good places to live and conduct business. I appeal to TCEQ to require the permit seekers to provide more information, such as 1) engineering study data of the effects on reservoir levels, considering a rehabilitated reservoir, 2) effects on neighboring land water levels in drought and flood, 3) consideration of detention ponds or evaporation acreage for the treatment plant, 4) consideration of creating concrete ditching/banking for the "unnamed tributary," to contain and control the flow of water from the plant, 5) consideration of options such as dredging next to the reservoir to increase capacity without increasing the water level, 6) some protocol to guarantee that effluent from the water treatment plant is clean and regularly inspected by TCEQ, with reports sent to neighboring property owners, 7) some guarantee that neighboring properties will not experience foul odors, which will greatly decrease the value of their properties, 8) some guarantee that, if the current permit seekers sell or transfer ownership/stewardship of the plant, the succeeding owners/stewards abide by an effluent quality and odor control protocol. I appreciate this opportunity to voice my concerns. The property I co-own is my deceased grandfather's and grandmother's dairy farm, and cattle still graze the land. There is an underpass that allows the cattle to graze grass on both north and south sides of FM2001. This underpass is subject to flooding from the reservoir periodically, of course. I am aware that the widening of FM2001 (5-8 years away?) by TxDOT will greatly affect the growth of this area, and I and my co-owners seek to preserve the quality (and quantity) of the land as long as possible. There are many trailer homes, some converted to more permanent abodes, along the west side of my property that lies south of FM2001. The homes were positioned along Quail Run in the 1950s and 1960s, on lots that are smaller than one-half acre each (which is the acreage currently required for individual septic tanks). Several of the Quail Run septic systems are outdated and are failing, so that their sewage effluent runs behind the old dairy building along a creek bed (that used to be dry). That creek bed is usually marshy now. I have spoken with Hays County Environmental personnel about the possibility of Hays County writing grants to obtain federal assistance money for replacing failed septic systems for low-income property owners--Travis County currently does this. I was told that the federal grant money was only for counties with populations greater than 200,000, and I believe, per the 2020 census, that Hays County now exceeds that number, so I would hope that something could be done to help clean up the Quail Run problem. I am including this Quail Run information as an example of how easy it is for land to become polluted with waste, and how difficult it is to clean it up. Hopefully, the proposed water treatment plant would not create more problems. If there is no response to my appeal for more information, then I request a contested case hearing. Thank you, Melissa Barnes Aldrich ADBF, LLC 713-248-2642 cell ALDRIMEL@COMCAST.NET 3739 Drummond Street Houston, TX 77025 Applicant's name: Melissa Aldrich Property affected: Hays County Tax Appraisal properties R14595 and R14592 (A02.19 Z Hinton Survey, 14.14 and 40.00 acres north of FM2001 and west of reservoir site 12) and R14589 and R14594 (96.50 and 94.75 acres south of FM2001 and southwest of reservoir site 12)