STATE OF COLORADO

Ebert - DNR, Jared <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

Objection to Permit application M-2017-036

John Gross <johngross888@gmail.com> Thu, Nov 9, 2017 at 4:25 PM
To: "Ebert - DNR, Jared" <jared.ebert@state.co.us>

My apologies. Here's the same letter, with my phone number.

John Gross
[Quoted text hidden]

JGross objection to Permit M-2017-036 Loveland Ready Mix w phone.pdf
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To:
CO Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety
Attn: Jared Ebert
1313 Sherman St, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

From:
John Gross
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LaPorte, CO 80535
970 581-7983
(physical address: 3400 Orchard Drive, LaPorte, CO)

RE: Objections to Permit Application: M-2017-036, Knox Pit

Loveland Ready-Mix Concrete, Inc. LaPorte Operations, Knox Pit Construction Material Application 112

By this letter, I am registering my objection to the Loveland Ready-Mix Application M-2017-036 for a "Construction Materials Regular 112 Operation Reclamation Permit". I live less than ½ mile from the proposed operation, and I will be hugely impacted should the quarry commence operations. I am clearly an **Aggrieved Party** with regard to this application.

I request the Mined Land Reclamation Board fully consider the very considerable, demonstrable economic, ecological, and human health issues that will certainly result from this operation. Here I focus on issues for which there is substantial, published, and peer-reviewed literature and evidence for impacts, but I should mention there are other technical issues with the application (a very notable one is the omission of Exhibit C).

Three major and specific issues:

1. **Property values will be reduced**: Prior research has clearly and unequivocally demonstrated that quarries reduce property values up to 3 miles away. The reduction in property values is proportional to proximity to the quarry, and nearby properties can anticipate having their value reduced by 25-30%. These results are consistent across locations in the U.S. and Canada. The application needs to fully account for the major economic impact on property values and subsequent tax losses to Larimer County.
2. **Truck traffic will be costly to the community**: There is a very considerable and established body of evidence demonstrating the negative financial, social, and health impacts of heavy truck traffic. An outstanding example of this is the fact that the City of Ft. Collins has prohibited truck leaving the nearby Martin Marietta quarry to exit south on Taft Hill, the road on which the quarry is located. Heavy trucks are noisy, stinky, unsafe, dirty, they spill load, impede traffic, make it hard to cross the road, and they cause rapid road degradation. A huge increase in truck traffic will clearly reduce economic, aesthetic, and environmental values in areas near the quarry and cement plant. The application and associated studies need to much more thoroughly evaluate the impact of heavy truck traffic and design necessary road improvements to accommodate this.

3. **Water impact assessments are inadequate**: Prior Loveland Ready-Mix application studies (cited in Section 22.0 as Telesto 217b) projected groundwater depletions of more than 9 feet in the quarry, and of five feet or more in properties adjacent to and near the quarry. The application addressed potential (but inconvenient) remediation of shallow wells, but it did not assess impacts to the many trees and other vegetation. The impacts of groundwater depletion will be seasonal, and they vary with differences in natural rainfall.

   In the LaPorte area, we have observed tree death long distances (100's of yards) from past gravel pits that occurred when the pits were constructed and dewatered. Evidence of tree death can still be seen at the nearby Stegner, Timberline Resources, and Martin Marietta pits (all three within 3 miles of the proposed quarry). Many of the existing tree species are known to be shallow rooting, and they are very likely to die with a sudden reduction in ground water level. The application needs to include a much more comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts of groundwater reduction, and include a realistic mitigation plan for existing trees and other vegetation in the impacted area, including effects during average and drought years. This is completely absent in the current application