



COLORADO

**Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety**

Department of Natural Resources
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, Colorado 80203

November 17, 2017

Andre LaRoche
Transit Mix Concrete Co.
444 E. Costilla St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

**RE: Objection and Comments Received to a 112c Reclamation Permit Application,
Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry, File No. M-2017-049**

Mr. LaRoche:

The Division has received a timely objection and comments to the Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry application, File No. M-2017-049. The objection and comments were received within the public comment period which began when the application was filed for review on November 9, 2017. Therefore, pursuant to Rule 1.4.9(2)(a), the Division shall schedule the permit application for a hearing before the Mined Land Reclamation Board (Board). Notice of the Board hearing will be sent once it is scheduled.

Timely objection received:

- 1) November 16, 2017 - Objection received from Monica Loftis, dated November 14, 2017.

Timely letters of support received:

- 1) November 14, 2017 - Letter of support received from Mike and Janet Robinson, dated November 14, 2017.
- 2) November 15, 2017 - Letter of support received from Norma Saint James, not dated.
- 3) November 15, 2017 - Letter of support received from Michael R. McCorkle, not dated.
- 4) November 15, 2017 - Letter of support received from Brad Lehman, not dated.
- 5) November 15, 2017 - Letter of support received from Jerry Schmitz, not dated.
- 6) November 16, 2017 - Letter of support received from Shannon Michael Hurst, not dated.

Copies of the objection and comments are enclosed for your records. Please inform the Division of how the Applicant intends to address the jurisdictional issues raised by the objectors. This information can be submitted during the adequacy review process.



If you have any questions, you may contact me by telephone at 303-866-3567, ext. 8129, or by email at amy.eschberger@state.co.us.

Sincerely,



Amy Eschberger
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures: Objection and comment letters as listed above (7 total)

EC: Paul Kos, Norwest Corporation at: pkos@norwestcorp.com
Wally Erickson, DRMS at: wally.erickson@state.co.us



AME
LETTER OF OBJECTION M2017-049

November 14th 2017

RECEIVED
NOV 16 2017
DIVISION OF RECLAMATION
MINING AND SAFETY

Ms Amy Eschberger

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

Dear Ms. Eschberger:

I am addressing this letter to express my deep concern regarding Transit Mix's new mining application {M2017-049, Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry}. It is all about the safety of whomever drives down on Highway 115, which includes all the people who live along Hwy 115 and the commuters from Canon City to Colorado Springs and vice versa.

The granting of this application will mean approximately 100 trucks more on the road PER DAY!. This Hwy, as you probably know, is already dangerous for the commuters as it is and I don't think it was planned to hold that much truck traffic:


- 1) It doesn't have a median, a concrete wall or a guard rail built in the middle of it in order to stop the trucks for swerving to the other side of the road into the incoming traffic due to flats or other circumstances as to avoid hitting deer.
- 2) It only has one traffic lane each way for most of the driving with the exception of some passing lanes. Even Academy Blvd has two lanes or more and a median. Hwy 50, 94, 24 and 85 -87 have two or three lanes each way and not as many trucks as we already do.
- 3) There have been several serious and fatal accidents on this Hwy caused by trucks which undoubtedly will increase if more trucks are allowed to drive on this road on daily basis.
- 4) Not only truck drivers but others drive at 70 or 75 mph and get away with it due to the lack of law enforcement presence on the highway. In the 5 years that I have lived in the area, only a few times have I seen a State Trooper and I drive every day twice a day.

In other words this Highway needs to be improved dramatically (more traffic lanes, not only passing lanes and a concrete wall or guard rail in the middle) before more trucks are allowed on this road. We already have three quarries operating in the area between Penrose and the Springs, and a lot of trucks driving on it other than quarry trucks.

I am aware that the State of Colorado looks for more revenue but it shouldn't be at the cost of the lives of its residents. If this application gets approved every lost life due to a traffic accident will be on the conscience of the ones who approved it.

Thank you for your understanding of my concern.

Monica Loftis


162 N Kathy Ln., Colorado Springs 80926

Phone Nr. 719-442-1604 – Cell 719-323-8334- e-mail monicamloftis@yahoo.com



Letter of Support for Hitch Rack Ranch Permit

Mike Robinson <Mike_Robinson@transitmix.com>
To: "Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us" <Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us>

Tue, Nov 14, 2017 at 4:48 PM

Ms. Eschberger,

Please consider my attached letter of support for the Transit Mix Quarry application at Hitch Rack Ranch.

Thank-you!

Mike Robinson, AHC

Project Manager / Estimator



McKinney/Transit Mix Door & Hardware

419 So. El Paso St.

Colorado Springs, Co. 80903

Ph: (719) 475-0100 ext 3058, Cell (719) 428-8972, Fax: (719) 475-1471

mike_robinson@transitmix.com



111417 - Hitch Rack Ranch Letter of Support.docx
24K

Mike and Janet Robinson

November 14, 2017

Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Attn: Amy Eschberger Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us
1313 Sherman St., Suite 215
Denver, CO.

Ms. Eschberger::

As a member of the Transit Mix family, I write this letter in support of Transit Mix's application to open a quarry on the privately owned Hitch Rack Ranch in southwestern El Paso County.

Transit Mix has long been an integral part of the El Paso County community and economy. Since 1945 we have proudly provided much of the concrete that built the Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, NORAD, and other iconic structures, as well as countless businesses and private homes. We have been operating locally under the same ownership for more than 60 years. We take pride in being a part of the Colorado Springs and El Paso County communities, and continue to support local causes through monetary or personal time donations.

Transit Mix needs a new quarry in El Paso County. As the years of operation at Pikeview Quarry have increased, so has the number of homes in its vicinity. By looking for a new quarry location, we are making a business decision for the overall good of the community to make our city even more beautiful. The reclamation process cannot be completed when there is no other rock source available to us.

In Hitch Rack Ranch we have found the most ideal location for this endeavor. It is more secluded than any other viable site within economical range of Colorado Springs, with only 13 residences within one mile of its permit boundary. In comparison, there are 1500 residences within one mile of the Pikeview Quarry. In addition, unlike Pikeview, the quarry would only be minimally visible from any public road. The quarry would be a very small portion of a very large piece of private property, disturbing only 239 acres of the 1,432 acres total.

I understand that the quarry has been designed to minimize impacts to water resources and wildlife. The existing water resources in the Little Turkey Creek drainage are controlled by the creek, and these creek flows will continue during and after mining. By staying south of Little Turkey Creek, wildlife corridors are maintained throughout the operation of the quarry, and the reclamation plan has been specifically designed to create wildlife habitat.

A permit for Hitch Rack Ranch would not only secure the future of Transit Mix as a business, but also help secure my future and the futures of the over 200 employees that are part of our team. Many of us have been members of the Colorado Springs, Pueblo and other surrounding communities for many years. Transit Mix Concrete Company's stability has afforded me with both the ability of taking care of my family's basic needs, and also with the small luxuries in life.

For these reasons among others, I urge the Mined Land Reclamation Board to please approve Transit Mix's application, not only for Colorado Springs, not only for Transit Mix as a whole, but for me and my family.

Sincerely,



Mike Robinson



Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

Norma E. St.James <Norma_St.James@transitmix.com>
To: "Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us" <Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us>

Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 6:17 AM

Hello,

Attached is a letter of support for this permit application.

Thank you,

Norma Saint James

Transit Mix Concrete



Hitch Rack permit application letter.docx
15K

To Whom It May Concern:

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Sincerely,

Norma Saint James

Transit Mix Concrete



FW: "Hitch Rack Permit Application"

Michael McCorkle <Michael_McCorkle@transitmix.com>
To: "Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us" <Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us>

Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 8:01 AM

Amy-

For your information and records. Thanks

Michael R McCorkle

-----Original Message-----

From: XeroxCopier@contmtl.com [mailto:XeroxCopier@contmtl.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 7:57 AM

To: Michael McCorkle

Subject: Scanned from the TMC Main Upstairs Xerox

Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you using a Xerox Multifunction Device.

Attachment File Type: pdf, Multi-Page

Multifunction Printer Location: TMC Main Upstairs

Device Name: COXUP



Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer.pdf
45K

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For these reasons among others, I urge the Mined Land Reclamation Board to please approve Transit Mix's application, not only for Colorado Springs, not only for Transit Mix as a whole, but for me and my family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael McRee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "McRee" clearly distinguishable.



Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

Bradley Lehman <Bradley_Lehman@transitmix.com>
To: "Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us" <Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us>

Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 11:11 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

I fully support Transit-Mix application for the Hitch Rack Ranch.

Thanks you very much.

Regards,

Brad Lehman



Scanned from the MDHI Front Xerox.pdf
113K

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the Transit Mix family, I write this letter in support of Transit Mix's application to open a quarry on the privately owned Hitch Rack Ranch in southwestern El Paso County.

Transit Mix has long been an integral part of the El Paso County community and economy. Since 1945 we have proudly provided much of the concrete that built the Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, NORAD, and other iconic structures, as well as countless businesses and private homes. We have been operating locally under the same ownership for more than 60 years. We take pride in being a part of the Colorado Springs and El Paso County communities, and continue to support local causes through monetary or personal time donations.

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For these reasons among others, I urge the Mined Land Reclamation Board to please approve Transit Mix's application, not only for Colorado Springs, not only for Transit Mix as a whole, but for me and my family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Lehman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Lehman



Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

Bradley Lehman <Bradley_Lehman@transitmix.com>
To: "Eschberger - DNR, Amy" <amy.eschberger@state.co.us>

Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 11:17 AM

Brad Lehman

641 S Rogers Dr

Pueblo West, CO 81007

(480)600-1750

Thank you very much.

Have a wonderful day☺

Brad

From: Eschberger - DNR, Amy [mailto:amy.eschberger@state.co.us]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 11:14 AM
To: Bradley Lehman
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

Hi Brad,

Pursuant to Rule 1.7.1(2)(a), in order for statements supporting or objecting to an application, petitions for a hearing, and/or submissions to become a party to be considered timely, written comments, protests and/or petitions must contain the **name**, **mailing address**, and **telephone number** of the interested parties.

Your letter will be added to the permit file. However, in order to be considered a party to the matter, please submit a mailing address and phone number.

Thanks,

Amy Eschberger

Environmental Protection Specialist



Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

Jerry Schmitz <Jerry_Schmitz@transitmix.com>

Wed, Nov 15, 2017 at 11:41 AM

To: "Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us" <Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us>

Amy,

Please find my letter of support for the Hitch Rack Ranch permit attached. I have been with Transit Mix for 32 years and totally believe this quarry will benefit not only Transit Mix but El Paso county as a whole.

Thank you for your time.

Thanks,

Jerry Schmitz

VP – Sales Administration

Transit Mix Concrete



719-475-0700

(F) 719-475-0226

Jerry_schmitz@transitmix.com



Hitch Rack.pdf
30K

To DRMS Board:

As a member of the Transit Mix family, I write this letter in support of Transit Mix's application to open a quarry on the privately owned Hitch Rack Ranch in southwestern El Paso County.

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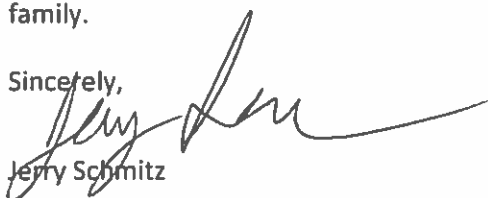
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Sincerely,



Jerry Schmitz



Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

Jerry Schmitz <Jerry_Schmitz@transitmix.com>
To: "Eschberger - DNR, Amy" <amy.eschberger@state.co.us>

Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 1:29 PM

Amy,

I have added my mailing address & telephone number to my letter. Thank you for your help.

Thanks,

Jerry Schmitz

VP – Sales Administration

Transit Mix Concrete



719-475-0700

(F) 719-475-0226

Jerry_schmitz@transitmix.com

From: Eschberger - DNR, Amy [mailto:amy.eschberger@state.co.us]
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Jerry Schmitz
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

[Quoted text hidden]

To DRMS Board:

As a member of the Transit Mix family, I write this letter in support of Transit Mix's application to open a quarry on the privately owned Hitch Rack Ranch in southwestern El Paso County.

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Sincerely,



Jerry Schmitz

2614 Ranger Ct

Colorado Springs, CO 80920

719-499-4369



Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

Mike Hurst <Mike_Hurst@transitmix.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2017 at 2:27 PM

To: "Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us" <Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us>

Attached is a letter for Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application. I do approve and want Hitch Rack open. Please and thank you for forwarding this letter.

Mike Hurst

-----Original Message-----

From: XeroxCopier@contmtl.com [mailto:XeroxCopier@contmtl.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2017 2:21 PM

To: Mike Hurst

Subject: hitch rack ranch

Please open the attached document. It was scanned and sent to you using a Xerox Multifunction Printer.

Attachment File Type: pdf, Multi-Page

Multifunction Printer Location: MDHI Front Office

Device Name: COXMDHIFRONT



hitch rack ranch.pdf

156K

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Sincerely,

Shannon Michael Hurst





Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

Mike Hurst <Mike_Hurst@transitmix.com>

Fri, Nov 17, 2017 at 1:53 PM

To: "Eschberger - DNR, Amy" <amy.eschberger@state.co.us>

No problem Amy below is my address and phone number

Shannon Michael Hurst

7658 Duck Hawk PL.

Fountain, CO. 80817

719-466-1064

From: Eschberger - DNR, Amy [mailto:amy.eschberger@state.co.us]

Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 11:23 AM

To: Mike Hurst

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Hitch Rack Ranch Permit Application

[Quoted text hidden]