



Permit 2017-049

1 message

Betsy Dean <betsywdean@yahoo.com>

Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 7:57 AM

To: amy.eschberger@state.co.us

Dear Amy-

Attached is a copy the letter being sent in USPS. I thought I'd send it by email also incase you didn't receive hard copy in time.

Thank you. Elizabeth Dean



Quarry Letter 1.docx

112K

3131 Little Turkey Creek Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80926
December 18, 2017

Ms. Amy Eschberger
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215
Denver, CO 80203

Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry Permit Application
#M-2017-049

Dear Ms. Eschberger:

Thank you for taking the time to consider the concerns of the neighbors of the proposed mine to be located on Little Turkey Creek Road.

My family has resided at 3131 Little Turkey Creek Road for the last 20 years, and I wanted to ask you to take into consideration the impact the mine may have on the simply lovely, adjacent community.

My husband and I searched for two years for a piece of property to build a home. We looked north, south, east and west of Colorado Springs. When our realtor, Gary Snyder, showed us Little Turkey Creek, we knew we had found exactly what we were looking for. He introduced us to Rosemary Almendinger, who owned the large ranch to the south and west of the plot we were considering. She and Gary shared the brokerage fee on our purchase.

We did our research as we had done on other potential land purchases...checking to be sure we understood the land use and potential changes around us. We were very pleased to have Fort Carson, Red Rock Valley, Nature Conservancy's Aiken Canyon, Eagle's Nest, Turkey Canyon Subdivision, Bauer Ranch, and Hitch Rack Ranch as our neighbors.

We perceived the only unknown to be Hitch Rack Ranch, but after spending time with Rosemary, we were relieved. She impressed us as an unmatched protector of this area. We knew her ranch was zoned as agricultural with a possible chance of becoming 35 acre residential sites.

It never occurred to us that a mining permit could be granted on this land in the middle of existing neighborhoods. I feel betrayed by State regulations and laws that might allow such an unthinkable land use change which could have a devastating impact on adjacent properties and the area's resources

We have loved the quiet, peaceful remoteness of our neighborhood. We drive 30 minutes every time we want to go to the store; we have endured floods, being snowed in, bears in the kitchen, rattle snakes in the dining room—all to live in a community of like-minded people who love the enduring beauty of the flora and fauna, foothills, sparkling creeks. We all moved here to be away from the hustle and bustle of town. Could that all be coming to an end? A very devastating thought.

As landowners, we are worried about a corporation with just a lease as an addition to this area. A mining operation's mission is the grinding down of the very foothills we would like to conserve. We worry about water quality, excessive noise, dust blowing down the canyon, interruption of the free movements of the wildlife along the creek, loss of our wells, and a devaluation of our land.

Please while reviewing regulations, numbers, business plans know that we and our neighbors who surround the proposed quarry site have made a financial and heartfelt commitments to these beautiful foothills at the intersection of four eco-systems . We wish deeply to keep this area free of a huge industrial mining operation that will chop down trees that are hundreds of years old and spend years grinding down the majestic scenery.

We have had many visitors to our home over the years, and everyone remarks on the beauty of this area and how lucky we are to have this special place. I always think "It is." I hope I won't have to think "It was."

Sincerley

Eizabeth W. Dean