

October 2, 2020

RE: Application by Peak Ranch Resource (File No. M2020041)

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St.
Denver, CO 80203

Imagine you've bought the home of your dreams. Imagine you just finished a major renovation of this home. Now imagine someone wants to put an 80-acre gravel pit next door.

The Brown family lives next door in a multi million-dollar home. I'm across the street. I am aggrieved and I'm seeking party status to testify at the hearing for the above referenced matter.

I am very concerned that the mining operation will literally drain the water table, and leave my home dry. Water is scarce in the Blue River Valley. Some of my neighbors have just a couple of gallons per minute. This proposed mine will have expansive water access, as the Hillyards, the former owners, had grandfathered rights. We simply cannot afford this drainage of water from the water table, nor from the Blue River.

There is no question the mere sight of an 80-acre gravel pit will harm and probably drop the value of my land and property by 50%.

There are 230 proposed gravel truck trips, clogging traffic, harming the roads with the heavy loads, and polluting the air.

Cyclists frequent the corridor between Peak Materials and the former Hillyard Family Ranch. Those people will be in danger from the increased truck traffic, and they'll be deeply breathing toxic effluent from the passing trucks. Summit County economically depends on the recreation industry. We can't allow commercial interests to despoil the beauty and tranquility we offer.

When neighbors tried to buy the Hillyard property rather see it become a gravel pit, Peak Materials applied huge pressure and said they would withdraw their offer if widow Hillyard didn't sell within hours.

A gravel pit doesn't belong wedged into a neighborhood, even if it's a rural neighborhood. We are entitled to the anticipated benefits of the pastoral rural neighborhood for which have paid good money. Placing the gravel pit in my neighborhood literally costs me money, risks the future use of my property and will cost my health.

I urge denial of the request for this mining permit. The State must understand that it may incur real liability, along with Peak Materials, should the water table be drained, or polluted by this proposed mining operation. As a citizen and a taxpayer, I object to the state assuming this risk, for the opportunity to mine something as ubiquitous as gravel.

Sincerely,

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