



Public Comment -- DRMS File No. M2020041 - New Gravel Pit application

1 message

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To: drms.temp@state.co.us

Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 11:50 AM

October 8, 2020

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety

[1313 Sherman St.](#)

[Denver CO 80203](#)

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to seek Party status to testify about the above-mentioned application by Peak Materials to establish a gravel mining operation at the site designated as Peak Ranch Resource. My wife and I have been residents of Silverthorne CO since 2004 and there is an existing Peak Materials Gravel Pit operation a few miles from our home. So, we have first-hand knowledge about the impact of this type of operation.

Accordingly, we strongly oppose issuing a mining permit to Peak Materials to establish a gravel mining operation at this site for the following reasons:

- * Terrible for the environment — abundant wildlife, birds, trees, and pasture in the valley cannot compete with the pollution (noise, air quality, and water quality) from an 80-acre gravel pit.

- * Terrible for the quality of water in the Lower Blue River — the River is a gold metal treasure in CO. There is no prediction on what will happen to the health of the river.

- * Terrible effect on the volume of water available to the local owners — digging a well(s) on the site may drastically compromise the area water table affecting local residents and ranchers.

- * Terrible for the infrastructure (roads and bridges) in the County — it has been estimated that heavy truck loads cause about 60% of the damage to our highways and there is limited funding available to keep the highways operable. This operation is projected to require 230 round trips on CO Rte 9 (Silverthorne operations to the proposed site); a round trip would start every 2 minutes that would cause a significant degradation of the quality of the highway.

* Terrible effect on traffic flows up and down CO Rte 9 — traffic would increase significantly with accompanying safety issues, including continuous truck traffic with frequent turns into and merges onto the highway, and (likely) numerous collisions with large animals (elk/deer). There also is the probability of an increase in car/truck collisions with dreadful effect.

* Terrible for the quality of life in the Valley as detailed in the Lower Blue Master Plan (Plan). This application basically ignores the tenets of the Plan that considers any industrial activity as inconsistent with the natural, rural, and economic values of the Valley. If we owned property in the Lower Blue Valley because of its pristine nature for these very reasons, we would be horrified to have this operation established nearby.

And then there are inconsistencies in the Plan as presented by Peaks Material:

* Limited information on the timeline for the site to be operational; first information had a 10 year plan that now has increased to “around” 15 years.

* No guarantee that Peak Materials would not expand in the valley rather than restore this site and return mining operations to the Silverthorne site as portrayed in the application.

I wish to be heard at the public hearing of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board when the Board takes up this application. Please add me to your e-mail distribution list notifying interested parties of the date, time, location, and format for this meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/George & Kathryn Resseguie

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