

STATE OF
COLORADO

Lennberg - DNR, Patrick <patrick.lennberg@state.co.us>

Comments related to permit # M1986-123, Kirtright Pit, Coulson Excavating

Mindy Hunter <pipalukshop@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 1, 2024 at 10:02 PM

To: Patrick.Lennberg@state.co.us

Cc: JShaddockMcNally@larimer.org

Dear Mr. Lennberg,

I am a resident of Thompson River Ranch in Johnstown, and I am sending this letter in response to the call for comments regarding the Kirtright Pit amendment (Notice dated June 14, 2024, from Patrick Lennberg) filed by Coulson Excavating Company, Inc. (Coulson). I live adjacent to both the Kirtright and Stroh Pits and am also neighbors with the owners of the Kirtright land- owned by Linda O'Brien and Randy Kirtright.

Additionally, I live by over 1000 households of people between the Thompson River Ranch neighborhood, Thompson Crossing and several apartment complexes that overlook the area as well.

I am writing you today to explain why I am against you allowing Mr. Coulson to delay the reclamation of the Kirtright pit. As few in our neighborhood are aware, Mr. Coulson is planning to build a huge mining operation right in our backyards, despite many concerns raised by the neighbors. He claims the mining will be finished in 7 years, but now in receiving this letter, I have to believe that is not his actual intent.

I spoke with Mr. Coulson on the phone and asked him what the letter meant when I received it, and he simply told me he was going from three lakes to 2. When I pressed further saying it sounded like he intended to build something basically in my backyard, he dismissed this saying it was to go from three lakes to two and he wasn't even sure why he had to send us a letter about it.

How is an average resident supposed to access and understand this information?

Had a neighbor not posted more information I would not have been privy to the actual plans. As I stated above, Linda has been my neighbor for 14 years. She has beautiful horses, and peaceful land. Mr. Coulson proposes to use her land without her permission to take that tranquility away and fill it with mining equipment, giant trucks, dust, noise and pollution.

I am obviously not an expert in gravel mines, however, in looking into this situation it seems like it has now been approximately 16 years since mining ended in the Kirtright pit, yet he has continually been allowed to push off reclamation. It feels very convenient he is now saying he can't reclaim something without digging yet another pit. Does the DRMS really consider pushing the reclamation of a mine completed in 2016 to 2031 a reasonable thing?

The area in question is in abominable condition and I feel very badly for the Kirtrights and O'briens that their property has been left in such a state. It truly shows a callous disrespect by this business that he now plans to destroy more of their property and speaks volumes to the kind of operation this company runs.

Is this what our neighborhood can expect to deal with for the next 7 years? And if we go off his track record and ability to push back on deadlines, are we just to accept another 16 to 20 years of a mining operation in our backyards?

Will we have the support from DRMS or Larimer county to make sure our rights and way of life are not being violated?

I believe the Stroh pit should have never been approved and the majority of people who live here have no idea what is coming due to, in my opinion, a business playing the system.

I am a mother of 3 boys who has lived Colorado 38 years, in Larimer County for over 20 years and a resident of our neighborhood for almost 15. I am asking you to consider the fact that there are thousands of

other people in this area who your decision impacts. Your decisions greatly impact the lives of the people living here.

No we can't stop the Stroh pit, but I can ask you to force Coulson to operate within the timelines and regulations set forth in his original permit. He has had more than enough time to complete what needs to be done and he needs to set the land back to rights.

Both the DRMS and Larimer County have a role to play in holding Coulson accountable and the DRMS can start by ensuring that Kirtright Pit is reclaimed as was initially required by their permit. I hope more stringent oversight will then continue with Coulson's future projects. We, the residents, are owed that much.

Sincerely,

Mindy Hunter