

STATE OF
COLORADO

Gagnon - DNR, Nikie <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

Bronco amendment M2003001

1 message

Ben Lobban <ben.lobban@yahoo.com>

Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 1:05 PM

Reply-To: Ben Lobban <ben.lobban@yahoo.com>

To: "drms_info@state.co.us" <drms_info@state.co.us>, "nikie.gagnon@state.co.us" <nikie.gagnon@state.co.us>

To Nikie Gagnon, Department of Reclamation Mining and Safety,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed amendment to Burco Colorado LLC's MLRB permit, which seeks approval for processing material at the site located in the southeast 1/4 of Section 12, Township 5 North, Range 65 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, within Weld County, Colorado. This area is generally bounded by WCR 58 to the north, and the existing Nissan Sand and Gravel Mine.

I am joined in this opposition by numerous neighboring landowners and affected parties, all of whom will be adversely impacted should this amendment be approved. A signed letter of opposition, which includes signatures from the majority of residents who will be directly affected, has already been submitted to your office.

The proposed amendment would allow Burco to move aggregate sorting machinery, conveyors, and stockpiles to a location above the existing Nissan Mine. This relocation poses significant concerns that will detrimentally affect the surrounding community. The following points highlight the most pressing issues:

1. Quality of Life Impact

The current operation has already caused significant noise, visual, and air quality disturbances. The proposed relocation of machinery and operations will bring the most disruptive aspects of the site directly to my and my neighbors' doorsteps. The aggregate sorting machinery and conveyors, in particular, will create substantial noise pollution. As it stands, the noise from the existing operations is audible within my home, and relocating these operations just a few hundred yards closer will make it unbearable. The constant noise from machinery, as well as the back-up alarms, will severely hinder our ability to enjoy our homes and peaceful neighborhood.

2. Air Quality and Dust Issues

The transportation and stockpiling of aggregate materials on the closer parcel, which is more exposed to wind, will exacerbate dust and air quality issues. These impacts, which are already problematic, will be intolerable if the proposed amendment is approved. My family has resided in this area since 1967, and it is unconscionable that Burco is willing to compromise the well-being of long-standing residents in pursuit of financial gain.

3. Negligence by Burco

Burco has shown a consistent disregard for operational guidelines under the current permit. They have routinely operated outside the designated hours, working before sunrise and after sunset, seven days a week, disturbing the peace with machinery noise, headlights, and back-up alarms. Despite being confronted on these issues numerous times, Burco has repeatedly claimed delays in their operations as an excuse. This pattern of negligence undermines confidence in their ability to operate responsibly and further raises concerns about their handling of the proposed expansion.

4. Previous Permitting and Failures to Address Mitigation

Burco received Weld County Planning Commission approval for a concrete plant in October 2018, with a three-year timeline to begin operations. This approval was extended, yet the latest extension expired over a year ago in October 2023. My neighbors and I have petitioned Weld County to revoke the permit due to Burco's failure to act within the required timeframes. Additionally, the company has failed to fulfill visual mitigation requirements by leaving derelict equipment on the site since 2019 without taking any steps to develop or address the unsightly appearance of the property. This lack of care is deeply concerning, especially in light of Burco's request to expand operations.

In summary, the proposed amendment is met with widespread opposition from the community, and the concerns outlined above reflect the significant and measurable negative impacts that this approval would bring. I respectfully urge the Department of Reclamation Mining and Safety to consider the interests of the local residents over the expansion of a Canadian-based company that has failed to demonstrate community responsibility during its time in Weld County.

I am available to provide further information or discuss any questions regarding my submission. Please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Ben Lobban
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