

Dr. Joseph J & Mary A Scuderi
68044 Tulare Road
Montrose, Colorado 81403

March 28, 2013

Mr. Wally Erickson
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Durango Field Office
691 County Road 233, Suite A-2
Durango, Colorado 81301

RECEIVED
MAR 29 2013
Durango Field Office
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

RE: Uncompahgre Pit, File No. M-2013-007

Dear Mr. Erickson:

The concerned citizens in Montrose County have many in depth environmental issues that need to be addressed before the State and Montrose County Governmental Agencies approve the gravel, asphalt and concrete plant for Rocky Mountain Aggregate and Construction, LLC.- Permit No. M2013-007. Therefore it is recommended you do not approve this project at the T Road location at this time.

We believe spot zoning is an illegal practice that favors one individual at the expense of others, especially considering the large number of individuals who live in the given area of this pit. The River's Edge subdivision and other minor divisions are affiliate communities directly across from the pit. Numerous residents and a bed & breakfast surround the project. This massive industrial nightmare will result in decades of noise, water and air pollution from mining, petroleum and toxic dust, with a parade of dump trucks clogging narrow county roads and Highway 550 which cannot accommodate the present day two lane traffic much less the hundred plus added large quarry equipment.

There are studies, which show the air and noise pollution harm wildlife living and nesting near gravel, asphalt and concrete plants. We have experienced this first hand on Fountain Creek when the Blue Hereon Crane population was compromised. The Uncompahgre River is a very valuable wetland, which is less than a mile away from this future quarry operation. There are eagles, humming birds, ducks, and geese nests on the river and ponds with a fox den, deer, raccoons and other animals living near the river. The endangered Gunnison Sage Grouse has been seen on the proposed site. The health and welfare of human beings living around and near this pit will be subject to carcinogens and pollution, which could destroy one's health, especially several small children under the age of nine which live in this given area. No two asphalts are chemically alike because of the chemical content of the original crude petroleum form. Concrete, crushed rock and asphalt additives, plus operating temperatures of recycled paving materials cause increase in toxic emissions as is

documented by the EPA Division. (Case-EPA Division 1996) Therefore exposure to fumes and toxic dust from this plant will cause headaches, skin rashes, fatigue, reduced appetite, throat and eye irritation along with coughing and lung disease. The Air Pollution Control Division under the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has documented these facts to be true. There is no biological mechanism for cleaning the body tissues from the toxins released from these types of plant operation pollution.

The water quality may also pose serious health issues to the largely populated area from the pit. The storm water run off and the water being used by this facility can lead to water quality impairment of our drinking water by polluting the aquifer because the sandy soil drains quickly. (Case Va Released 2009 by EPA.) Sediment ponds leak into the aquifer, which will have lime silo and fly ash from the site as stated in their permit. This is not only a health hazard to humans but also wildlife and fish in the area. It would be a true poison to our natural environment.

The irrigation ditch which Rocky Mountain Aggregate and Construction LLC will use is not piped but rather an open ditch carrying water to farmers in the area and the crops they grow could become contaminated with chemicals which infiltrate their fields from this proposed quarry. This would obviously have a negative impact on the agriculture food chain for humans, farm animals and wildlife downstream.

The permit request also states, "the soil area is covered with cobbles, stone, boulders and un-weathered bedrock." There is documentation, which shows a great deal of radioactive materials exists in these materials, which will be crushed at this site. It is well known and has been proven that radioactive material is a carcinogen, and causes respiratory cancer. This substance could be carried in the dust along with crystalline silica created by this plant. The pit will be located in a high wind belt; the wind blow west to east and vice versa. The direction of the wind pattern in this given area will increase the corrosion and is harmful to wildlife, humans, farm animals and vegetation. Breathing the particles from this deadly dust could cause severe health issues for the many residents that live in this area. The dust will be produced from blasting, crushing, screening and stacking operations as well as conveyor belts and loaders plus truck transport on site and off site. Dust is also produced during the overburden removal of berms and wind blowing over stockpiles and across the pit floor. How will the topsoil stockpile stated in Rocky Mountain Aggregate's permit report be secured without blowing dust pollution, if not used for at least a year? If approved, what agency will closely monitor toxic dust pollution and will the same agency make sure the natural berms are not totally destroyed? How often will this be checked? Also will all the heavy equipment be visually present after the pit operation starts and the mining continue for a number of years?

There have been a number of serious accidents at the Tulare and T Roads because the heavy traffic that already exists on Highway 550. What enforcement mechanism will be in place for future accidents, windshield damage to autos caused from gravel

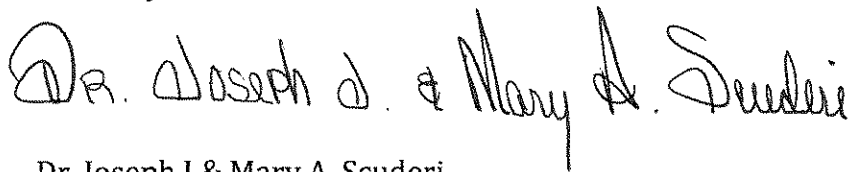
and concrete trucks entering 550? Who will be responsible for the road damage that will occur from the heavy equipment usage on all County and State roadways from this project?

Auburn University Studies show a significant decrease in property values, which are permanent, especially for home and businesses adjacent and next to the quarry operations. Therefore, we are requesting Montrose County conduct a reliable economic impact study by an outside independent firm to learn and document the real cost taxpayers will face in the true future value of their properties.

Converting recreational, historical sites and the residential area into a heavy industrial project is radical change and will cause Montrose County's future overall economic health to stagnate. The pit will be detrimental to the Fort Crawford Historical Site, which is less than 3/10 a mile away, and the scenic route with the majestic San Juan Mountains to the South. These attractions lead to tourist campgrounds and business establishments, which are vital to this community. Are Montrose County Officials concerned about the negative long term financial and health impact this pit will have on its citizens in this populated part of the county? Have government officials considered that two quarries are already in existence south of the proposed gravel site?

In summary, we respectfully request that Montrose County and the State Agencies that would grant permission for this gravel pit to operate, conduct an independent objective study before moving forward with approval of Rocky Mountain Aggregate and Construction, LLC- Permit No.M2013-007. The study should include issues of fragile wildlife and the health and welfare of those living near this proposed pit. The study should include the air, toxic dust and fumes, noise, traffic and property values that will be affected by this project. We request that copies of this research be made available to all the concerned citizens living near the proposed pit and submitted as part of the public record regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr. Joseph J. & Mary A. Scuderi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Joseph J & Mary A. Scuderi