

April 12, 2013

Carter and Stacy Trask
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Montrose, CO 81403
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Mr. Wally Erickson
Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Durango Field Office
691 County Road 233, Suite A-2
Durango, Co 81301

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APR 15 2013
Durango Field Office
Division of Reclamation,
Mining and Safety

Dear Mr. Erickson:

We are writing in response to the proposed gravel pit located west of Highway 550 and T- road (File No. M-2013-007; Montrose County special use permit #SU-13-0004) filed by Rocky Mountain Aggregate. We respectfully solicit your support in our efforts to oppose this application because of the negative economic and environmental impact on surrounding residents and motor vehicle safety along Highway 550.

Economic shortfalls will come in the form of reduced new home construction and a lowering of current residential property values. These financial drawbacks will be a direct result of the environmental issues which are inherent in any such operation. Aggregate operations generate large amounts of dust and noise, loss of wildlife habitat, and create large decade long scars on the land. We feel an environmental impact study needs to be done prior to the approval of this permit. Do you know of anyone who wants to live near a gravel pit?

Vehicle safety is another concern for this heavily traveled portion of Highway 550. As we understand, this 250 acre operation may generate in excess of 100 additional vehicles accessing T-road. In the 14 years we have lived at our address we have seen four vehicle accidents at this intersection. They resulted from traffic failing to yield as homeowners were attempting to turn off of Highway 550. Increased heavy truck traffic may also lead to premature road wear and roadway hazards from loose gravel falling from trucks. Will highway 550 be widened, or a turning lane added? Will T-road be paved to reduce dust?

These issues have not been adequately discussed or resolved. Though there are numerous state and federal regulations regarding such sites we feel this location should not be developed with so many serious potential problems and close proximity to numerous homeowners. The homeowners living nearby moved to this area for the great quality of life. We take pride in our homes and the rural undeveloped nature of Montrose County. This special use permit does not appear to promote the best interest of the general public's health, safety and welfare.

Thank you for you time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Carter Trask



Stacy Trask

