

NOV 25 2013

RECEIVED

November 21, 2013

FILED

DEC 06 2013

Nancy Nuttbrock
Deputy Director of the Land Quality Division
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Herschel Building, 3-W
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

RE: Objection to the issuance of the Seherr-Thoss Sand & Gravel Small Mine Permit

Dear Ms. Nuttbrock:

I am writing to express my objection to issuance of the Seherr-Thoss Sand & Gravel Small Mine Permit.

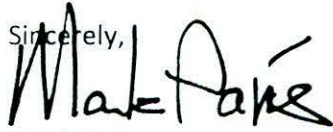
I am a Wyoming native who has lived out of my home state for many years. Recently I purchased a home site in the Melody Ranch neighborhood (adjacent to this proposed open pit mining operation) with the intent of building a home in my native state so my wife, also a Wyoming native, and I could retire and enjoy the beauty and quality of life of our home state. We picked Jackson not only for the quality of life and beauty but because of the manner in which the Jackson community manages the area's wonderful resources. We selected the Melody Ranch neighborhood because of its quiet, rural atmosphere and the care residents have taken in maintaining the area.

I have devoted the past 40-plus years of my life developing real estate in Colorado, Florida and Nevada. Much of this development has occurred in environmentally sensitive areas. I am very familiar with these types of mining operations. I can say without equivocation allowing the Sherr-Thoss mining operation to move forward would be one of the most irresponsible decisions I will have encountered in my career. The long-term impact on the area's infrastructure and environment won't be able to be measured for years to come. The noise, traffic, air quality, wildlife and loss of property values will be immediately measured. The safety of families driving, cycling and walking in the area will be impacted. I also know from personal experience these types of operations can result in increased levels of vandalism and theft.

Allowing this mining operation to proceed is irresponsible. Allowing this mining operation to proceed will have a negative short-term and long-term impact on the environment. Allowing this mining operation to proceed will have a negative impact on property values. Allowing this mining operation to proceed will have a negative impact on the health and well-being of the many families who live in the area.

Make no mistake. This is not a small sand and gravel operation. This is a 37-acre open pit mine. It should not be allowed to proceed.

I have attached a list impacts developed by civil and environmental engineers with experience in these types of situations.

Sincerely,


Mark Paris
9105 Crystal Lake Court
Las Vegas, NV 89013


NOV 25 2013

RECEIVED

Encl

cc: Demerie Northrop
Grand Teton Property Management
PO Box 2282
Jackson, WY 83001

A list of impacts a mining operation can have on adjacent development.

1. Fugitive Dust (FD). Any type of soil disturbance will create FD. While minor grading operations can typically control FD with the application of water, a large mining and crushing operation inevitably creates FD at a rate and volume that water simply does not suffice. This is due to the overall size of the operation as well as the inability to apply water directly to the material during the screening and crushing operation. FD may create air quality as well as quality of life issues for the surrounding residents.
2. Fugitive Noise (FN). This type of large scale activity requires larger construction equipment that is track driven, not rubber tire driven. Track driven machinery creates noise levels many times higher than rubber tire machines. Additionally, crushers typically utilize conveyor belt systems and crushing technology that generate noise at extreme levels. Moreover, their operations are typically serving the constructors that will need material at the beginning of work day meaning work hours will typically start at 4-5am when ambient noise is at its lowest point, making any noise from the operation travel further and disturb a greater number of residences.
3. Runoff. The area that is proposed for the mining operation is/was an old farm. Farms use a number fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides to help ensure maximum production of the farm. These chemicals remain in the soils or leach into the underlying groundwater. The proposed operation will almost certainly cause some groundwater to surface as the groundwater elevations in the area are 4-9 feet (adjusting seasonal). By exposing the groundwater, the operation may unintentionally allow contamination to be spread by runoff of groundwater containing the byproducts of many years of farming.
4. Groundwater quality and elevation. In addition to contaminants already contained within the groundwater, allowing groundwater to be exposed increases the risk that new contaminants, which are part of any mining and crushing operation, be allowed into the groundwater system including VOCs etc to run and maintain equipment. Additionally, due to the groundwater fluctuation, it is possible the remove of several acres of soil over the groundwater table adjacent to existing development could cause a sudden evacuation of groundwater from the surrounding areas. This in turn would result in a sudden settlement in soils surrounding the operation, including those residents adjacent to the operation.