

Sheri Lacy

143 Legacy Lane

Alto, NM

Re: AQB 21-57

I am a senior citizen that lives less than 102 Meters from Roper's proposed concrete batch plant. I was looking forward to retiring in the next 3 months and spending all my time at my house in Alto. I planned to be sitting on my back porch looking at the beautiful mountains and smelling that breathtaking mountain air. Now it seems that this will be impossible due to the proposed concrete batch plant that is locating right across the road from my house. This plant will be releasing tons of harmful particulates into the air. These harmful pollutants can penetrate deep in the lungs. Studies by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have shown that people who inhale this dust or particulates are at an increased risk of developing diseases like lung cancer, COPD, kidney diseases, and silicosis. I am sure that workers will be wearing protective gear at the plant as required by OSHA safety regulations. The workers will only be exposed to the hazards during their time at the plant. My husband and I will not be able to escape the harmful exposure for 24 hours a day, every day. The dust will be visible as it settles on everything outside, but some of the harmful particulates will not be visible. If I try to sweep the porch or dust inside my house, I will be stirring up the harmful particulates and inhaling them. I will have no protection from inhaling the harmful particles each day hour after hour. There will be no barrier to protect my home or my body from being infiltrated with this harmful air. After reading studies researching what is the safest distance for living close to a concrete batch plant, I saw that most of the studies recommended living no closer than 1500 Meters. My house is 102 Meters from the location chosen to build the plant. I will also be exposed to the black carbon and nitrogen dioxide produced by numerous trucks idling while waiting to be unloaded or waiting to be loaded. Who will monitor the plant's harmful emissions to make sure they are staying within acceptable ranges when and if the plant gets up and running?

How will the NMED make sure that close neighbors are protected from these harmful particulates?

I am also concerned about possible ground water contamination due to storm runoff. Water is a limited resource that we can't afford to overlook the consequences of contaminated water. Alto has suffered through drought conditions for several years so water is vital to everyone.

The Secretary of the Environment has denied Roper's Request for an Air Permit after extensive consideration on the effects on the environment in that location and the surrounding residential homes. Please DENY Roper's appeal based on the same considerations and conclusions. Thank you for your time.

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