

Katherine Nelson

To Whom this Concerns,

Hello, my name is Katherine Nelson, and I am a resident of Alto, New Mexico. I live about 5 miles down the road from this proposed location for a concrete batch plant. My opposition to this plant being constructed in such a beautiful scenic location is amplified by the level of disconcert this individual (Roper) has displayed throughout these proceedings. His former neighbors would be dreadfully impacted by this environmental hazard, but he doesn't care. This plant has no place in the scenic community of Alto, New Mexico. It is a hazard to the elk and deer that currently graze on that property when they wander off the Wilderness Area daily to graze there because it is just a short distance away. The bright lights that are associated with the operation of a plant like this would be destructive to plants, wildlife, and humans living in that area as well. Then there is the noise level this plant would generate along with the dust which is a known hazard to the health of individuals within miles of a plant like this. That type of dust can cause numerous and even deadly health issues for those who live nearby, and there are numerous people who live near this proposed site. This is a known retirement community, I can't even imagine the number of individuals whose health would be severely impacted. Those health issues have been researched extensively and I am including a couple of links to those here. New Mexico has winds that can reach up to 90 mph and last year they did just that here. This will mean that dust from a plant like this would travel miles as well impacting the Wilderness Area just down the road. The destruction of flora and fauna in the Wilderness Area could be enormous, add to that, any landowner's property and homes within the range of that trail of blowing dust would also be impacted dramatically, and there are many.

Plants like this, as you know, require large heavy trucks that are needed to haul concrete in and out of a facility like this, and they are a known road hazard. But this mountain community has an exceptionally active tourist population who frequently have little to zero experience driving in the mountainous area in which we live. I have seen how these trucks operate already on Devils Canyon Road in Lincoln County. That road was once a sleepy mountain dirt road but recently it has become an even more dangerous road because of a gravel pit that has been established in that area. Those heavy trucks take up nearly both sides of the road coming and going so frequently that after one time of getting stuck between two of these trucks on that road, I won't go near it again. That experience was very scary. Those types of trucks and dump trucks will be coming and going from the intersection of NM Hwy 48 and 220 with heavy loads. Those dangerous trucks have the potential to put the lives of tourists and the people who live and work in this community at greater risk of a bad accident. That is already a dangerous intersection because of the steep incline there, and this would only make it exponentially worse. Then there is the pollution factor that gets amplified by a very dirty plant like a concrete batch plant. This is the waste runoff that occurs from a number of common practices that these plants routinely perform. These biohazards are easily found online, but here are just a few commonly known environmental impacts to areas near or around a concrete plant:

"Nitrogen oxide (NOx) can cause or contribute to a variety of health problems and adverse environmental impacts, such as ground-level ozone, acid rain, global warming, water quality deterioration, and visual impairment" (EPA.GOV,2022).

Concrete Plants are an enormous environmental hazard and the U.S. Government has pages of information on how these plants are dangerous to humans, plants, and wildlife alike. The community of Alto is a pristine spot right next to a Wilderness Area and a National Forest where people come to get away from these types of health hazards. And, the road in which this plant is proposed is a Scenic Byway for heaven's sake! What would make anyone want to put something so unpleasant in such a beautiful spot in our county? The only thing that I can come up with is greed and a complete lack of humanity. It's sad but it's all many of us who live here can come up with.

I know that my home in New Mexico is more valuable than that, and our beautiful community of Alto is too. Those who live here love it and value the incredible views around us, we aren't taking it for granted. But to have so little concern for your own neighbor's health and happiness is something I will never understand or stand by without doing what I can to say no to an awful idea. I have faith that those I've voted for and this state, along with the Environmental Agency taxpayers provide will put civility, our lands, and the health of its citizens first. Please stop this awful legal battle for good.

Thank you,
Katherine Nelson