

My husband and I live approximately 1 mile from the proposed batch plant site as the crow flies. We own a wedding venue, and our current pristine view looks out at Sierra Blanca Mountain. We are closed in March and April because the white sands from White Sands National Monument create a haze over the normally beautiful mountain. Between our venue and the mountain is the proposed concrete batch plant site, which, if allowed, will certainly close us down. Can you imagine any couples wanting a white smoke background in their wedding photos? I can't.

But we are certainly far from the only people who would be adversely affected. Putting a concrete batch plant this close to a youth church camp, an organic nursery, around other area residents, and our wedding venue is not in the interest of the greater good or our environment. There are many other potential sites in the area a concrete batch plant can be built instead – potential sites that will not affect this number of existing residents and businesses.

The other point I wanted to address is that Roper Construction was allowed by NMED to redo his permit application multiple times due to mistakes in his application. Multiple times. I won't quote the number because I've heard 10 and I've heard 20. Now, after we've had a ruling against the permit, he is asking again for the permit. I understand the right to appeal a case, but at what point do those of us holding our collective breath – concerning the pollution, our potential loss in quality of life, and the loss of our quiet, beautiful area – get to put this to rest? I have heard that there are more cows than people in Lincoln County. If this is true, there must be a more suitable place for this concrete plant. We ask that you deny this permit application once again. Thank you for your consideration and for listening to my neighbors and me.

Susanne Mathis