

# Virginia Thompson

This proceeding might be renamed:

"Ryan Roper & Air Quality Board versus Quality of Life in Alto NM"

Mr. Vigil said he understands the disruptions to area residents BUT has insisted throughout that NMED is fully within its statutorily granted powers to approve Roper Construction's Air Quality Permit, approval based solely on the representations of the Applicant, Roper Construction, as to plant configuration, what technologies might be used to achieve proposed emission controls and the like.

Seems sketchy. Also sketchy is how many cubic yards might or might not be produced in one year, down now from a max production of 500,000/cu. yards/per year (roughly 53 acre feet of water would be necessary to make that quantity) to 4 acre feet of water, enough to make 37,000 cubic yards of cement. Quite a difference, obviously.

The message we residents of Alto have gotten from NMED is: "We feel your pain but regulations are regulations. Authorities are authorities. The question of sufficient available water for Mr. Roper to do what he says he will do is not in our domain of concern."

I'd guess any of the individuals supporting that view would fight tooth and nail if a cement batch plant were proposed for their own neighborhoods.

Again, re the use Holloman AFB meteorological data in Roper Construction's Air Quality application...Met Data... I've listened to a lot of testimony as to the validity of using Holloman data and repeated testimony over the months as to why Alamogordo and Sierra Blanca Airport weren't used. Holloman is 46 miles distant with different topography & at 3500 feet lower elevation. Our recent devastating area fire started on April 12, 2022. On that day, winds in Alto were gusting to 70-80 MPH. Winds at Holloman varied over the course of that same day, April 12, between 10 and 44 MPH, dropping off to almost nothing at night.

Our winds can be mind boggling and last for days. Strong long lasting winds are definitely not one of the reasons I love living here. This spring during the long dry period before the rainy season, strong winds blew continuously for days. At times during the 22 years I've lived here, sand and gypsum have blown up from White Sands, turning our skies to a murky haze.

The ways in which quality of life would be compromised for area residents with this cement batch plant have been amply detailed in public testimony in this hearing. But it isn't just the people and their homes. It's everything. The animals. The vegetation. It's potentially the air despite whatever environmental measures may or may not be in place. Or enforced. There was some mention in yesterday's testimony that pollution particles have to be VISIBLE to the naked eye to be reported and subsequently acted upon by regulators.

(END)