

Thomas & Mary Beth Owen

Lt Gen (Ret) Thomas J. & Mary E. Owen
Lot 388, Ranches of Sonterra
Alto NM 88312

New Mexico Environmental Department
Pamela Jones
NMED Office of Public Facilitation
P.O. 5469
Santa Fe NM 87502

Subject: Roper Construction Inc., application for an air quality permit for proposed Alto Concrete Batch Plant

To Whom It May Concern: October 14, 2022

I request firm and final denial of Roper Construction's application for a new air quality permit (or any other permit, such as water permit, supporting their industrial operation) for the construction of a concrete batch plant in Alto NM.

As landowners in the Ranches of Sonterra planning to build a retirement home, my wife and I were shocked to hear about Roper Construction's desire to build a concrete batch plant. This cement operation would obviously be an industrial facility in our predominantly residential area. This is a devastating prospect! I ask you; would you want this plant in your neighborhood? Of course, the answer is an emphatic "No"!

Many homeowners will be able to see the plant and the lights will be visible at night. We anticipate the light pollution will be in violation of our night-light covenants because it will greatly degrade our beautiful view of the stars. The noise from the plant and all the concrete and water trucks will be a constant dull roar, further degrading our environment. The strong winds we receive will undoubtedly bring suffocating air pollutants throughout the area. We have people in our home with bad asthma and the clean air of Alto NM is why we purchased land the mountains. Sadly, it seems Roper Construction cares little for the impact they have on people, our health, or the environment. From my communications with friends and family in the area, everyone we know with homes and businesses along 220 and throughout this entire area have extreme concerns about what the construction of this plant would mean for all of us. Some of the major concerns are:

1. My wife has bad asthma and she will suffer greatly because of the proven negative health issues related to particulate matter in the air;
2. Degraded air quality for humans, plants, as well as domestic and wild animals because of the great increase in dust;
3. High water usage putting our long-term viability as a community at risk. Further, I understand Roper does not have any local water rights but if this air quality permit is approved, their next step will most likely be to seek water rights;
4. Significant industrial noise that will most surely continue 24 hours a day, disturbing sleep and the ability to enjoy being outdoors;
5. Unreasonable hours of operation, up to 18 hours per day;
6. Industrial lighting in violation of the Night Sky Protection Act and our Ranches of Sonterra covenants, as described above;
7. Significant decline of property values with possible serious financial consequences for

landowners and homeowners;

8. Excessive damage to roads due to cement and water truck traffic, plus the likelihood of a great increase in truck traffic on 220 which would also create noise and potential traffic hazards;

9. Serious financial damage to businesses who might be forced to close or see a drastic reduction in customers;

10. Adverse affect on wildlife (one of the best things of living in this area is watching elk, deer, jackrabbits, and coyotes in their natural habitat) proximity of a Class 1 Wilderness Area;

11. Creating an offensive industrial "visual" that is not in line with the National and New Mexico Scenic Byways program.

Bottom line, there seem to be no valid reasons for allowing this plant to be built in what is essentially a residential area. Surely there is plenty of space that is more appropriate for an industrial business and would not so adversely impact so many people.

Please add my name to the list for notification of any and all actions on this application in order for me to be continually informed of the status of this issue.

You may contact me at the email or telephone number below. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Owen, Lt Gen, USAF (Retired)

thomas.j.owen.iii@gmail.com

210-693-8632

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