

## Debra Higdon

I wanted to followup after my presentation to the EIB Board yesterday because in an attempt to keep my emotions in check, I forgot many salient points that I wished to make. Again, I apologize for repeating information that you have heard before but this is such an important topic we must take the time to fully present and understand the issues.

I am puzzled by what seems to be a push by NMED's Legal Representation to issue an Air Quality Permit in spite of the excellent work their staff did in the previous hearing, seeing "the data manipulation" (per hearing officer) being performed by Roper in an attempt to obtain his permit. Multiple witnesses have stated that there are multiple discrepancies in his original as well as revised applications, that he is using irrelevant modeling in his arguments and is guilty of "significant oversights" (especially related to air quality impacts of traffic and placement of things in his yard). He has continually tweaked his models to stay just below the line of acceptance and when you factor in his inappropriate modelling THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS WILL BE EXCEEDED and, of serious concern, he is creating NON-ENFORCABLE CONDITIONS. This man has yet to produce the required reports to NMED related to his existing plant and NMED has failed in oversight of that plant; therefore, we as a community have absolutely no faith that either of these items will be corrected in relation to the new plant.

This plant WILL endanger the health of the citizens of Alto as well as our abundant wild communities including wild horses, elk, deer, red fox, etc. and our wondrous bird community. We, as citizens and neighbors, have spent over \$1 million in an effort to stop this plant and protect our environment. Please understand, Mr. Roper purchased a pristine land parcel WITH STRICT DEED RESTRICTIONS AGAINST ACTIVITIES SUCH AS HIS PLANT - those restrictions were in place at his time of purchase and he agreed to them by signing the Deed. Shame on him for his ignorance and/or arrogance, whichever is the case, for thinking the rules of a civilized society do not apply to him. There are over 4800 square miles in Lincoln County and Mr. Roper could find a more appropriate location for this plant rather than smack dab in the middle of its most natural community. Please assist us, and NMED, in "fostering a healthy and prosperous" community - despite the leanings of the NMED legal staff. Thank you again for your time.