

Leesa Brieger

To Whom it May Concern:

As a resident of Comal County, I am increasingly concerned by the wanton expansion of aggregate quarries that dot the landscape in this county. While the population explodes in this county, the pollution from quarries is also exploding. Those two realities are colliding, with unhappy results: growing numbers of people are subjected to the negative side effects of quarry growth, which continues without reasonable management or regulation.

Driving into New Braunfels from the Hill Country often resembles dropping into a sea of particulate smog. Visibility is impaired and breathing is compromised. I thank my lucky stars that I don't live near a quarry - yet.

"Regulation" has become a dog whistle used by pro-business politicians who pretend that the expansion of polluting industries is inconsequential (except for the economic benefits to owners and shareholders). However, the significant negative consequences of polluting industries are felt by a growing population of local residents who endure those consequences. Polluting industries must be managed so that, using current technologies, the negative effects borne by local populations is reduced to near-zero.

Pollution prevention and mitigation must acquire appropriate importance in TCEQ, which must take into account actual costs of polluting industries and their economic impact on air, water, land, and population. There is evidence that TCEQ is not giving adequate importance to such considerations.

For starters, the proposed list of Best Management Practices (BMP) for Aggregate Production Operations do not address practices to minimize water consumption, noise, or light pollution, **as was directed to by the Texas Legislature.** And the BMPs for the areas they do address — dust and water storage — require serious improvement.

As a local resident, I request that TCEQ further develop their list of BMPs, making sure to thoroughly address all of the issues that the Legislature directed them to address and to usefully address the ones they did deal with. The population is growing along with the pollution. This is not sustainable.

Sincerely,
Leesa Brieger, Fischer, TX