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## Public meeting on concrete crusher plant just outside Quinlan set for March 21

By Kent Miller | Herald-Banner  
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Just a month after residents and property owners in neighboring unincorporated Rockwall County south of Royse City got to experience a David vs. Goliath victory over a proposed concrete batch plant, there may be a new battle to be fought over a different kind of concrete facility just outside Quinlan city limits in Hunt County.

Stakeholders in the area west of Quinlan will get the chance to voice opinions on Dry Creek Materials' permit application with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a permanent rock and concrete crusher at 4310 W. State Highway 276 at an upcoming public

meeting. Dry Creek Materials is based out of Caddo Mills.

The meeting, scheduled for March 21 at Quinlan Ford High School's auditorium, will be hosted by the TCEQ to "provide information and answer questions" regarding the proposed facility. Formal comments, however, will not be taken at the meeting, which is set to begin at 7 p.m.

Public written comments about the TCEQ application can be submitted at any time during a public comment period that ends on March 21 following the public meeting.

Comments may be made electronically at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/ecomment](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/ecomment). More information about the permit application is available by calling (800) 687-4040.

A crushing plant setup is a series of machines that are designed to take large pieces of concrete, asphalt or rock and break them into smaller pieces. The crushed material can then be used for construction, landscaping and other purposes.

According to the TCEQ, there are two types of authorizations for a rock crushing plant. Large plants are authorized by new source review permits while smaller plants are authorized by a standard permit, which limits the size and operation of the rock crushing plant.

A typical crusher authorized by the standard permit might have these components:

- a primary crusher, to break large rocks into chunks
- a secondary crusher, to break those chunks down into smaller pieces
- two screening units, to separate the crushed rock by size
- conveyors to carry materials from stockpiles to the crushers
- stockpiles of rock and crushed rock
- diesel-powered generators

Rock and concrete crushers produce dust and that blowing dust could be a nuisance.

Also, the exhaust from diesel engines contains soot, which is a type of particulate matter small enough to get past the natural protection our bodies have for our airways and lungs.

Emission controls, the TCEQ says, are required on all diesel engines to provide substantial protection against soot. Even so, to prevent the possible nuisance and exposure to soot from the diesel engines – plus that of blowing dust – there are specific requirements for the operators of rock and concrete crushers to follow.

For example, the permit requires stationary diesel-powered equipment to be 200 feet from the nearest property line – far enough to ensure the level of soot and blowing dust will dissipate before reaching the nearest neighboring property. When operators apply for an air standard permit for permanent rock and concrete crushers they agree to follow these requirements.

Rock and concrete crushing plants can cause other kinds of nuisances as well. For example, they might be noisy or increase traffic.

In the case in Rockwall County, a proposed concrete batch plant less than a mile south of the intersection of south Farm-to-Market Road 548 and State Highway 276, which is within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city of Rockwall.

Residents and property owners in the area were joined by an amalgam of nature lovers and wildlife activists and began fighting against plans for the plant last summer. By late August, more than a hundred of them gathered in a crowded conference room at the SpringHill Suites in Rockwall to let representatives from the TCEQ and the owners of the proposed plant know the plant wasn't welcome.

Their fight proved fruitful when they began receiving notices in their mailboxes in mid-February that Bell Concrete had rescinded its application with the TCEQ.

The proposed plant would've been the fifth of its kind in Rockwall County and the location was also within a mile from the announced future Royse City ISD High School No. 3.

Another concrete batch plant – operated by JCK Concrete – is already in use across from the planned high school.

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