

Protecting our communities and our environment

Our Viewpoint

Mar 13, 2024



Just as residents in neighboring Rockwall County celebrated a hard-fought victory against a proposed concrete batch plant, another threat looms on the horizon for a community just outside Quinlan city limits in Hunt County. Dry Creek Materials' application for a rock and concrete crusher demands our attention and action.

OK, we get it. Concrete – a lot of it – is needed as expansion and development eastward from Dallas continues to push farther into all of our once-serene communities.

But putting the aforementioned Rockwall County concrete batch plant or a permanent concrete and stone crusher planned for outside Quinlan is just getting too close to where people (and wildlife) live. Practically in their own backyards..

An upcoming public meeting hosted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on March 21 at Quinlan Ford High School is an opportunity for community stakeholders to voice their concerns.

However, it's concerning that formal comments won't be taken at this crucial gathering.

Dry Creek Materials – based in Caddo Mills – seeks approval for a permanent crusher at 4310 W. State Highway 276. While such facilities may promise economic benefits, the potential environmental and health hazards cannot be ignored.

Rock and concrete crushers generate dust and emit pollutants harmful to our air quality. Despite TCEQ's assurances of emission controls, the threat of blowing dust and diesel exhaust looms large. The very air we breathe is at risk, with particulate matter capable of infiltrating our airways and lungs.

The TCEQ outlines regulations to mitigate these risks but these measures may not be enough to shield our community from the adverse effects of such operations.

Additionally, the noise and increased traffic associated with these facilities disrupt our peace and tranquility. Our communities shouldn't bear the brunt of further industrialization.

The recent success story in Rockwall County demonstrates the power of community unity in the face of corporate interests.

Residents, property owners, nature lovers and activists joined forces to oppose the proposed concrete batch plant and their voices were heard.

The people potentially impacted by this latest incursion must emulate this spirit of resistance as that shown by their neighbors to the west. Our homes, schools and environment deserve safeguarding against the encroachment of industrial facilities.

In the face of profit-driven ventures, it is our duty to prioritize the well-being of our communities. Let's stand together to preserve the beauty and serenity of our surroundings for generations to come.

— *Herald-Banner*

Trending Video