

[https://www.heraldbanner.com/news/local\\_news/residents-say-health-concerns-are-key-in-opposing-concrete-crusher/article\\_135556f4-e558-11ee-afbe-13b861562b5a.html](https://www.heraldbanner.com/news/local_news/residents-say-health-concerns-are-key-in-opposing-concrete-crusher/article_135556f4-e558-11ee-afbe-13b861562b5a.html)

CENTERPIECE

FEATURED

## Residents say health concerns are key in opposing concrete crusher

By Kent Miller | Herald-Banner

Mar 18, 2024



[!\[\]\(faf942dc3e59ce8eb64b4ac481eca7e0\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(f6b0299e0b5e4340e509b71914970da0\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(b5153706f6ea2fc2c42e8803b6804d18\_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(2b8adb27d8c9518333278b6317e2d8a2\_img.jpg\)](#)



From a possible drop in property value to increased traffic congestion to the impact on area wildlife, there have been plenty of concerns raised over a proposed permanent rock and concrete crusher located on State Highway 276 in Hunt County.

But the concern raised most often from a growing list of more than 1,100 public comments on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality website concerning a permit application from Dry Creek Materials to build and operate a crusher facility on SH 276 between Quinlan and Union Valley comes down to one issue – health.

Dan and Lisa Washington share a property line with Dry Creek Materials, which is already operating a sand pit at the location and they say they've already experienced damage to their air quality within the last six months caused by Dry Creek.

"They were clearing and burning so many trees at once that we were fearful we had a forest fire headed toward our home and called 911," Dan Washington said. "We had smoke and ash that coated the entirety of our 22 acres. My wife is a lymphoma cancer survivor and is very fearful that all the toxins they are already producing are affecting her health."

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, crushers can generate respirable crystalline silica dust. When inhaled, the small particles of silica can irreversibly damage the lungs.

That's an especially big concern for Myranda Murry Lasley, whose home in Quinlan in the Hidden Meadows Phase 2 subdivision is just 1.6 miles from the proposed crusher site. She worries about how the crusher will impact her son and her mother.

"My youngest son has asthma and a heart condition that puts him at an increased health risk," she said. "My mother also has reactive airway disease already. She will not be able to even go outside. She is very sensitive to anything in the air and immediately becomes symptomatic."

Lasley isn't the only person with concerns about the health issues. Sandra Wood's home in Quinlan sits fewer than 800 feet from the boundary.

"I have asthma and a newly-discovered heart issue," Wood said. "I bought a lot in the country to build my little forever home. I moved in a year ago. I am shocked and disappointed to find out a concrete crushing business is wanting to build next to our little community. My neighbors have two small children that also have breathing difficulty."

Roger King and his wife, Kathy, live in the Sandy Creek subdivision a mile north of the proposed crusher site.

"We are in the direct path of the predominantly south by southwest winds and the harmful dust this permit would allow," he said. "In addition to the silica from the crushed concrete, it is proposed to power these two machines with diesel generators utilizing 'off-road' fuel, which produces more harmful pollutants. I have lung cancer and the addition of the pollutants from this permit will only exacerbate my troubles."

His wife commented on behalf of her mother.

“My mom is 88 years old and has told me she will be unable to come visit us anymore if this actually goes through,” Kathy King said. “I am really sad as this is how she gets to visit with her extended family, by staying with us. She has breathing issues already and is on oxygen and has only a partial lung on the right side. It hurts my soul that I moved out to the country to get away from the heavy pollutants and enjoy having family and friends around in my later years only to be told that people won’t come because of the dangers.”

Many others had similar comments about the crusher, including Leighann Buck who owns and operates a private school for 14 months through second grade on County Road 2546 less than a half mile from where crusher stockpiles could potentially be located.

“We are an outdoor-based school and our students collectively spend five to six hours outside almost every day,” Buck said. “One of our fundamental philosophies at Country Life School is that children benefit from time outdoors. Our first priority is to assure the safety and well-being of each child in our care. To allow the establishment of this concrete crusher, which will be releasing toxic dust into the air and contaminating our ground water, will most certainly endanger the health of our students and staff.”

According to OSHA, living or working near a crusher that generates silica dust can have significant health consequences for individuals in the vicinity.

The presence of silica dust in the air and local water bodies can lead to various respiratory and overall health issues.

Friends of Union Valley is encouraging residents and property owners within the impacted area to attend Thursday’s public meeting at Quinlan Ford High School’s auditorium. The meeting will be hosted by the TCEQ and is set to begin at 7 p.m.

Public written comments about the TCEQ application can be submitted at any time during the public comment period that ends on Thursday following the meeting. Comments may be made online at [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/ecomment](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/ecomment).

---

Trending Video