

To Clark County Council and Hearing Examiner:

Yacolt Mountain Surface Mining Overlay Expansion for Comprehensive Growth Management Map Amendment.

Why is the county allowing Storedahl to apply for overburden and mining 8 years early ???!!!

We continue to follow the issues and County Councils actions regarding the Yacolt Mountain Surface Mining Overlay expansion amendment and continue to have some thoughts and concerns on several points.

Overburden: The stated reason for needing this expansion is the need for land to be used as a storage site for the overburden of the existing mining operation and a pad to stage excess aggregate products. This property is too close to the Lewis River.... on a slope! **This slope is a documented landslide area!** The runoff from all this overburden would be going right into the river and homes below.

Shortage?: There is also discussion about the shortage of gravel/rock. Living on a half mile gravel road, we have been affected by this shortage problem. It is our understanding that Storedahl would also like to store excess product on this property. If there is a shortage, why are they needing to store excess? Something is not adding up here. All other concerns about this expansion seemed to be overshadowed by the needs of the building going on in this county. But what about the fact that rock is going to Oregon? Should our quality of life be sacrificed for the sake of Oregon's needs and Storedahl's greed?

And finally....**WHY do they need an expansion of the mining overlay for the purpose of storing overburden?????** And why have they been purchasing hundreds of acres on Yacolt Ridge?

Traffic: We are north County residents and while our home and property are not affected by the Yacolt Mining operations, our drives into town most certainly are. **The volume of trucks on Hwy 503 now unbelievable!** We do see them driving too fast and feel the concern of people living on Gabriel and Rock Creek. On 503 we have had rocks bouncing off and hitting our cars. No broken windshield yet, but expect that's a matter of time.

These roads are not meant for that volume of such heavy trucks and trailers. Who is paying for the repairs to these roads? Tax payers?

Wells: *Wells in the area are becoming compromised and drying up and people are having to spend many thousands to go deeper or drill new ones.* Storedahl passed that off as the result of a couple of years of low rainfall. If this were the case, wells would be failing all over the county. We are disappointed that the Council merely nods at this issue and moves. This seems to us, and to many others, to be a pretty critical issue.

Crushers & Silica: *Please stipulate that the crusher, and future crushers be enclosed and trucks covered to limit dust and noise.* I understand that an EPA study found 50-60% Silica in the rock. While we understand that it occurs naturally in the soil, the dust from the crusher is a health concern. Silicosis is a serious cancer concern not only for the workers but we also see dust (and rocks) coming off of gravel trucks barreling down the roads which impacts those living along the way and those following those trucks. The County knowing about this and doing nothing seems to me to be a huge liability down the road for both Storedahl and the County.

Noise: A great many of your constituents live in the county for the peace and quiet. That is now being infringed upon by the *blasting shaking houses and the constant sound of machinery miles away!* Again, Storedahl passes this off as the buffer of trees being logged, but I also hear that they are starting to mine on the south side of the mountain which would attribute to the increase of noise.

River: We were dismayed at the testimony of numerous people about the quality of the water and silt buildup in the Lewis River. This buildup of silt down streams and river will gravely affect salmon, other fish and wildlife. This whole proposal brings the operation even closer to the East Fork of the Lewis River. Isn't the State involved in the protection of these rivers? Do they need to be involved?

Storedahl Properties may give lip service to complying with concerns but has not shown itself to be a good neighbor thus far and the County has failed to monitor and enforce the existing operation. This should be remedied before more expansion is even considered.

Please uphold the GMA Goal 10 Environment: "Protect the environment and enhance the state's high **quality of life**, including air and water quality, and the availability of water"

This is a Pandora box of a mining operation expansion disguised as 'merely storage area'. We don't want expanded gravel mining in our county. It is an 'incompatible use' as stated in the Growth Management Act. It has been denied in the past and should continue to be denied.

Please deny the expansion of the mining overlay for this property.

Very Sincerely,

Caroline Ketman

Mel Erickson

Amboy, WA