

Surface Mining Advisory Committee (SMAC) : Yacolt Mountain Quarry

Mitch Nickolds/ Clark County,

Thank you for setting up this meeting. I am unable to attend, but would appreciate the opportunity to once again voice my concerns regarding the Yacolt Mountain Quarry. As a lifetime citizen of this area, I have never witnessed such a terrible situation as to what this Rock Mine has done to the area. In recent letters, photo documentation and testimony, I have put forth my best effort to let Clark County government know what horrific challenges we face daily due to the complete disregard for rules and regulations from Yacolt Mountain Quarry. Please share with us clear and concise rules that the Quarry must follow. Are they actually allowed to take on the many extra loads from Livingston Mine? The surge in truck traffic from other companies, as well as this operator's loads has been a heavy burden on the roads. The severity of the safety situation cannot be ignored any longer. The many loads of gravel going down Kelly Hill and Rock Creek road have been shocking. Is this allowed in their contract? Is the operator allowed to use trucks from other companies as a way to haul extra loads? Do the orange weight limitation flags on the small bridge on Rock Creek Road only apply to emergency vehicle weight or does it also apply to overloaded rock trucks as well? It would seem that logically, that emergency traffic would be allowed, but constant, daily overweight trucks would do more damage. Also, the operator's truck drivers must have incredible radar detectors or a pretty good line of communication with each other. If they didn't they wouldn't continue speeding and they wouldn't know when to slow there loads down (they always wait until the sheriff leaves, then they double/ triple load traffic and speed). It is also a pretty good game to slow down the loads for a few days prior to a county meeting. It is abundantly clear that environment and water safety are overlooked. At this point, I think about moving from this area daily. What I once called home no longer feels that way. Who would want to live in the middle of a constant hazardous construction site? My family had visitors from Louisiana recently. They asked many times why the county allowed this terrible situation to occur. I did not have a good answer, nor will I probably ever have one.

Thank you for hearing me out once again. It is much appreciated.