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October 27, 2024

Crook County
Community Development

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing again to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the Greenbar mine into our residential neighborhood in Cimarron Hills. As a resident, I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this expansion would have on our community's quality of life, health, and environmental well-being.

The expansion of mining operations into residential areas brings a range of significant concerns, including:

1. Health Risks and Air Quality: The dust and particulate matter generated by mining operations pose serious health risks to nearby residents. Prolonged exposure to these pollutants can lead to respiratory issues, particularly for children and the elderly, who are more vulnerable to these conditions. Expanding the mine closer to our homes would only increase our exposure and heighten the risk of health issues among our families, as per the testimony of Jennifer Mitchael and her family's health issues. Expanding the rock pit closer to residential homes will only intensify dust and air quality complaints. Currently, my residence is some distance from the current mine. There are many trees between the mine and my house. But with the expansion the mine will share my property line and be within hundreds of feet from my house, in which I can ensure there will be dust issues. Tanner Brown promises to keep dust down by using his shared residential well, which he stated in the last hearing he can draw 15,000 gallons of water per day off of. While I would love for the dust mitigation to be under control I also have concerns of him drawing that much water per day off of our local aquifer.

2. Noise Pollution and Quality of Life: The constant noise from machinery, blasting, and heavy truck traffic would disrupt the peaceful environment we currently enjoy. This noise pollution does not align with the characteristics of a residential neighborhood and would greatly affect the daily lives and mental well-being of residents. Particularly residents with PTSD, anxiety and other various mental illnesses, not to mention pets. Many of the neighbors closest to the mine have documented medical conditions that blasting would affect. Again, we know we purchased property near a mine, but this would bring the distant blasting into our backyards, having a much more profound effect.

3. Impact on Property Values: The presence of a mine close to residential properties can significantly lower property values, making it difficult for homeowners to sell their properties at a fair price or recoup their investments. This would have long-term economic impacts on families and undermine the stability of our community. As previous testimony from several neighbors has already stated. But even more so when our house has cracks in the foundation and we need an extensive water treatment system for contaminants.

4. Environmental Concerns: Mining operations pose serious risks to local ecosystems, groundwater quality, and wildlife habitats. As responsible stewards of our community and environment, it is imperative that we protect these natural resources from potential contamination and destruction. We are particularly concerned about the impact this expansion could have on our basalt wells, which are a primary source of drinking water for many residents. Mining activities have the potential to disrupt underground water flow, lower water tables, and contaminate groundwater, putting the reliability and safety of our wells at risk. Protecting our water resources is essential to the health and sustainability of our community. Attached is our well log. ANY blasting could result in cracks in our wells. Allowing contaminants or worse, well collapse. Our static water level is only 40' deep. Inciting serious concern when blasting will take place through that depth into much deeper levels. Aquifer depletion would have devastating, long-term effects on our community's sustainability and access to clean water.

5. Right to Protect Our Homes Without Legal Burden: The residents of Cimarron Hills and surrounding areas should not have to hire attorneys or engage in costly legal battles simply to protect our homes, health, and quality of life. We trust our local government to uphold zoning laws and prioritize the well-being of residents over industrial interests. It is not fair to place the burden of defense on individual homeowners, many of whom may lack the resources to challenge companies. We ask that you support us by denying this expansion and sparing residents the financial and emotional toll of seeking legal recourse.

We recognize that mining plays a role in the economy, but this role should not come at the expense of the health, safety, and quality of life of county residents. I urge you to reconsider the approval of this mine expansion and prioritize the well-being of our community over industrial interests.

Thank you for considering the concerns of residents who will be directly impacted by this decision. I am hopeful that you will act in the best interest of Crook County's families, environment, and future by rejecting the proposed expansion.

Sincerely,

Adam & Shauna Schmidlin

STATE OF OREGON
WATER SUPPLY WELL REPORT
 (as required by ORS 517.765)

WELL I.D. # 71203

START CARD # 187073

#2

Instructions for completing this report are on the last page of this form.

(1) LAND OWNER Well Number 1217
 Name Dick Bartels

Address 12909 SW Hwy 126
 City Beaverton, OR State OR Zip 97153

(2) TYPE OF WORK New Well
 Deepening Abandonment (include reason) Rehabilitation Conversion

(3) DRILL METHOD
 Rotary Air Rotary Mud Cable Auger Cable Mast
 Other

(4) PROPOSED USE
 Domestic Commercial Industrial Irrigation
 Thermal Injection Livestock Other

(5) BORE HOLE CONSTRUCTION Special Construction: Yes No
 Depth of Completed Well 175 ft
 Explosives used: Yes No Type _____ Amount _____

Bore Hole			SOIL		
Diameter	From	To	Material	From	To
12"	0	18 1/2	Bentonite	0	18 1/2
8"	18 1/2	175			

How was well placed: Method A B C D E
 Other Placed in situ
 Backfill placed from _____ ft to _____ ft Material _____
 Gravel placed from _____ ft to _____ ft Size of gravel _____

(6) CASING/LINER

Casing	Diameter	From	To	Gauge	Steel	Plastic	Welded	Threaded
	8"	+1 1/2	18 1/2	250	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Drive Shoe used Inside Outside None
 Final location of shoe(s) _____

(7) PERFORATIONS/SCREENS

From	To	Size	Number	Diameter	Telepipe size	Casing	Linear
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(8) WELL TESTS: Minimum testing time is 1 hour
 Pump Bailor Air Flowing Artesian
 Yield gal/min 75 Drawdown unknown Drill stem at 175 Time 1hr

Temperature of water 63 degrees Depth Artesian Flow Found _____
 Was a water analysis done? Yes By whom _____
 Did any solids contain water on extract for intended use? Low salt
 Salty Muddy Chalky Colored Other _____
 Depth of water _____

(9) LOCATION OF WELL (legal description)
 County Crook

Tax Lot 400 Lot _____
 Township 16S N or S Range 16E E or W W.M.
 Section 12 NW 1 4 NW 1 4

Lat _____ in _____ (degrees or decimal)
 Long _____ in _____ (degrees or decimal)
 Street Address of Well (or nearest address) Juniper Canyon RD

(10) STATIC WATER LEVEL
40' A. Water table surface Date 3/11/05
 B. System head surface Date _____
 Arterian pressure _____ ft per upper inch Date _____

(11) WATER BEARING ZONES
 Depth at which water was first found _____

From	To	Estimated Flow Rate	W/L
140	175	70	40'

(12) WELL LOG (Ground Elevations)

Material	From	To	W/L
Top soil	0	1	
Hard cong	1	11	
Soft grey basalt	11	28	
Hard cong	28	90	40
Soft grey/brown basalt	90	175	
with grey seams			

Disc Started 3/10/05 Completed 3/11/05

(Unbonded) Water Well Constructor Certification
 I certify that the work performed on the construction, deepening, alteration, or abandonment of this well is in compliance with Oregon water supply well construction standards. Materials used and information furnished above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

WWC Number 1583 Date 3/28/05
 Signed David A. Lehlich

(Bonded) Water Well Constructor Certification
 I accept responsibility for the construction, deepening, alteration, or abandonment work performed on this well during the construction dates reported above. All work performed during this time is in compliance with Oregon water supply well construction standards. This report is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

WWC Number 554 Date 3/28/05
 Signed David A. Lehlich

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ORIGINAL - WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT APR 07 2005 FIRST COPY - CONSTRUCTOR SECOND COPY - CUSTOMER 66162004

WATER RESOURCES DEPT
SALEM, OREGON