

Public Comments Made at the February 10, 2021, Clean Air Coalition Meeting

1. Dr. R. Keith Randolph, Preserve our Hill Country Environment Technical Team
 - a. Retired biomedical scientist
 - b. Supportive of this group's work
 - c. Research on the health effects particulate matter (PM) is growing. In 2020, there were 182 publications registered in the National Library of Medicine regarding PM, and over the past 10 years, there were 1,400 publications that investigate negative effects of particulate matter (PM) on health.
 - d. Current research is looking into the speciation of PM, the chemical components of PM and how the various sizes of PM affect human health.
2. Mr. Jim Wilson, River Ridge 3 HOA, Georgetown, Williamson County
 - a. Collectively 500 home owners live between two rock crushing quarries in the area.
 - b. Residents regularly experience reoccurring heavy dust that settles in backyards, especially during the summer
 - c. The dust particles make it difficult to enjoy outside.
 - d. Residents are concerned about breathing the dust, especially for the children that play outside.
 - e. There is a growing concern about the effects of the dust on the health of the residents.
3. Mr. Michael Spano, Coalition for Responsible Environmental Aggregate Mining (CREAM) in Williamson County, Georgetown, Williamson County
 - a. Main concern with the aggregate production operations (APOs) in the area.
 - b. Major area of concern is with the dust and particulate matter released from the APOs.
 - c. In the CAPCOG region, there are 398 total facilities as APOs. Although, he believes the number is understated based on classification criteria.
 - i. The APOs in the CAPCOG region account for 40% of the facilities in the state of Texas.
 - ii. Rock mining, rock crushers, and cement batch plants in the CAPCOG region account for 75% of the facilities in the state of Texas.
 - iii. APOs in Burnet, Hays, Travis, and Williamson counties account for 82% of the facilities in the state of Texas.
 - iv. APOs in Williamson County account for 33% of the facilities in the state of Texas.
 - d. Given these numbers of APOs, there are insufficient PM monitors to understand the actual Pm levels in these areas.
 - e. Residents have installed their own PM sensors, and the residents see the dust daily.
 - f. Here's one resident's story, "The dust has caused me an enormous amount of health issues. Because of the amount of air pollution from these quarries and a nearby rock crusher, I have not been able to work for the past 2 years. We have asked for help from the TCEQ and other state and federal entities with no results. I am a prisoner inside of my own home, and I cannot go outside without suffering, especially when there are strong southerly winds. Our dream of turning our home into a mini paradise for us, our children, and grandchildren has been destroyed."
 - g. He ended his comment with a quote from a legal case. "Businesses should bear their own cost burden and expense of operations. They should be distributed by means of the prices from the resulting products, and not shifted to the small neighboring property

owners from them to bear alone. We can understand no sensible or reasonable principal of law for shifting such expense to persons who are not involved in such businesses. Industrial development is to be encouraged, but not at the expense of private individuals without their consent. If there is a public interest in such development, then the only equitable and just way to distribute such expense is to the equitable use of public funds."

4. Ms. Kay Harold, Sun City, Georgetown, Williamson County
 - a. Retired environmental scientist in compliance for 15 years in Texas
 - b. Supports the emission reduction measures for mining and quarrying activities and to encourage the installation of additional PM monitors
 - c. The location of the existing TCEQ PM monitors is not located where they can measure the PM that is generated from quarries along Highway 195.
 - i. Additional monitors would allow the needed data to understand the PM from the mining activities.

#1

Public Comment #5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:22:11 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 11, 2021 8:51:19 PM
Time Spent: 00:29:07

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name William Craig Wright
Company/Organization Self
City Georgetown
State TX
County Williamson

Q2

Please enter any comments here.

The number of air quality monitors currently installed in the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown region is woefully inadequate to determine the quality of air both within and around each Aggregate Production Operation (APO.) Air-quality monitors must be installed directly on the borders of each APO in order to determine to what extent the APOs are contributing to limestone dust pollution and the deteriorating level of air-quality.

Air-quality monitors should have the capability of determining what particulate the unit is capturing versus only determining that PM 2.5 or PM 10 has been detected. There are several environmental factors that could potentially create false impressions of particulate matter such as cedar and other air-borne pollens versus limestone dust containing silica particulates. CAPCOG should also provide a testing service to citizens to have particulate matter tested to determine if silica is detected at a residence.

Micro/Microchip technology must be mandated to eliminate the harmful ground and air-blast impacts on residents within a 2-mile radius of established neighborhoods and business centers. Several studies have concluded that frequent blasting is detrimental to building/residential structures such as homes, building, and underground utilities including water and sewage systems. Current detonation technology used by APOs is nearly 40-years-old and does not utilize less invasive technology to control blast impacts.

#2

Public Comment #6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, March 12, 2021 2:48:58 PM
Last Modified: Friday, March 12, 2021 3:13:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:24:04

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name Michael Miller
City Georgetown
State Texas
County Williamson

Q2

Please enter any comments here.

Two aggregate companies are blasting within 1000 feet of our homes (Shady Oaks Estates). They are Austin White Lime and CC Aggregates. Aside from shaking our homes and producing cracks in our foundations, tiles and wall structures, they produce dust that is blown into our subdivision.

I am a geologist and know that the Georgetown Thru Edwards formations (~102 MYBP) contain a lot of silica (much in the form of Chert and Flint Nodules- also know as "crypto crystalline quartz") used locally to make arrow heads, which the area is famous for. I know these are blasted into fine particles and that is what is in the air. Any help stopping this or at least limiting this transfer of silica to the local tax payers would be greatly appreciated.

If an all out protest with signs and the local news agency's would help, just let us know. I think we can arrange that since our homes and health are at issue.

Thanks.

#3

Public Comment #7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:49:41 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, March 18, 2021 3:09:46 PM
Time Spent: 00:20:04

Page 1

Q1

Contact Information

Name KAY HAROLD
Company/Organization C.R.E.A.M.
City GEORGETOWN
State TX
County Williamson

Q2

Please enter any comments here.

I believe more PM 2.5 monitors are needed in NW Williamson County, particularly along Hwy 195 . To get a true representation of particulate pollution, more data points are required. There aren't any monitors along Hwy 195. This is an area where there are aggregate mining operations along with residential development with clear cutting of trees. There are visible emissions from the mining operations, the trucks used to transport aggregates, and the clearing for residential development. Chemical analysis of the particulate matter needs to be run to see what sources are contributing to the air quality in Williamson County. There are also an increasing number of vehicles traveling on this highway which may be contributing to mobile source emissions. I am a retired scientist who worked for an environmental engineering firm based in Texas. I was involved in air emissions compliance testing for 15 years.