

Christopher Pracheil

From: Cindy Adkins <@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:24 PM
To: Dennis Conger
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Requesting a Public Hearing
Attachments: Stewart County Herald.pdf

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April 12, 2021

Division of Water Resources, Mining Section
Knoxville Environmental Field Office
Attn: Public Notice Coordinator
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, TN 37921

Dear Dennis Conger Environmental Consultant,

In regards to **Public Notice: M2021-04, Proposed permit actions Yellow Creek Stone Quarry, Applicant Nate Pulley dba Yellow Creek Stone, Permit Number: TN0070661, Location on Ellis Mills Rd, Houston County Tennessee**, I am requesting that the Division hold a public hearing on the above application.

A public hearing is warranted because (1) incorrect information presented in the application, (2) water quality issues from the proposed quarry. I oppose the actions of this permit for the following reasons:

Groundwater Information. It was stated in the application that there are no ground water users within one-half (1/2) mile of the proposed quarry. This is NOT accurate!!! There was NOT a Water Use Survey completed to determine if there were wells being used. There are 2 registered wells and a spring within ½ mile that are being utilized for human and domestic drinking water.

1. One well is located on my property at 254 Adkins Lane and joins the proposed quarry. (I do have a 2nd well that is not being used at this time it needs a new pump.) Research has been conducted and found that in a Karst system, which is this location, wells can be altered and/or completely ruined from rock quarry mining.
2. Another registered well and a spring is located in this community (within ½ mile) which the property is located on 3045 Ellis Mills Rd.

Another water quality issue that needs to be addressed is that there is a nesting Bald Eagle's nest located on Ellis Mills Road that drink and feed from Yellow Creek. These are not migrant Eagles. The discharge (or receiving water source) is to be Indian Branch which feeds into Yellow Creek and will flow to the location of the Bald Eagles hunting ground and nest.

Other information presented in the proposed application/permit that is inaccurate is the address of the actual Yellow Stone Rock Quarry. It is listed in section 2.5 as being in Erin, TN 37061. This is NOT correct. The address for the area of Ellis Mills Road is Cumberland City, TN 37050. This is important because new NPDES permits are required to post a public notice in the classified section of a newspaper that serves the area that the facility is located. Attached is the newspaper heading (The Stewart County Standard). The public notice has not ever been posted in this newspaper. All the residents that have a Cumberland City address, do NOT receive the Houston County Herald

because the address is not Erin, even though we reside in Houston County. This action violates the *Rules of TDEC 0400-40-05-.06 (9) (a)*. Mr. Pulley's wife Heather was raised in this same community and knows the issues with the 2 different county papers/addresses. In good faith, Nate Pulley did not exercise diligence in making sure the public was notified. It was 2 or more months before some of the residents knew of this application.

Another issue I have is in Part 5. Social Justification – affected community – This community has been considered as rural agricultural generational farms that will be impacted negatively. The value of our property will decrease significantly (30%). Research indicates a negative impact of loud noises on cattle causing the beef to not be quality beef. If the natural spring on our farm that feeds into Indian Branch, the natural water source will be degradation.

Respectfully,

Cindy Adkins
Concerned citizen/land owner
254 Adkins Lane
Cumberland City, TN 37050

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Christopher Pracheil

From: Bobbi Skelton <s@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Dennis Conger
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Yellow Creek Quarry proposal

*** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security. ***

I strongly object to the building of the Yellow Creek Quarry. I'm concerned for the welfare of our family home built in 1872 and has been inhabited by Skelton family members ever since. We live within a half mile and our foundation is limestone rock from the very cache from which they will be blasting.

Done**6 of 7**

Chapter 8 - Strip and Open Pit Mines

Part 2 - Tennessee Mineral Surface Mining Law of 1972

59-8-203 - Purpose of act.

59-8-203. Purpose of act.

The general assembly finds that the unregulated surface mining of minerals can cause soil erosion and landslides, stream pollution, and accumulation and seepage of contaminated water; contributes to floods; impairs the value of land for agricultural or other purposes; affects fish and wildlife and their habitats; counteracts efforts for the conservation of soil, water and other natural resources; impairs the owners' rights in neighboring property; creates fire hazards; and in general creates conditions inimical to life, property and the public welfare so as to require the exercise of the state's police power in the regulation of surface mining. The general assembly further finds that there are wide variations in the circumstances and conditions surrounding and arising out of the surface mining of minerals due primarily to differences in topographical, geological and soil conditions, by reason of which it is necessary, in order to provide the most effective, beneficial and equitable solution to the problem, that broad discretion be placed in the authority designated to administer and enforce the regulatory provisions enacted by the general assembly. It is the purpose of this part, therefore, to provide for

10:47



Done

5 of 7

What about well/spring water? We have a well and a spring – which we use daily. Will this disturb the water quality and flow? What will this do to Yellow Creek? Yellow Creek is a Blue Waterway (see below). Is there any protection for our waterway? What about the hazards of causing changes in groundwater flow and overall water quality?

What about the blasting? Will the quarry provide us with a meter that measures each blast to make sure they are in compliance? I am sure there will be damages to homes that are nearby like our home is. What about the air quality from drilling, blasting and the transportation of the limestone?

These are all questions and concerns that we have and would like to have addressed before proceeding with allowing this proposed mining quarry.

Sincerely,

Keith and Shelby Richardson
3045 Ellis Mills Road
Cumberland City, TN 37050
Shelby.richardson5@gmail.com
931-622-1717

arch



11/12/2021

2

Lake Barkley Watershed (2013/2020)
Chapter 2
12/31/2020

7. CULTURAL RESOURCES

7.A. Nationwide Rivers Inventory. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory, required under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, is a listing of free-flowing rivers that are believed to possess one or more outstanding natural or cultural values. Exceptional scenery, fishing or boating, unusual geologic formations, rare plant and animal life, cultural or historic artifacts that are judged to be of more than local or regional significance are the values that qualify a river segment for listing. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance branch of the National Park Service jointly compile the Nationwide Rivers Inventory from time to time (most recently in 1997). Under a 1980 directive from the President's Council on Environmental Quality, all Federal agencies must seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would have an adverse effect on Nationwide Rivers Inventory segments.

The most recent version of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory lists portions of two streams

Christopher Pracheil

From: CHARLES CROW <c@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Dennis Conger
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Yellow Creek Quarry NPDES Permit Number TN0070611

Dear Mr. Conger:

Thank you for allowing me to respond to TDEC Public Notice M2021-04. The proposed permit is for Yellow Creek Stone Quarry located in Houston County, TN. The NPDES permit number is TN0070611.

My wife Dinah and I have lived on Yellow Creek since 1978 and have enjoyed fishing, swimming, boating, and camping on our property; which is located on Ellis Mills Road at the confluence of Yellow Creek

and Indian Branch. We are very concerned about what impact the discharge of waste water into the creek will have on the water quality, and in turn the fauna and flora that inhabit the stream.

The most recent version of the National Rivers Inventory lists Yellow Creek as a scenic and recreational stream that supports game fishing.

In the TDEC Watershed Water Quality Management Plan ,Tennessee Rivers Assessment Project for stream scoring in the Lake Barkley Watershed, Yellow Creek is the only stream in the entire watershed

listed as significant in all three catagories (Natural and Scenic, Recreational Boating, and Recreational Fishing).

According to "The Plan" the release of sediment increases the bed load and covers benthic life and fish eggs. Will the release of waste water from the proposed quarry affect sediment and nutrient loading,

water temperatures, oxygen levels, and lead to an increase in algae growth?

I would like to thank you for reviewing my comments on this permit and would additionally like to request a pubic hearing on this matter.

Sincerely,

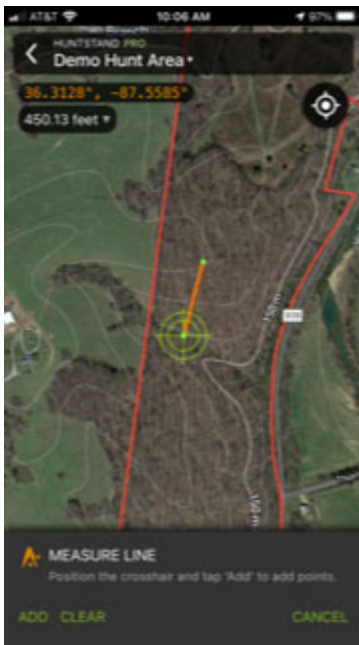
Charles Crow
3820 Ellis Mills Road
Cumberland City , TN
37050

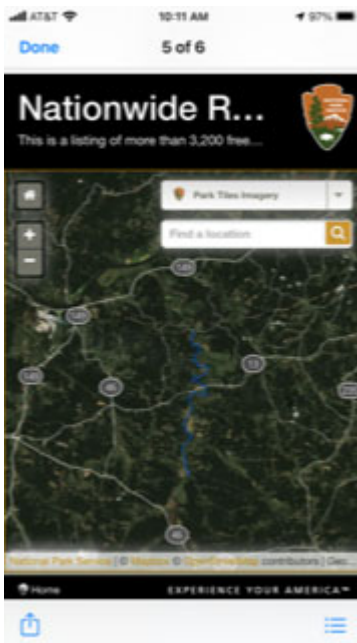
Christopher Pracheil

From: birish
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Dennis Conger
Cc: Christopher Pracheil
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Formal Public Comment and Request for Public Hearing Yellow Creek Stone

*** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security. ***

The purpose of this email is to formally comment on the proposed Yellow Creek Stone site in Houston County Tennessee and request a public hearing. Among many of my concerns is the small tributary located 450' or less to the south from the proposed quarry site (image one). Looking at topographic maps in the area I question how runoff from the south side of the proposed quarry site will be treated. Due to the location of said quarry (West Bank of Yellow Creek) and the frequent excessive rainfall that occurs for this area, I feel that many negative effect's will be felt on Yellow Creek. Just very recently May 1st and 2nd 2010 parts of this watershed were soaked with 10-16" of rain. If this event happened once it can happen again and the effects this time around could cause much more harm. The limestone dust and debris that the sedimentation pond cannot handle due to the excessive flow/discharge will dump straight into Indian Branch and Yellow Creek. Additionally Yellow Creek is part of the nationwide rivers inventory and all Federal Agencies should look to avoid or mitigate actions that would have an adverse effect on these river segments (based on the information provided online from the National Park Service). This quarry will cause noise, dust and change the habitat for wildlife in the area. Bald Eagles are common on this creek and I have several pictures over the years, will they stay with blasting occurring? The Smallmouth Bass population in this stream is unlike any in the entire area. What happens when too much dust is in the water flow after a 50-100 year flood-event? Unrelated to the environment are concerns of zero codes in Houston County and the lack of road infrastructure and over site from the local level. If Houston County has no codes who will be reviewing negative impacts of the home located just to the east of the quarry site. Additionally there is a spring on the East side of the boundary adjacent to this home which could have water flowing underground from the proposed quarry site and coming to the surface on the Richardson property. Has anyone looked into this? I appreciate everyone's time reviewing my comments.





2.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES

2.7.1 Nationwide Rivers Inventory. The Nationwide Rivers Inventory, required under the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1980, is a listing of free-flowing rivers that are believed to possess one or more outstanding natural or cultural values. Exceptional scenery, fishing or hunting, unusual geologic formations, rare plants and animals, historic or historic artifacts that are judged to be of more than local or regional significance are the values that qualify a river segment for listing. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Branch of the National Park Service jointly compile the Nationwide Rivers Inventory from time to time (most recently in 1987). Under a 1980 directive from the President's Council on Environmental Quality, all Federal agencies must seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would have an adverse effect on Nationwide Rivers Inventory segments.

The most recent version of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory lists portions of two streams in the Tennessee Portion of the Lake Barkley Watershed:

Lumpy Creek (RSD 2 to RSD 10) is a scenic stream that supports game fishery.

Yellow Creek (RSD 5 to RSD 12) is a scenic and recreational stream that supports game fishery.

NAME	SCENIC	RECREATION	FISH
Lumpy Creek	5	5	5
Yellow Creek	5	5	5

Table 2-2. Attributes of Streams Listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory

Additional information may be found online at <http://www.dnr.tn.gov/fishwild>

Sent from my iPhone

Christopher Pracheil

From: Shelby Richardson <@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:05 PM
To: Dennis Conger
Cc: Shelby Hall; Shelby Richardson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Yellow Creek Stone Quarry TN0070661 - Request for Public Hearing Yellow Creek Stone

***** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security. *****

The purpose of this email is to formally comment on the proposed Yellow Creek Stone site in Houston County Tennessee and request a public hearing.

The quarry has not even started yet and we are already seeing adverse effects.

I have many concerns. To list a few:

The spring is now turning "muddy" anytime it rains. I understand that the spring water comes to the surface on our property (3045 Ellis Mills Road). That water is coming upstream and is likely traveling from "quarry land" underground and then visible on the surface at the spring. The increased brownish water (muddy water) is showing an "adverse" effect is already happening and the quarry is not even operational yet. (pictures are attached). This run off is drained into Yellow Creek which is part of the nationwide rivers inventory and all Federal Agencies should look to avoid or mitigate actions that would have an adverse effect on these river segments. This quarry will cause noise, dust and change the habitat for wildlife in the area. Bald Eagles are common on this creek and sited all around the quarry property. Will they stay with blasting occurring?

We have a well (which is registered now) and I am concerned what effect the blasting will have.

We also now have a mud run when it rains to the culvert that the pond drains under the road to as well. (washing from the "haul road"..I attached pictures). The "haul road" is washing on the road side and causing this to happen. There has been no preventable measures taken to try to stop it.

Unrelated to the environment are concerns of zero codes in Houston County and the lack of road infrastructure and oversight from the local level. Since Houston County has no codes who will be reviewing negative impacts of the home(s) located so close to the quarry site. The road is a complete mess - if it rains - its muddy - if it is dry it is dusty. There is no effort put forth yet to try and contain any of this runoff. Not to mention the road is not even capable of handling that type of equipment on it.





Thank you for your time,

Keith and Shelby Richardson

Cumberland City, TN 37050

Christopher Pracheil

From: Eddie Shelton <@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 10:20 PM
To: Dennis Conger
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Public Notice M2021-04

Dennis,

I live in close proximity to the proposed Yellow Creek quarry. I'm confused as to why the water quality of Yellow Creek itself is not included in the water quality permits requested. The only thing separating the quarry from Yellow Creek is Ellis Mills Rd. as the quarry is located on the top of bluff right past Keith and Shelby Richardson's property. Seems to me some issues are being omitted and water quality for the whole area is not being addressed.

Thanks for your help
Eddie Shelton

On Wed, Mar 24, 2021, 9:08 PM Ben Irish <> wrote:

Thank you,
Ben Irish
Project Manager, R. Lafferty and Son

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dennis Conger <Dennis.Conger@tn.gov>
Date: March 24, 2021 at 2:15:01 PM CDT
Subject: Public Notice M2021-04

Good Afternoon:

Please find attached Public Notice M2021-04. This notice informs the public of draft permits issued by the Division of Water Resources, Mining Section. The last day to submit comments on the proposed permit actions is April 26, 2021.

Regards,

Dennis Conger | Environmental Consultant

Division of Water Resources, Mining Section

Knoxville Environmental Field Office

3711 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37921

Christopher Pracheil

From: Dennis Conger
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Christopher Pracheil
Cc: Bryan Epperson; Daniel Lawrence
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Limestone Quarry concerns Yellow Stone Quarry

From: Beverly Harris <yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 10:54 AM
To: Dennis Conger <Dennis.Conger@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Limestone Quarry concerns Yellow Stone Quarry

I live on Ellis Mills Rd. This area is a beautiful quite country setting. A lot of us still run off of well water that is fed from Indian Branch. I (we) have great concerns of how this is going to affect us. After researching, I cannot find anything positive about this, but I can find plenty of information of why I (we) should be concerned.

Limestone mining can affect ground **water** conditions. ... When mining occurs in karst, disruption to natural aquifers, or flows of underground **water**, can result. Often, mining operations remove ground **water** to expose the quarrying site, which can lower the **water** table and change how **water** flows through the rock formations.

Pits and **quarries** disrupt the existing movement of surface **water** and groundwater; they interrupt natural **water** recharge and can lead to reduced quantity and **quality of drinking water** for residents and wildlife near or downstream from a **quarry** site. Most old pits and **quarries** are not being properly rehabilitated.

In **humid climates**, **limestone** dissolves quickly and is carried away by water. This creates caves which can become weak and collapse. ... Mining in the karst can lower the water table, which removes the support of rock that overlies water-filled caverns, which can create sinkholes

The most obvious engineering impact of **quarrying** is a change in geomorphology and conversion of land use, with the associated change in visual scene. This major impact may be accompanied by loss of habitat, noise, dust, vibrations, chemical spills, erosion, sedimentation, and dereliction of the mined site.

How does mining affect groundwater?

Water running through mine tailings can become polluted. The acid runoff further dissolves heavy metals such as copper, lead, mercury into **groundwater** or surface water. ... The rate and degree by which acid-mine drainage proceeds can be increased by the action of certain bacteria.

I cannot express enough the future concerns from this. Please consider the people(s) involved, and the risk we feel from the repercussions this might have. I strongly am opposed to this quarry, and pray you are looking out for our best interests.

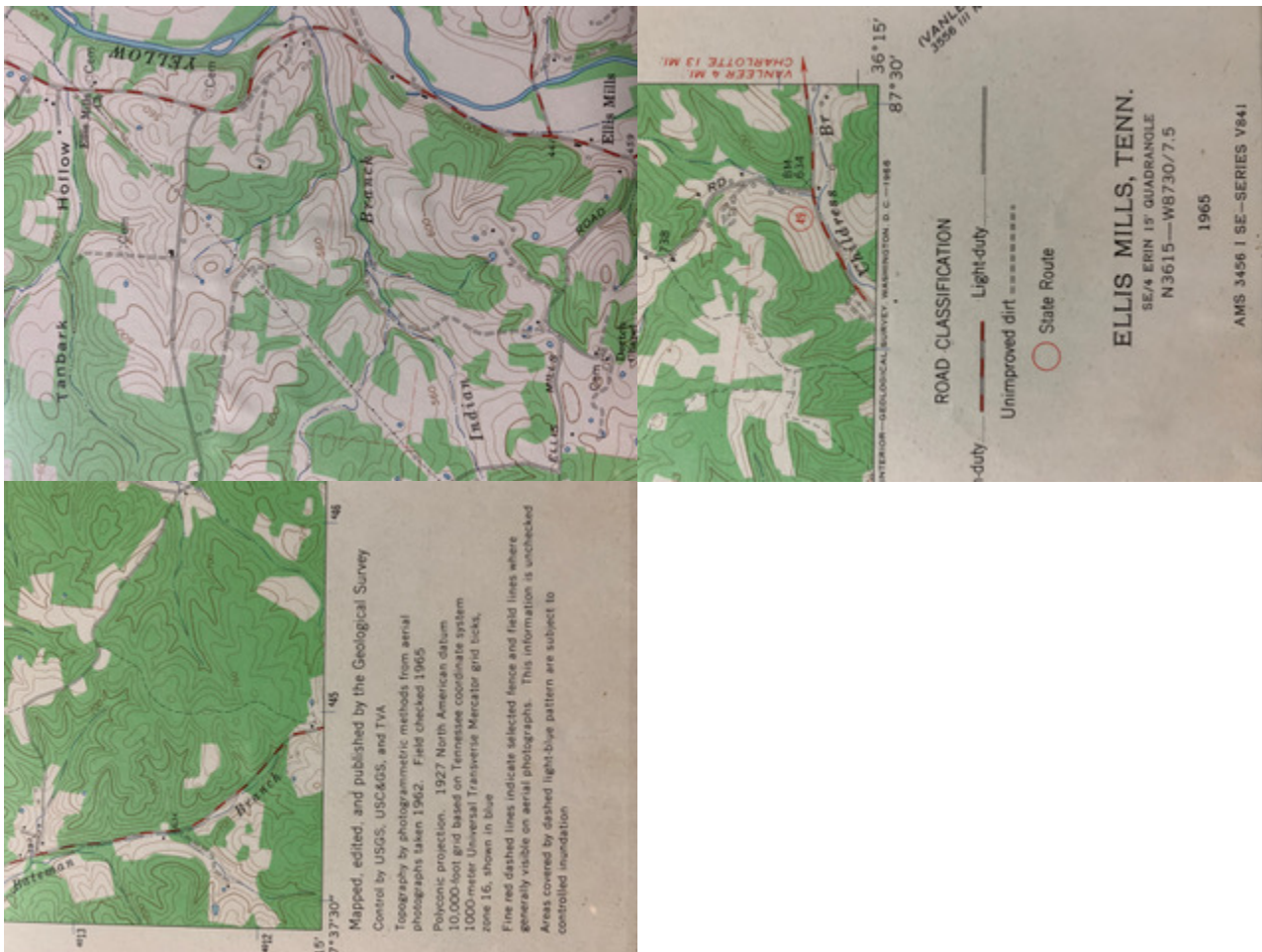
Beverly Harris <@yahoo.com>
Clarksville, Tn.

Christopher Pracheil

From: Dennis Conger
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 10:39 AM
To: Christopher Pracheil
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Proposed Yellow Creek Stone Quarry

From: CHARLES CROW <@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Dennis Conger <Dennis.Conger@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Proposed Yellow Creek Stone Quarry

*** This is an EXTERNAL email. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email - STS-Security. ***



Good Morning. I attended the public hearing last week in Erin, TN for the proposed Yellow Creek Stone Quarry and would like to add the following comments/questions to the public record:

1- at the meeting the representatives from the TDEC Surface Mines Section repeatedly referred the stream receiving

the runoff from the quarry as “ an unnamed stream, locally called Indian Branch”. As you can see from the attachment the USGS map of the Ellis Mills Quadrangle 1965 clearly identifies the stream as Indian Branch.

2- the same stream(Indian Branch) was determined to be, and was referred to as an intermittent stream , by TDEC personel. As you can see from the USGS map of the Ellis Mills Quadrangle 1965, the stream from the location of the quarry to its confluence with Yellow Creek is a solid blue line, indicating year round flow.

How does TDEC account for these discrepancies?

Thank you- Charles Crow

Christopher Pracheil

From: Dennis Conger
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 7:23 AM
To: Christopher Pracheil
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Issuance NPDES Permit - Ellis Mills Road

From: cddavenport2>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 9:42 PM
To: Dennis Conger <Dennis.Conger@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Issuance NPDES Permit - Ellis Mills Road

Mr. Conger,

I am responding with concerns over the proposed issuance of an NPDES permit for Yellow Creek Stone Quarry on Ellis Mills Road in Houston County (permit #TN0070661).

Yellow Creek is a beautiful rural area that I have lived in all my life. Including my own family my husband and I are raising on yellow creek, there are a total of ten close family members living in the Yellow Creek area. We have been raised on Yellow Creek. Fishing, hunting, swimming, wading the creeks have been a huge part of our recreation since Day 1. Yellow Creek and the quiet community have kept us drawn close to the area.

I have a huge concern about contamination into Yellow Creek from Indian Creek and what that would do to our fish and wildlife in the community. I am not a farmer but I have concerns about the cattle that are in the area becoming contaminated by the water runoff. If a quarry were to startup, would I want my children, my family or myself swimming in Yellow Creek? Absolutely not.

My family gets their drinking water from springs in the area that are in danger of becoming polluted from the proposed limestone quarry. If a quarry were to startup, would I want my children, my family or myself drinking the spring water? Absolutely not.

The potential exposure of runoff into the water will altar the way of life for all of us living in the area. We will lose our drinking water, our recreation, and our peace of mind that comes with living in a rural area. Our way of life and our neighbors way of life will forever be altered by a limestone quarry moving into the area. The abundance of wildlife will forever be altered by a limestone quarry moving into the area. It will be a huge negative environmental impact on the community. The beauty here will forever be lost.

While the environmental impact to the waterways and the air quality are a huge concern, there is also a concern to the safety of the community on the roadways. The small country road of Ellis Mills Road and Williamson Branch Road (to access Dickson, TN) is not very wide. As a matter of fact, when you meet someone, you have to get over on the roadside to passby. There is a big concern of the safety of other drivers when these huge dump trucks are traveling on these roads. These trucks need a lot of room that these small country roads cannot handle. Also, there is a concern of the speeds these dump trucks will go to meet their quota everyday as well as the damage these trucks will do to a tar & chip road.

Please consider denying the proposed issuance of the permit for Yellow Creek Stone and keep the Yellow Creek area in tact as it was meant to be for the greater good of the waterways, airways, environment, wildlife, and community.

Thank you,
Cindy Davenport

Christopher Pracheil

From: Dennis Conger
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Christopher Pracheil
Cc: Bryan Epperson; Daniel Lawrence
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] NPDES Permit TN0070661

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Thomas Gould <@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:24 AM
To: Dennis Conger <Dennis.Conger@tn.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NPDES Permit TN0070661

Mr. Conger,

As a lifelong resident of Houston and Montgomery counties, I feel the need to voice my concerns about the proposed quarry under permit number TN0070661. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency once generated annual reports on stream health. I distinctly remember reading with fascination about the detail provided about Yellow Creek along Ellis Mills Road. The health of the smallmouth bass population was robust. I suppose budget constraints prevented more recent report generation, as I was unable to find a current report for this region. Given more time, I'd like for the residents and those that enjoy all Yellow Creek offers the chance to find more recent data. Please consider the ecological effects quarry runoff will create on the aesthetics and wildlife habitat downstream of the proposed quarry.

On a separate but related note, Houston County has fallen victim to a large swine farm installation over the past 2 years. The unpleasant aroma from that project covers nearly half of Houston County, depending on wind speed and direction. To my knowledge, no state permitting was required for that project, but its effects on morale in the small community are significant.

The combined effects of projects that continue to deteriorate the quality of life and property values of nearby residents outweighs any potential benefits of the proposed quarry.

Please consider these factors when considering the validity of the permit application.

Thank you,
Thomas Gould