

Questions that Remain: Marilyn Allen

I. My first question relates to the validity of the sound test.

I was present when the sound test was conducted but then I was told to leave by Mr. Pratt because I “did not have ear protection.” Before I left the area, however, I saw the equipment he was going to test and where it was located. The site of the test was not the site of the quarry but rather the landing considerably below the actual site. The weather was calm, no wind and full foliage on the trees. These ideal conditions for mitigating sound will not be in effect during at least three months per every operating season of the quarry.

Equipment not included in the test was the wire saw. The sounds resulting from the large pieces of stone being placed on the truck or combinations of these events were also not included in the analysis of the sound test.

The truck noises occurring at the Kotanchik residence when the trucks are braking or accelerating at the intersection with Jacksonville Stage Road were assessed at a considerable distance from her home farther back on the haul road.

Despite the partial sound test, the closest resident to the quarry site, Michaela Harlow, has testified repeatedly that she heard the test INSIDE her home.

Conclusion: if incomplete or inaccurate data are used in the computer analysis of the sound produced by the equipment, then test results are invalid.

II.

My second question focuses on the reclamation plan described by Mr. Pratt. He does not use this reclamation method in his own quarry in Ashfield. He has not described where he learned of this approach and why he knows that it will work at the Halifax site.

III.

My third question concerns the request for a 50-year permit. Mr. Denison is in the 80's; Mr. Pratt is in his 60's. Who will be supervising this project when they are no longer on the scene? Do they plan to sell the operation? Who will insure that the requirements of the permit are followed?

Related to this question is the issue of how this project will be supervised. ANR does not have sufficient staff to supervise operations once they are permitted and Halifax has no staff to perform that task either.

IV.

My last question has to do with the fragile nature of the soils and the steep nature of the rugged terrain in which this project is planned. ANR's flood regulations are based on what occurs in 100-year events despite the reality of Irene that is a 500-year event. Halifax was severely damaged in 2011 in that storm and this project in its removal of soil and disturbance of streams will increase the likelihood that the Green River would be very negatively impacted.

Marilyn Allen

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