



NO ALTO CONCRETE BATCH PLANT!

THE FACTS

In June of 2021, Roper Construction Inc., of Alto, New Mexico submitted an air quality permit application to the Air Quality Bureau (AQB) of the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) to construct the Alto Concrete Batch Plant (CBP).

The proposed construction will consist of a 125 cubic yard per hour concrete batch plant, located .38 miles from the intersection of NM 48 on NM 220, along the Billy the Kid Scenic Byway, 1.1 miles from the White Mountain Wilderness, as well as other conservation areas and surrounded by residences and neighborhoods.

PRODUCTION COULD OCCUR UP TO 18 HOURS A DAY, 3:00 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M., 7 DAYS A WEEK

Concrete batch plants impose a trifecta of impacts upon public health and well-being in that they emit air, light, and noise pollution.

AIR POLLUTION

PM2.5 Fine Particulate Matter

- Each ton of cement produced will result in total particulate emission of 360 pounds.

AIR POLLUTION CONTINUED

Diesel emissions from trucks & concrete mixers

- A ready mix truck uses 65 gallons of diesel per day generating 1,450 pounds of carbon dioxide with a substantial portion occurring at the work site.
- As proposed the plant could produce up to 500,000 cubic yards/year, or 1300 cubic yards/day of concrete. The permit's maximum allowable production capacity translates into 90 - 125 trucks a day for this facility.

Significant source of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide & carbon monoxide

- Sulfur dioxide can affect breathing & aggravate existing respiratory & cardiovascular disease.
- Nitrogen oxide plays a major role in the atmospheric reactions that produce ozone.
- Carbon monoxide can cause harmful effects by reducing oxygen delivery to the body's organs & tissues.
- Sulfur oxide & nitrogen oxide can be converted to fine particulate matter once escaped into the atmosphere.

NOISE POLLUTION

Noise at the plant would come from deliveries of materials, handling, loading, & mixing of concrete, truck movements, reversing beepers, & running of machinery to name a few.

- Maximum operating schedule of the plant allows for operation from 3:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., 7 days a week from May through August.

THE WHITE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AREA, A CLASS 1 WILDERNESS AREA, IS 1.1 MILES AWAY.

THE AREA WAS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION FROM AIR POLLUTION.

THESE PROTECTIONS WERE DESIGNED TO PREVENT SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION OF EXISTING CLEAN AIR RESOURCES.

LIGHT POLLUTION

Light pollution poses a serious threat to nocturnal wildlife, nature.

- Turns night into day, radically alters their nighttime environment
- Artificial lights can cause birds to migrate too early or too late and miss ideal climate conditions for nesting, foraging and other behaviors.
- Research on insects, birds, fish, reptiles, and other wildlife species shows that light pollution can alter behaviors, foraging areas, and breeding cycles.
- Threat to seasonal tree & plant growth
- Humans are dependent on natural body cycles & the production of melatonin, which are regulated by light and dark***
- Artificial light at night negatively affects human health
- Increased risks for obesity, depression, sleep disorders, diabetes, breast cancer & more

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

White Mountain Wilderness Area

- Class I Wilderness Area
- 47,000 protected acres designated by Congress & singled out for special protection from air pollution under the Clean Air Act & is protected by the EPA's Regional Haze Program
- These protections were designed to prevent significant deterioration of existing clean air resources

NM 220 located on Billy the Kid Scenic Byway

- Part of the "America's Byways Program" & is designated a National Scenic Byway.
- Created to foster economic development & to help recognize, preserve, & enhance selected roads with high scenic value based on one or more intrinsic qualities – archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, or scenic.

Fort Stanton - Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area

- Established in 2009 to protect, conserve, & enhance the unique & nationally important historic, cultural, scientific, archaeological, natural, & educational subterranean cave resources of the cave system.
- At over 42 miles, it is the second longest cave in New Mexico, the 14th longest cave in the U.S., and the 62th longest in the world. Snowy River is a significant passage within Fort Stanton Cave, & is the longest cave formation in the world.
- The Fort Stanton Cave is currently closed to recreational caving to protect the vulnerable bat population from deadly White-Nose Syndrome.

Little Creek, Eagle Creek, Rio Bonito

- New Mexico's rivers, streams and springs face threats from numerous sources.
- Urban & resort development have placed increasing demands on surface & ground water resources of the area. The Village of Ruidoso obtains 60 to 70 percent of its water supply from the Eagle Creek basin, including 4 wells. Since the wells were

put into use consultants have reported that North Fork Eagle Creek has, at times, no streamflow in the reach adjacent to the North Fork wells.

- In November 1972, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act establishing a permit program to control water pollution & established control mechanisms & an interim goal to achieve "water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water."

WATER

Production of concrete places a strain on the availability of a prime natural resource, water. Every significant step in producing concrete involves water.

PRODUCTION OF CONCRETE COULD REQUIRE 72,000 – 87,750 GALLONS OF WATER A DAY. NOT INCLUDING THE 35–100 GALLONS NEEDED TO CLEAN EACH TRANSPORT TRUCK AT LEAST ONCE PER DAY.

- 32 to 39 gallons of water is needed to produce 1 cubic yard of concrete.
- According to the Office of the State Engineer Drought Map a large portion of Lincoln County is in severe to extreme drought and the historically observed impacts range from well water decrease to extreme fire danger.
- Private wells are the only source for water for residents in the area and the Alto CPB plant utilizing 72,000 gallons a day will create declining water well levels in these neighboring wells.

WASTEWATER

Wastewater from this plant, most certainly will contain potential pollutants such as cement and aggregates.

- Pollutants can increase the turbidity of

WASTEWATER CONTINUED

local waterways like Little Creek, Eagle Creek & Rio Bonito.

- Cement contaminated water can also be highly alkaline.
- Inappropriate storage and handling of chemicals and fuels onsite can also lead to polluted surface and ground waters.
- Heavy metals include arsenic, antimony, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, selenium and many more can leach into drinking water from cement plants.
- These metals can contaminate private wells through groundwater movement and surface water seepage and run-off.
- Persons who consume high levels of these heavy metals risk acute and chronic toxicity, liver, kidney, and intestinal damage, anemia, and cancer.

HOW TO HELP

Write letters and make phone calls to your local, county and state representatives and tell them "No Alto Concrete Batch Plant!"

Participate in the public hearing to be held virtually using on-line WebEX video conferencing. The public hearing is currently scheduled for Wednesday February 9 through Friday February 11, 2022. For further details go to altocep.org

Please consider making a financial contribution. The fees to engage environmental studies and subject matter experts for the NM Environmental Dept. hearing are substantial along with pursuing nuisance lawsuits and other ways to stop the construction of a concrete batch plant in Alto, NM.

Visit www.AltoCEP.org for more information and links to donate via PayPal or Go Fund Me and directions for mailing donations, if preferred.

Thank you!