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Kittitas County Community Development Services  
411 Ruby Street, Suite 2  
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Re: Horse Canyon Conditional Use Permit (CU-11-00004)

This letter is regarding the application for Ellensburg Cement Products (ECP) to establish a rather large gravel and rock crushing quarry covering up to sixty-five acres along Bettas Road and immediately adjacent to (what we locally refer to as Horse Canyon Creek) a small seasonal creek which flows directly into Swauk Creek. My understanding is that Swauk Creek has played a prominent role in Steelhead protection and enhancement in the upper Yakima River Basin, and thus I am somewhat concerned over what impact this rock crushing quarry would have. While I am not immediately adjacent to the proposed operation and may not be directly impacted like some of my neighbors directly adjacent to the operation on Bettas Road, I am genuinely concerned about the impact on the surrounding environment, particularly fisheries, but also the deer, elk, and other fauna within the surrounding properties and environment.

Of a more personal concern is the fact that several of the landowners in the area, including myself, have wells that were not fully cased when they were established. In my particular situation, my well is cased for the upper 200 feet, out of a total of 520 feet. So, of course, I am concerned about any possible blasting, if that is required for this operation.

A summary of some of my specific concerns/questions are:

1. I have been told that when the rock is crushed it must be sorted and "washed". Where does this water come from? Where does the used water go?
2. Is the required water, if any, drawn from wells and would they then be governed by any moratorium that might be in place on well drilling, such as that which has so recently impacted the local residents? Would this water, if drawn from wells impact the total water supply available for the local existing residents?
3. ECP says that storm water (I assume flowing from off-site) will be diverted from their site. Does this mean directed into the Swauk Creek watershed? Regarding storm water and "used" water directly produced on-site, would this be retained and disposed of elsewhere? Or, treated and released into the Swauk Creek watershed?
4. ECP says that they will control "dust" by use of a water truck. Does this mean that all the dust/dirt/sediment will be washed off of Bettas Road and directly into the Swauk Creek watershed?

5. ECP mentions that there is a small spring fed pond that the adjacent owner has "rights" to. Some of these small ponds were left over from the cattle ranching days, indeed I have one on my property. Would ECP use this water, thus preventing this natural runoff from entering Swauk Creek and the Yakima watershed? It is my understanding that under current treaty obligations, that while current ponding is "grandfathered" no additional ponding or increase to existing ponding is permitted. In effect, that all natural surface water should be permitted to flow to the Yakima River unimpeded. If I am understanding correctly, then would this project also have to comply?
  6. Finally, with respect to my well, and other neighboring wells, is there any sort of liability assumed by ECP in the operation of this project, regarding possible damage to these neighboring wells, if such damage were to occur? What assurances do we have that any required blasting would not be detrimental to our existing wells?
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Thank you, I do appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter, and certainly appreciate any help, directions, or clarifications that might address any, or all, of my concerns.

Thank you and Sincerely,



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