

To: Hearing Examiner, and, Skamania County Commissioners.
From: Christopher and Elaine Brong, Mabee Mines Rd., Washougal, WA 98671
Subject: Draft EIS, J.L. Stordahl and Sons Skamania Quarry Project, and, proposed haul route in a residential and recreational area.

We are completely opposed to this draft EIS and proposed Skamania Quarry Project for the following reasons:

1. There is no "public safety" element to the draft EIS. There is no mitigation for the safety of residents either driving or walking on the proposed route: Mabee Mines Rd., and Salmon Falls Rd, to SR 14. A crosswalk from a county "park and ride" parking lot to a popular hiking trail in the Columbia River Scenic Area crosses the route at the bottom of a steep hill and stop sign. (Salmon Falls Rd. and SR-14). School buses and parents transporting students, on a daily basis, routinely use this route.
2. This Project is a "lose/lose" for Skamania County: The gravel product will nearly be completely sold in Clark County where sales taxes will be collected. No adequate taxes or fees will be collected by Skamania County for road improvements and maintenance, and, safety improvements in the County sign posted "limited Sight Distance" area of tightly curved and narrow Mabee Mines Rd. Property values and taxes will be reduced due to daily planned 250 truck and trailer deliveries and returns, day and night, producing continual noise and traffic.
3. The gravel product route traffic and noise are incompatible and nearly entirely within the County approved "West End Comprehensive Subarea Plan," which notes preservation and enhancement of "peace and quiet, and, lack of heavy traffic."
4. It is purposefully deceitful and misleading that the proposal is comparable to near yearly logging truck traffic. Routine logging truck traffic is spring and summer seasonal only and normally 2-3 trucks only, lasting only 2-3 weeks.
5. I investigated Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) requirements for a new Stordahl gravel transport road on the BPA right-of-way. There is no draft EIS notice of contact with BPA. BPA has provided notice this project requirements are incompatible with BPA requirements.

We strongly recommend the Hearing Examiner DENY this Conditional USE Permit, and personally drive the proposed gravel transportation route from SR-14, Salmon Falls Rd., and Mabee Mines Road, prior to a final decision-making process.

Sincerely, Chris Brong, Skamania County Commissioner 2013-2016; and, Elaine Brong, US Bureau of Land Management WA and OR States Director 2002-2006.
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