

All 3 County Commissioners Oppose Mine Project

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Zoning Board Has Approved Anderson Twp. Mine

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CINCINNATI -- Hamilton County commissioners said Monday they would oppose an underground limestone mine approved last month by the Anderson Township zoning board.

Commissioners Todd Portune and Greg Hartmann said they supported a resolution proposed by fellow County Commissioner David Pepper to stop construction of the mine planned at Broadwell and Round Bottom roads.

All three commissioners will vote on the resolution Wednesday during their regularly scheduled meeting.

Martin Marietta Materials intends to create two large tunnels under the county-owned Broadwell Road to haul explosives into the underground mine on a daily basis.

Commissioners said that Ohio law requires the mining company to seek their approval to excavate under a county road, and all three commissioners said their opposition would effectively halt the project as currently planned.

“The long-term quality of life in many communities is at stake,” Pepper said. “Together we are sending a strong message that daily blasting, and its associated risks and hazards, would dramatically undermine its many communities.”

Opponents of the plan cited noise, dust, traffic and underground vibrations as potential risks associated with the project.

Anderson Township's zoning board, which approved the mine June 2 by a 3-2 vote, issued a 16-page packet filled with requirements, variances and 25 conditions that Martin Marietta would have to follow.

Among other issues, those guidelines governed the storage of 46,000 pounds of explosives so they would not damage nearby homes.

Opponents of the plan have said they would appeal the zoning board's decision all the way to Ohio's Supreme Court, if necessary.

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