



Newtown joins mine protest

Cincinnati Enquirer - Cincinnati, Ohio

September 11, 2008

Proposed Anderson Twp. operation would involve blasting

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ANDERSON TWP. - The proposed mining operation in Anderson Township that would involve underground blasting has produced reverberations beyond the township's borders.

Newtown Village Council voted this week to oppose the limestone mining operation, which would be built by Martin Marietta Materials Inc. on 480 acres at Broadwell and Round Bottom roads.

Officials in the neighboring communities of Terrace Park, Indian Hill and Mariemont have voiced concerns about the proposal, but haven't taken official stances yet.

"There would be a tremendous amount of truck traffic that would go through our town," Newtown Mayor Curt Cosby said.

He said more than 240 trucks a day would drive through Newtown to enter and leave the mining site.

"That would be just total devastation to our roads," Cosby said. "And there are our other concerns about the blasting, the dust and the environmental issues."

Richard Brahm, attorney for Martin Marietta, said it's premature for anyone to oppose the mining operation.

The company is preparing reports answering questions raised at the Aug. 7 public hearing of the Anderson Township Board of Zoning Appeals, he said.

The next hearing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road, with possibly more hearings to follow. "I would think that to be more responsible, you would wait to hear all the information before opposing it," Brahm said.

"A lot of these fears and anxieties, if looked at from a scientific and realistic point of view, will be answered in these hearings."

Before it can start building, Martin Marietta Materials needs the approval of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The company has asked for a conditional-use permit for underground mining and variances to allow the storage of explosives on the site.

The board has set no timeline for making a decision.

Its ruling could be appealed to Hamilton County Common Pleas Court.

The blasting would occur 400 to 800 feet below the ground surface and would pose no danger, Martin Marietta officials have said.

Some Anderson Township officials - but no member of the Board of Zoning Appeals - have expressed support for the mining proposal.

Opponents of the mining operation have formed a group called CABOOM (Citizens Against Blasting On Our Miami).

Tim Mara, a Cincinnati attorney who represents some residents opposed to the mining operation, said he's encouraged by Newtown's vote and by the questions raised by other neighboring communities.

"What's happening here is a snowballing of opposition," he said. "Each one of those communities is rightly concerned."

The village councils of Terrace Park, Indian Hill and Mariemont have decided to wait for more information about the proposed mining operation before deciding whether to oppose it.