

Company Planned To Tunnel Under County-Owned Road

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CINCINNATI -- County commissioners unanimously voted Wednesday to deny permission for a mining company to build a tunnel under an Anderson Township mine.

All three Hamilton County commissioners voted in favor of Commissioner David Pepper's proposal to block approval for Martin Marietta Materials Inc. to build two tunnels necessary for the mine beneath Broadwell Road, which is owned by the county.

Anderson Township's zoning board last month had narrowly approved the underground limestone mine.

Commissioners said 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.

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.

The mining company has said it intends to continue its efforts to build the mine.

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