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BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

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Residents dig for answers on project

CABOOM opposes

Zoning application

By Lisa Wakeland

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ANDERSON TWP. – Residents are upset about a proposed underground mine in Anderson Township.

Martin Marietta Materials Inc. applied for a conditional-use permit July 18 to excavate limestone from a mine located about 800 feet below the surface on the 518-acre property they own north of Broadwell Road and east of Round Bottom Road.

Township residents formed a group called CABOOM, Citizens Against Blasting On Our Miami, to

To get involved

To get involved with CABOOM, e-mail noblasingt@gmail.com

combat the zoning application. Cincinnati attorney Tim Mara, working on behalf of the group, said they are putting together a statement to present to the Anderson Township Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mara said residents are concerned about the noise from the blasting, trucks and the conveyors that would transport the limestone.

Pollution is another issue. Mara said there is a landfill adjacent to the Martin Marietta Materials property,

and there is concern about the mine affecting the Little Miami River, a scenic river protected by federal and state laws.

In the application letter, Steve Raffensperger, vice president and general manager for Martin Marietta Materials, said the surface of the mine can be office, research, industrial or warehouse space.

"An added benefit for conditional-use is the ability of Martin Marietta Materials to donate property for the building and completion of the Ancor Connector highway," Raffensperger wrote in the letter.

The application letter said the currently unused asset can transform into a productive property by increas-

ing employment and the tax base for the community.

However, Mara said CABOOM meetings have drawn close to 50 concerned residents.

He said in his research process, he found a similar case in Boone County where hundreds of people showed up to protest a proposed mine, and the application was denied.

"We're real optimistic that we can do the same thing, and we're working feverishly to accomplish that," Mara said.

The Anderson Township Board of Zoning Appeals meeting is at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 7, at the Anderson Center, 7850 Five Mile Road.