

# Gravel pit gets nod from commission

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LAMAR, Colo. -

The development of a nearly two hundred acre gravel pit operation took one step closer to reality Tuesday evening when the Prowers County Planning Commission granted a special use permit for land east of Lamar.

Todd Yee, an engineer from J&T Consulting presented to the commissioners the developer's plans for the site. Yee noted several adjustments to the preliminary plans to help assuage concerns neighbors of the proposed pit had voiced. He said the sorting and crushing operations had been moved to the north and that storage piles would be formed across the roadway from the neighbors' properties to provide additional sound and dust barriers to the neighbors from the pit's operations.

The engineer said access to the operation had been shifted from County Road HH.5 to an interior farm road in an effort to lesson the impact traffic would have on neighbors to the south of the operation. He also highlighted changes made to the proposed rail spur to ease concerns of both neighbors along CR HH.5 and the county commissioners.

Karl Nyquist, manager of GP Ranches, the developer of the site, said they have tried to take a proactive approach to designing the operation in such a way that it minimizes impact on neighbors. "I think that we've tried to meet with all the neighbors and figure out something that works," Nyquist said.

David Rasmussen, a neighbor to the operation on the south side of CR HH.5, said that he and his family were okay with the issuance of the permit in light of the modifications and concessions made by the developers. "I can't say that we're ever going to be happy about it, but I appreciate what you (Nyquist) have done," Rasmussen said. "As I've been telling everybody, we're going to be neighbors to a gravel pit."

Commissioner Jim Peterson abstained from the final vote because of a potential conflict of interest because his son operates a gravel company in the county.

The commission issued one other special use permit Tuesday. Joe Gonzales was issued a permit to operate an auto body repair and paint shop located on 14th Street in an A-1 agricultural zone. Gonzales informed the board that he has more than two decades experience and intends to exceed safety and environmental standards in his operations. The county fire department had previously inspected the premises and deemed it adequate. The business will operate under the name Gonzales Unlimited.

I wonder if the new gravel pit will be host to a junkyard like the other 2 pits appear to be.....

And a special thank you to GP Ranches for probably making the town of Lamar look like more of an eye sore than it already is!!

hotdog

2/12/2009 9:06:40 PM

OOPS. Forgot a few things.....

Improving sound and dust barriers? How can that be with an operation of this magnitude?

I've got a solution..... enclose the whole damn operation.... LOL. That way, it wouldn't be such an eye sore for Lamar!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

hotdog

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When mentioning job creation, I wasn't referring to the destruction of habit and winter wheat land for such.

If this is the land that I'm thinking of, it is prime deer, goose, pheasant, turkey, quail, dove, and duck, bobcat, and mountain lion property?

If I am wrong someone correct me. But, there is plenty of land between here and Kansas, on the south ends of Highway 50, that serve no purpose other than sage brush growth and an eyesoar. At least someone would have something to look at instead of brush and sand!

I don't know the components needed in their operation for their specific product. But, my assumption is that the ogalala aquifer is their goal (water)? If I'm wrong, please enlighten me, so that I don't make a fool out of myself while blogging.

I am in blind territory here, but I do know the land, and this is very suspicious regarding location. I'm just wondering if those on the South of Hwy 50 had a chance, or even knew about the potential monies associated with the leasing or purchases of such property(s)?

To me it looks like a typical, "the richer get richer, and the poor or struggling miss out", type of situation.

Those are my thoughts, so don't attack me, I am just wondering about the answers to such questions...Please assist me in understanding such if you can.

TheRealistCC

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