



City of Glenwood Springs
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PRESS RELEASE

November 13, 2019

CITY OF GLENWOOD SPRINGS LAUNCHES COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT QUARRY EXPANSION

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. – The City of Glenwood Springs will lay out its plans to fight the proposed expansion of the Mid-Continent Quarry, a limestone mine threatening its \$500 million retail/tourism economy, at a public event 12-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Glenwood Springs Community Center.

“The Whole Shebang,” as the event is called, will be an opportunity for residents, employees, business owners and neighboring communities to learn what is being done to stop the expansion of the limestone quarry, which is currently being reviewed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It will be hosted by city council members, city staff and representatives of the Glenwood Springs Citizens Alliance, a citizens group formed to fight the mine expansion.

“This is an urgent matter for our community — our economy, environment and way of life are all at stake,” said Mayor Jonathan Godes. “I am worried people do not realize the power of their voice. I invite everyone who cares about Glenwood Springs and tourism in the Roaring Fork Valley to come to the Community Center on Saturday to find out what we’re doing as a city and what they can do as citizens and neighbors to save the town we love. This mine is not in the right location and it will injure our tourism economy.”

The Mid-Continent Quarry is an open pit mine located a mile north of downtown Glenwood Springs, directly adjacent to Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park. Mine owner Rocky Mountain Resources (RMR) has applied to expand the existing mine site from 15.7 acres to 447 acres. The expanded quarry would be almost 30 times larger than the existing one.

“If this expansion is approved our neighborhoods and many of our businesses will be adversely impacted, not only visually by the massive scar on the hillside above town, but in many other ways,” Godes says. “We are fighting to protect the quality of life for our residents and visitors.”

Anticipated impacts include:

- A significant increase in heavy truck traffic with up to 500 truck trips per day from the mine through town to the rail yards.
- Industrial mining operations 24-hours-a-day: The owner is seeking permission to operate continuously day and night, every day of the year.

- Rail cars will come every five minutes with a train idling on the railroad track during the entire production shift. Over a 12-hour shift, this means a truck leaving the mine every 96 seconds and one back into the mine every 96 seconds: standing at a single spot a truck will go by every 48 seconds.
- Noise, dust and light pollution that comes with a significantly larger mining operation. RMR would be allowed to set off explosives from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. every day. Nighttime operations will likely require significant lighting along Transfer Trail Road and at the mine site.

“The healthy environment that surrounds Glenwood Springs drives our recreation and tourism-based economy, which employs 2,000 people here,” Godes said. “A massive, open pit quarry at the edge of town is simply not compatible and would have a life-long impact. We do not want this in our community – it will disrupt and ruin people’s lives.”

Glenwood Springs is best known as a historic destination, receiving 1.2 million visitors per year who visit the city for its world-famous natural hot springs pools, outdoor recreation activities that include hiking, biking, skiing, golf, caving, as well as water-based activities accessible on the iconic Colorado River. The Glenwood Springs economy has been based on tourism since 1885, the year of its incorporation. It has been recognized as the 2011 "Most Fun Town in America" by Rand McNally and USA Today, the 2014 #6 "Best Small Towns" by Livability, and the 2015 "The 5th Best Place to Live in America" by Outside Magazine.

The Whole Shebang on Saturday will include food by Smoke and children’s activities. It is free and open to the public. In addition to learning details about the campaign to stop the mine expansion, the public will have an opportunity to celebrate recent accomplishments in Glenwood Springs and learn about what’s coming in the year ahead. People from nearby communities in the Eagle, Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys are invited as well. Please RSVP to Sarah at sarah.derrigan@cogs.us or 970-384-6441.

Glenwood Springs has garnered nearly unanimous support from neighboring communities in the fight against mine expansion. In addition to the Garfield County Commissioners, elected boards in surrounding jurisdictions have passed resolutions against the mine expansion, including Silt, Rifle, New Castle, Carbondale, Basalt, Snowmass Village, and Pitkin County. The City of Aspen is expected to pass a resolution of opposition today, November 12, 2019, and Eagle County is expected to pass a similar resolution within the next few weeks.

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