



TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

July 17, 2020

Judy Wehner  
Assistant State Mining Specialist  
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources  
1612 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1612  
[ncminingprogram@ncdenr.gov](mailto:ncminingprogram@ncdenr.gov)

Subject: Public Comments on Pending Wake Stone Corporation Mining Permit Modification No. 92-10

Dear Ms. Wehner:

We understand and appreciate how important stakeholder engagement is to achieving the best overall outcomes in decision making. As a local government, that issues permits and administers our own public comment processes, the Town of Cary values NCDEQ's dedicated service in managing these important processes, and we respectfully submit the following written comments on pending mining permit modification, number 92-10 for your consideration.

The proposed Wake Stone Quarry is in the heart of the Triangle region and is surrounded by the Raleigh Durham International Airport, the towns of Cary and Morrisville, the City of Raleigh, Umstead Park, and Lake Crabtree. Cary owns, operates, and maintains a range of public infrastructure near the proposed quarry expansion area that are highlighted within our comments below. We seek to ensure that our public infrastructure investments are kept safe and trust that you will consider what is in the overall best interest of the region's current and future economy, environment, and health as you make your decision on this quarry proposal.



The North Cary Water Reclamation Facility, located just south of this proposed quarry and adjacent to I-40 (photo above), treats approximately 7 million gallons per day and serves a population of greater than 80,000 citizens, businesses, schools, and non-profit agencies. This critical facility depends upon the long-term integrity and vitality of Crabtree Creek, which is the receiving stream for highly treated wastewater. As the holder of the relevant state operating permits, Cary is tasked with and committed to the long-term protection of Crabtree Creek and our sustained capacity to safely operate Cary's North Water Reclamation Facility in compliance with all regulatory permits. We appreciate your consideration of and attention to the long-range benefits of stream protections for maintaining our essential wastewater treatment services both now and in the future.


Cary also owns and operates the Old Reedy Creek Trailhead, a road, bridge, and several greenways located just south of this proposed quarry and adjacent to I-40 (photos above) that provide connectivity with Umstead Park. With the sizable investment in public infrastructure, we ask that you please consider and keep safe these public investments along with those who maintain and enjoy them.

Based on the blasting analysis provided in the mining permit modification application, we have questions regarding the proposed quarry's impact on Cary's infrastructure including the Old Reedy Creek Bridge and the North Cary Water Reclamation Facility that the application may not fully address, and we ask that you please ensure that adequate provisions for blasting monitoring are provided during quarry construction and operations to protect Cary's infrastructure as well as the surrounding environment.

Finally, we note that concerns with impacts to the environment, public health and safety, and recreation have been raised by citizens during the public comment period as described by the provisions of the Mining Act of 1971, Section 74-51 (D). We want to thank you for holding this public input period and accepting public comments, including ours, so that all concerns can be heard and reviewed as part of your decision process. Should you decide to expand your review to include either the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and/or State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), we will continue to follow and participate as we feel is warranted and helpful.

In conclusion, we respectfully submit these comments for your review and consideration. If we can provide additional information or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russ Overton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russ Overton, P.E.  
Deputy Town Manager  
Town of Cary