

PRESS RELEASE

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Carroll Citizen's Group Opposes Proposed Rosebud Coal Mine and Coal Washing Facilities

Residents of Union Township and surrounding areas in Carroll County met to voice their opposition to a proposed Rosebud Mining Company coal mine. Many of nearly 30 people who met recently at the Friendship Center had been part of the 60+ people who were at the January Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Mineral Resource Management public comment meeting where they formally submitted their concerns.

The consensus of the attendees at both meetings was that Rosebud's proposed mining operations will reward an out-of-state corporation at the expense of Carroll County property owners and government. Few if any local jobs will be created and no substantial tax revenues are expected by the County. Subsidence and water issues that are part of this type of mining and are likely to plague the County's citizens and government for generations to come. SR 332 will become a dangerous heavy-truck trafficked highway, and, that the proposed mine would negatively impact Carroll County's rural environment and drive down land values.

Dominick Olivito Jr., who lives directly across the street from the proposed mine portal, expressed his concerns, saying "like many of us, I moved here over 30 years ago, raised a family, and planned to retire here to enjoy the peaceful surroundings, fresh air, clean water and rural lifestyle. There is a very real probability that the mining operation will affect our well water quality, quantity or both. Without good water property values will go down and that's not good for fellow landowners or the County."

Rosebud Mining Company acknowledged at a public meeting last fall that Carroll County is unique in that it has low population density and most of its residents rely on wells for domestic and agricultural water needs. Mr. Olivito continued, "Rosebud's permit application demonstrates there has been inadequately analysis of the aquifers that provide our well water and how a 20+ year mining operation will impact those aquifers."

Paul Feezel, who coordinated the follow-up meeting, said that "most Union Township landowners expect the mining operations will do more harm than good to the County." Feezel and others in the group have used the Freedom of Information act to request records from State and Local officials in an effort to understand who is really benefiting from this operation. The proposed room and pillar mining operation is similar to those that have been making the news in Tuscarawas where subsidence (sink holes) and well water issues are forcing home owners to resort to lawsuits and state funding to cover their losses. "My wife and I just finished building our eco-friendly retirement home and the potential of losing our water or even our house just makes us sick to our stomachs. The State's limited subsidence insurance couldn't come close to paying for our home's replacement." said Feezel.

Linda Jordan, the lone Harrison County representative at the meeting, encouraged the group, saying "it's great to see so many folks from Carroll County who care about the impact of this operation. In Scio, where the coal washing plant is planned, too many residents have just resigned themselves to giving Rosebud whatever they want." Rosebud has asked the State to invoke a rarely used economic development law to side step a local North Township no-landfill ordinance. Jordan who lives near the proposed wash plant location said that she worries the landfill liner used to hold the toxic waste from the coal washing facility has a year life expectancy of only 30-50 years. "Thirty years may seem like a long time to Rosebud," said Jordan, "but not to folks who would like to pass something on to their grandchildren."

Harrison County has first-hand experience with the benefits and costs of coal mining. Jodan continued, "I realize that coal is a strong part of local history, but the evidence is all around us. Coal makes a few people rich, allows a few more to survive for a while, but what is left to the next generation? If coal was really the great economic answer, then based upon past activity here, Harrison County should be the richest county in the state."

Dominick Olivito, Jr. summed up the meeting with a call to action. "Now is the time for Carroll County property owners to defend their water and property rights by working with ODNR and against Rosebud or other mining concerns. We need to say, no thank you Rosebud, we prefer Carroll County the way it is."

The group will hold its next monthly meeting on Monday March 29 at 7:00 PM at the Friendship Center near the Carroll County Fairgrounds. The meeting is open to the public; however to coordinate meeting logistics, anyone interested in attending is asked contact Paul Feezel at 330-627-7163 in advance.

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