

21-Nov-2024

Matt Opalenik
30 Vinegar Hill Rd.
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commissioners
Liz Burdick, Ledyard Director Land Use & Planning
Ledyard, CT

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

I am respectfully writing in strong opposition to the Cashman/GFI proposed implementation of a quarry in Gales Ferry.

My specific concerns are:

1) Traffic delays

The applicant indicates dozens of transits of trucks/semi-trailers per working hour laden with many tons of granite. As you know Rt. 12 is a two lane highway with limited to no areas that allow passing. Therefore speeds on Rt. 12 would be limited to the speed of these slow, fully-loaded vehicles. This would create significant congestion throughout the Route 12 corridor which at times strains with current traffic to/from the sub-base, Electric Boat and Pfizer. Due to the slow speeds drivers may attempt unsafe and illegal passing of these slow vehicles resulting in accidents and potential loss of life. Also note trucks proceeding to the Pequot bridge would need to take a left turn. This area is already congested, additional slow truck traffic would make things significantly worse. The constant heavy truck traffic would also increase degradation of the roadway, another safety concern.

2) Health risks

As has been presented by multiple individuals dust from the quarry and trucks would present health risks to individuals living in proximity to the quarry and also to our elementary and middle school children who would be exposed to this dust for the duration of the quarrying project, which could be 9 years (K-8th grade). If the application is granted Cashman should be required to post a very large (~500 million) 25-year bond to address any health-related issues either during the quarrying operations or more likely, health issues that surface after operations have ended.

3) Well silting/destruction

Another concern not yet addressed is silting of household wells due to the continuous extended blasting operations over 10-15 years. We've experienced silting due to drilling of household wells in the vicinity. Cashman has not shown that continuous extended blasting over 10-15 years would not contaminate with silt, or destroy the viability of household wells.

These concerns taken together highlight that this application would not provide a benefit to Gales Ferry/Ledyard as a whole and would degrade the quality of life in Gales Ferry, Ledyard and nearby communities.

Thank you,
Matt Opalenik