



EX#205-2

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DEC 05 2024

Land Use Department

September 12, 2024

Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commission
741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

Comments Regarding Proposed Quarry in Gales Ferry

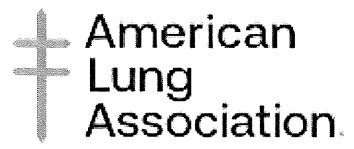
Dear Distinguished Members of the Ledyard Planning and Zoning Commission:

My name is Ruth Canovi and I am the Director of Advocacy for the American Lung Association in Connecticut. The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary public health association in the United States, currently representing the more than 36 million Americans living with lung diseases. The Lung Association works to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through research, education and advocacy. I heard from a resident of Ledyard about the proposed quarry in Gales Ferry and I wanted to share some health impacts of exposure to silica dust from similar places and ask that you place a high priority on the health of both the public and employees when making your decisions.

The American Lung Association is concerned about silica and its impacts on lung health. Silica is the most abundant mineral in the earth's crust. Any occupation that involved chipping, cutting, drilling or grinding soil, granite, slate, sandstone or other natural mineral can cause exposure to silica dust. This is concerning as when people breathe silica dust, they inhale tiny particles of the mineral silica. Over time, these particles can cause lung inflammation that leads to the formation of lung nodules and scarring in the lungs called pulmonary fibrosis. This is a progressive disease. Over time, lung capacity decreases and people with silicosis may need support with supplemental oxygen and other devices to help them breathe. Having silicosis also increases the risk of other health problems, including tuberculosis, lung cancer and chronic bronchitis.

The Lung Association has a wealth of information on our [website](https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/silicosis) about the public health impacts of exposure to silica dust. <https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/silicosis> I ask that you take this into serious consideration and prioritize health as you deliberate how to proceed.





Sincerely,

Ruth Canovi, MPH
Director, Advocacy
American Lung Association, Connecticut

