

From: [kimlhm \(null\)](#)
To: [Elizabeth Burdick](#)
Subject: GFI Application
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:19:13 PM

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

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Burdick,

We would like to state our strong opposition to the Cashman/GFI proposed implementation of a quarry at the area known as Mount Decatur in Gales Ferry.

Our specific concerns are:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1) <!--[endif]-->Adverse community and personal health consequences from stone extraction operations. Removal of granite and quartz causes the release of Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS). The CDC states “Silicosis results in permanent lung damage and is a progressive, debilitating, and sometimes fatal disease.” (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/silica/about/index.html>.) There is no treatment or cure for silicosis. It is simply not possible for GFI to say that the effects of their proposed operation will be minimal. GFI’s workers will be exposed to RCS, as will their neighbors, and the health consequences are deeply concerning.

In addition, people with other lung diseases such as COPD or asthma will be at increased risk from the inhalation of RCS. Asthma affects between 8-9% of all children in the US, (https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/most_recent_national_asthma_data.htm), and inhalation of RCS can trigger asthma exacerbations that lead to hospitalization and lost days at school. Young children attending the elementary and middle schools close to the proposed GFI operation will be at increased risk both for immediate health consequences and long-term consequences. It is unconscionable for our community to allow this to happen to our vulnerable children.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2) <!--[endif]-->Adverse effects on the character of the immediate neighborhood and property values. Living near GFI’s operation with the noise of its machinery and blasting, as well as adverse health effects, will absolutely decrease property values for local homeowners.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3) <!--[endif]-->Adverse effects on traffic patterns and road use. The number of trucks entering and leaving the GFI site will DEFINITELY increase, bringing with them noise, RCS, exhaust, and the potential for increased motor vehicle accidents.

Thank you for your attention and time. It is much appreciated.

Kim & Jim Millar