

I am writing to formally request that the 58-acre expansion of the Vulcan Materials Dixie Lee Quarry be immediately removed from the Consent List during tomorrow's hearing, and that a mandatory 60-day postponement be granted. We are placing Knox County and the Planning Commission on formal notice regarding a specific, severe, and ongoing property liability caused by Vulcan's operations: Biological Displacement and Vector Trespass. When Vulcan detonates explosives, the seismic shockwaves travel violently through the underlying karst rock. While Vulcan's engineers may argue these vibrations are within structural limits for human dwellings, they completely ignore the biological reality of the 58-acre ecosystem they are blasting. Ground-dwelling arthropods—specifically venomous spiders, subterranean termites, and carpenter ants—rely entirely on mechanoreception (sensing ground vibrations) to survive. The extreme subterranean shockwaves from Vulcan's blasting trigger a catastrophic flight response in these populations. The blasting acts as a continuous, violent eviction notice, driving massive insect and spider populations out of the blast zone and directly into the nearest vibration-damped structures: the concrete foundations and insulated walls of the homes in Hickory Meadows. This is not a subjective neighborhood nuisance. It is a quantifiable financial and safety tort inflicted on our community: Public Health Hazard: By clear-cutting mature forest and continuously blasting the bedrock, Vulcan is actively forcing venomous species (including the Brown Recluse and Black Widow) out of their natural habitats and into the bedrooms and playrooms of our subdivision. Vector Trespass & Financial Liability: Vulcan's shockwaves are actively displacing wood-destroying pests into residential foundations. This forces homeowners to absorb thousands of dollars in structural pest control, extermination fees, and damage mitigation. This constitutes a continuous "Vector Trespass"—a direct secondary property damage resulting from an abnormally dangerous activity (high explosives). Authorizing Vulcan to push an 80-foot blast pit to within 300 feet of our property lines guarantees an exponential escalation of this biological invasion. It is entirely unacceptable for Knox County to authorize a corporation to push its pest displacement costs onto local taxpayers. If this Commission chooses to proceed with a vote tomorrow, we demand that Vulcan be legally required to fund a Vector Mitigation Escrow to fully compensate adjoining properties for the monthly structural pest control required to combat the wildlife their blasting displaces. We urge the Commission to enforce a 30-day postponement so this specific public health hazard and financial liability can be properly assessed and mitigated on the public record.