

Chanas Aggregates- Rock Crushing Operation west of Johnson City

Update: April 15, 2015

Thanks to all who have already filed comments online through the TCEQ. An informational meeting has been scheduled for:

Thursday, April 30th 2015 at 7:00 pm
Pedernales Electric Co-op Auditorium
201 S Avenue F, 201 Avenue F, Johnson City, TX 78636

Please plan on attending to ask important questions of the TCEQ and the applicant.

****Important note-** the comment period on this application is still scheduled to close on **FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH** – it is important that residents of the watershed raise their concerns in the public comment gateway on TCEQ’s website. Visit [this webpage](#) and enter 130211 as the Permit Number.

The application that allows for public comment is called the Air Quality Standard Permit for Permanent Rock and Concrete Crushers ([view Chanas Application](#)). This permit affords MUCH LESS public participation than most site-specific TCEQ permits. ACCORDING TO TCEQ STAFF, THERE IS NO OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING ON THIS PERMIT- effectively ending the public’s ability to be involved in the permit application after the public comment period closes.

Application Basics - By the Numbers

The application is for a sand and gravel rock crushing operation, [4 miles northwest](#) of Johnson City. The operation would impact 10-50 acres on a roughly 130-acre property. The impacted area is roughly 1500 feet from the Pedernales River, and is approximately 11 river miles above from Johnson City ([view Chanas Map](#)). A sand and gravel extraction operation has been on this site in the past - there is not currently one in operation.



The applicant is a company called Chanas Aggregates Blanco, LLC. Keith Jackson, Vice President, is listed as the primary contact. Chanas has offices in Llano and Midland. A consulting firm called Hill Country Environmental consulted on the application. Details on the scale of the operation allowed by the permit below:

	Application Maximums (per crusher. Both a primary and secondary crusher will be on site)
Days Per Year	264 days
Hours Per Year	2,640 hours
Hours / day	10 hours
Days / week	5.5 days
Weeks / year	48 weeks
Tons / hour	200 tons
Tons / year	528,000 tons

*see page 62 of application



An example of one of the rock crushers that would be used. http://www.sanger.net/jaw_crushers/cedarapids_3042_portable_jaw_crusher.html

Water Use

Water will be used on site to control dust. It is unclear where the water will come from, and what quantity of water will be used. No permit applications for commercial or industrial wells have been filed with the Blanco/Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District (GCD). Ron Feisler, General Manager at the GCD, will conduct a site visit this week to ensure that no unpermitted wells have been drilled. If he *does* find groundwater wells, they will need the proper well registration and operating permit documents to be filed with the GCD. As long as the operation complies with the GCD's rules and does not use water in a wasteful manner, the GCD will have to issue a permit. The GCD does require that applicants submit a water conservation plan, calculate pumpage demands and demonstrate reasonable use of groundwater. Their permit application would be considered at a GCD Board of Directors meeting, which are open to public comment and participation.

Alternatively, the applicant could get water from some other source - buying in bulk from Johnson City or withdrawing from a spring-fed tank on site. Withdrawals from the Pedernales would require a permit from the TCEQ.

Other Permits and TCEQ Approvals

In addition to the air quality permit, Chanas has applied for a Stormwater Permit and an Aggregate Production Operation permit (really just a registration of the quarry they will be working from). We are working to get a copy of the stormwater permit ([view Chanas APO permit](#)).