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Public Meeting on Rock Crusher Permit

By Jodi Lehman

The City of Marble Falls has taken action to annex into the city limits a substantial portion of the tract Asphalt, Inc. LLC wants to use for a quarry and rock crushing facility. Marble Falls Assistant City Manager Caleb Kraenzel said the annexation can be completed by November 21 and will establish municipal zoning for the crusher site and a few neighboring land owners. Kraenzel said Marble Falls is continuing to work on its formal objection to Asphalt, Inc.'s Application for an Air Quality Standard Permit for a Permanent Rock Crusher to be filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Marble Falls Mayor John Packer has sent letters to Governor Greg Abbott, Senator Dawn Buckingham, Representative Terry Wilson, and other state officials expressing the city's objection to allowing a rock crusher facility so near Baylor Scott & White Hospital and residential neighborhoods.

TCEQ has decided to hold an informational meeting on the permit application. Andrew Keese, TCEQ Media Relations Specialist, said the agency is currently working with Asphalt, Inc. to decide upon a date and location for the meeting. All persons who have submitted comments or have requested to be on the TCEQ mailing list for this particular application will receive notice of the public meeting. Keese said informational meetings do not extend the public notice comment period and any comments received during an informational meeting are not considered in the final decision on the application.

An informational meeting does not extend the public comment period, which ends October 9, 2017 on Asphalt, Inc.'s permit application for the current Burnet County site. TCEQ Executive Director Richard Hyde will issue his opinion on the permit within 30 days thereafter. Keese said the Executive Director "typically takes the 30 days to make the decision," which means the TCEQ decision will be made prior to the completion of Marble Falls' annexation process. Keese explained that if the representations made by Asphalt, Inc. in their application meet the requirements of the standard permit, TCEQ is required by law to approve the application. If the representations in the application do not meet the requirements of the standard permit or if the company has an unsatisfactory compliance history, the application will be denied. Even if the permit is approved by TCEQ, Keese said Asphalt, Inc. would still be required to acquire all other pertinent authorizations which may be needed for its particular operation before start of