

What You Can Do

If you are interested in assisting the Maverick County Environmental and Public Health Association with **legal** expertise or donations, please contact George Baxter: **gbaxterep@yahoo.com 830-773-6480**

If you want to work with religious leaders in an **ecumenical** opposition to the mine, please contact Rev. Paul Bailie: **bailiepaul@gmail.com 830-872-5899**

If you want to assist with **Tribal** or **Educational** efforts, or you would like to coordinate the effort to explore **sustainable energy sources** please contact Dr. Jonathan Hook: **airc@wt.net 469-450-1374**

If you would like to help with **media** planning and contacts or **volunteer** coordination, please contact Angela Pitasi: **apitasi@gmail.com 830-352-7114**

If you can draw relevant **artwork** or write a **song**, please contact Rose Hook: **rosehook17@gmail.com 469-247-6340**

All of us lead busy lives. We take care of our children, work to provide for our families, and try to enjoy life. Sometimes though, a threat to our community is so real, so dangerous, that we must interrupt our regular activities to stop that threat. Such is the case with this surface coal mine. We must not let the greed of a few destroy the future of so many. Please, get involved today!



Do you want a Safe, Clean, and Beautiful Maverick County for your children?

Yes? Then join us today in opposing the obsolete and destructive coal mining effort that is defacing our landscape, potentially polluting our water, air and soil, and contributing to global Climate Change.

Explore with us alternative clean energy sources and sustainable economic development. Take a stand now to protect generations to come!

Overview of the Problem

Dangers of Surface Coal Mining

Open pit or strip mining has a devastating effect on the environment. Surface mining removes tremendous amounts of topsoil in order to exploit the coal seams. This causes erosion, habitat loss, and dust pollution. Twenty-five tons of topsoil must be removed for every ton of coal that is extracted.

This topsoil may be dumped into low areas, destroying wetlands and other water sources. Hazardous heavy metals exposed by mining can contaminate the soil, underground water, and water on the surface. This can cause serious problems for both humans and animals. Pyrite, which can be found in rocks containing coal, can form sulfuric acid and iron hydroxide when exposed to air and water. Rainwater runoff can then become acidified and damage both soil and surface water.

MORE INFORMATION IS AT:

Coalition for a Clean Maverick County- Facebook

Maverick County Environmental and Public Health Association- Facebook and at www.savemaverickcounty.com

Save the Elm Creek Campaign- Facebook

The Dos Republicas Coal Partnership (DRCP) has begun operations at an open pit coal mine (strip mine) with an intended size of 6346 acres (10 square miles) in Maverick County, Texas. This mine is located 3 miles from Eagle Pass (population 25,000 with 25,000 more nearby) and one mile from densely populated subdivisions and elementary schools. The Maverick County Environmental and Public Health Association, Maverick County, the City of Eagle Pass, the Maverick County Hospital District and thousands of citizens oppose this mine because:

1. All coal mined will be shipped to Mexico by rail car to be burned in the highly polluting Carbon I and II power plants in Nava, Coahuila (7 miles from the U.S. border and Eagle Pass). Air contamination from these plants reaches as far as Big Bend and Chicago. So, Texas will receive none of the energy benefit and virtually all of the adverse consequences.

2. The parent companies of DRCP operate the largest coal mines in Coahuila, where coal is available and cheap.

3. The mine will be a continuous source of dust, coal dust and crystalline silica pollution, not only from the mine itself, but from the 150 car train that will transport the coal through Eagle Pass.

4. Maverick County already has a rate of COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) more than twice the Texas state average.



Damage done by open pit surface coal mining
-BLM photo

5. The mine will discharge all of its wastewater into Elm Creek, which then flows into the Rio Grande River two miles upriver from the Eagle Pass water intake. It will potentially endanger the sole source of drinking water for 50,000 people.

6. The mine is projected to operate for at least 18 years and to expand to over 25,000 acres, an area six or seven times the size of Eagle Pass.

7. Much of the mine, including coal mining blocks and sedimentation ponds, is located in a FEMA designated flood zone. Should a flood occur (as happened in 2013 and 2014) when the mine is in operation, all the sediment, coal fines and acid drainage contained in these pits would be washed out and deposited in the homes of residents along Elm Creek.

8. Previous underground coal mines are dangerously close to the new mine and to the community. The refuse (tailings) from those mines may contain toxic substances.

9. The property contains numerous sites of historical interest and affected American Indian Tribes were not consulted prior to the USACE permit being issued, nor was the National Historic Preservation Act evaluation process completed before construction began. Some historic sites have already been destroyed and more are in danger. The Comanche Nation issued a formal resolution opposing the mine.

10. Maverick County is 97% Hispanic and American Indian, and 34% of its people live below the poverty line. It is one of the ten poorest counties in the United States. This mine is a perfect example of Environmental Injustice: detrimental environmental actions imposed on a vulnerable community against its will.