



March 27, 2018

Dear Community:

My name is Flip Short, and I am the Owner and President of Star Excavation. It is one of 3 firms that I currently own and operate in Lee's Summit. The other two businesses are: 1) Legacy Touch and 2) Paragon Star LLC. Additionally, I previously was the CEO of ViraCor-Eurofins, a firm that I founded and headquartered here in Lee's Summit before selling my interest in the firm a few years ago. I am also the individual responsible for the annual Magic Tree lighting during the holiday season at the intersection of View High Drive and I-470. I care greatly about Lee's Summit and its people and I have invested and continue to invest heavily in this community. I would not engage in activities that would prove detrimental to the community or its citizens.

We have notified certain landowners as required by the State of Missouri but through this correspondence, I wanted to provide certain pertinent information to the Bent Tree Bluff and Summerfield Estates Homeowners Associations and the community at large. It is essentially the same information that will be shared at the public meeting on Wednesday, March 28.

Currently, there is a pending application for an amendment to a Land Reclamation Permit that I currently hold and is associated with on-going efforts to put the acreage associated with an existing abandoned underground mine in Lee's Summit back into a productive and tax generating use. The area of the land reclamation project is north of I-470 and roughly between the Rock Island Railroad on the west and Pryor Road on the east. A land reclamation permit was issued by the State of Missouri on May 2, 2014. Since that time, we have been actively involved in land reclamation activities at the site.

The use of "explosives" is required to "reclaim" the land. We have looked at other methodologies to use in our reclamation operations and they have proven to be ineffectual and non-economic in nature. Our land reclamation permit, at our request, prohibited the use of explosives at the site. We believed that we could rely upon other methods and that we did not require the use of explosives to dislodge the "ceiling" of the mine before crushing it and using it to create aggregate. We were in error and now we need to rectify the mistake that we made when seeking the permit.

The use of explosives at our site is no different than those utilized in a variety of development projects---both commercial and residential----that happen on a regular and recurring basis in Lee's Summit. Since January 2016, blasting permits were provided for the developments at (1) Village at View High, (2) Strother Crossing and (3) Summit Orchard. We anticipate a future blasting permit will be required for the projected development in other sites along the I-470 corridor which are closer to the Summerfield Estate and Bent Tree Bluff sub-divisions than the Star Excavating operations and not separated by an interstate highway.

At the land reclamation site, what will be different from the typical use of explosives is that we intend to use two types of explosives at the site. They are:

Autostem. This is a deflagrator product. It is a low explosive, defined by ATF and DOT 1.4s regulatory agencies, as nothing more than a champagne popper or shotgun shell. Autostem moves at much slower rate (less than 300 fps) than conventional Dynamite/ high explosive (which are close to 10,000 fps). The shock factor is significantly less, in fact minimal to non-existent (See You Tube videos showcasing the typical use of Autostem <https://youtu.be/EtfiSKqc6LO> & https://youtu.be/JerMk0uS_Tc); and

- High Explosives, commonly known as “blasting” is the industry standard for dislodging rock. For example, in 2006-2007, Clarkson Construction used blasting to remove mine property directly across the street from our site to build the Pryor Road and I-470 interchange improvements here in Lee's Summit.

Regardless of which explosive method we use, the nature of our reclamation project, which is the taking down, or collapsing of an abandoned underground limestone mine, would involve a blasting process with minimal shooting compared to conventional mining. We intend to only shoot the pillars or roof beam and allow the rooms to collapse from the weight of rock above after pillar has been shot. We estimate to be removing 3-6 pillars per week which should only require 1 to 2 shots per week. Once the material is on the ground, we will come with excavators and hydraulic hoe rams and process the material to prepare it for crushing. We will be providing a seismograph at the site that will monitor the impact of the use of all explosives. The public will be able to access the seismograph readings on a 24/7 basis.

There are 9 separate federal, state and local government agencies or jurisdictions who oversee and review the operations at the land reclamation project. They are:

1. Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF)
2. Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA)
3. US Department of Transportation (US DOT)
4. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
5. Missouri Fire Marshall's Office
6. MO Department of Natural Resource (MDNR)
7. MO Clean Water Commission
8. MO Clean Air Commission
9. City of Lee's Summit

The project is current with all required reports and is in good standing with all the above referenced entities.

Respectfully,
Flip Short