

Hard Rock Quarries in the State of Texas

- There are thousands of hard rock quarries in the State of Texas.
- There are hundreds of hard rock quarries that are located near structures.
- What little oversight that is offered comes through:
 1. The Texas Commission On Environmental Quality. They only cover air and water pollution and are deemed by many to be less than effective.
 2. The Edwards Aquifer Authority (in the South Central Texas area) which only covers water quality and control issues.
- There is no Texas oversight of hard rock quarries on issues such as:
 1. Air overpressure
 2. Frequency
 3. Peak Particle Velocity
 4. Noise
 5. Light
 6. Nuisance
 7. Property Value Impact
 8. General quality of life issues
- The only Federal guideline available for hard rock quarry oversight is the U.S. Bureau of Mines document RI-8507 (Nov. 1980). These guidelines were created to oversee coal mining operations in the north eastern United States. The data was adjusted to try to accommodate blast impact from hard rock mining in other parts of the United States. The Bureau of Mines was disbanded over 10 years ago. Hard rock mining done at the upper levels of these guidelines are generally deemed quite offensive by local citizens.
- Citizens in Texas deserve better representation from the State as it concerns hard rock mining. Most major quarry operators are in favor of State of Texas guidelines and oversight. Smaller special interest groups have, in the past, prevented any action from being taken on this issue.
- It is time for the legislature to step forward to
 1. Address and investigate this issue
 2. To create and publish meaningful hard rock quarry oversight regulations
 3. Do this in a timely fashion with a specified target completion date.