

**Black Mountain Cement**, backed by the arrogantly named “High Roller Group” has been very discreet about their plans to build a 600-acre cement and limestone blasting plant just southwest of Sherman and just west of Howe — and for good reason.

Not only are they destroying the legacy of a 100-year-old Dorchester Baptist Church because of their location, but they are also looking to ruin the air, water, and general quality of life for at least seven communities in a 50-mile radius.

### **What they are doing**

High Roller Group (HRG), the firm behind Black Mountain Cement, claims they are creating a “next generation cornerstone of cement production” that will “build up the community” — but in fact their plans would do **just the opposite**.

The truth is that the proposed plant would negatively impact the health and wellbeing of Grayson County and those who live in:

- Dorchester Sherman
- Howe Gunter
- Denison Lake Texoma
- Durant Southmayd
- Collinsville Whitesboro
- Sadler

Let’s dive into the details.

### **The negative impacts**

Enjoying your air and water? If HRG had their way, it wouldn’t be for long. The list of toxins that would be released into the air — and the effects that come with them — is much longer than anyone should be comfortable with:

- **Sulfuric acid:** Alters the clearance of particles from the lungs. These changes resemble those produced by cigarette smoke and could well lead to chronic bronchitis.
- **Lead:** Lead can adversely affect the nervous system, kidney function, immune system, reproductive and developmental systems and the cardiovascular system.
- **Nitrogen oxide:** Elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide can cause damage to the human respiratory tract and increase a person’s vulnerability to respiratory infections and asthma.
- **Carbon monoxide:** Exposure to lower levels of CO can cause chest pain, reduce the ability to exercise, and may contribute to other cardiovascular effects.
- **Dust and particulates:** Particulate matter has been shown to cause asthma and respiratory disease, reduce visibility, and also adversely affect climate, ecosystems and materials.

This would have a severe impact on the air quality in the county. Now let’s talk about the water. Did we mention they’ll be blasting for limestone? Here’s what that does.

- **Limestone mining can affect ground water conditions.** Limestone deposits often occur. Often, mining operations remove ground water to expose the quarrying site, which can lower the water table and change how water flows.
- **Streams and rivers can be altered.** This increases the danger of flooding, and any pollutants or changes in water quality affects the surface water. Upstream surface water features, such as marshes, ponds and wetlands, can lose volume as their waters drain into the mine and are pumped out.
- **Blasting and construction.** Small explosive charges set along drilled lines free blocks of stone to be removed for construction. Large explosive charges reduce whole areas of limestone to rubble, which is removed for use as crushed stone. The impact from explosions can result in noise pollution and dust. Underground forces from the blasts can cause sinkholes or change the drainage and water quality of underground aquifers.

### **Other reasons you should care**

- Excessive draw on the water table – Dorchester is currently home to wells that supply Sherman, Dorchester, Howe, and Gunter populations. With existing water concerns, this will affect our water supply.
- Health risks to livestock and wildlife.
- Heavy industrial traffic on neighborhood roads.

What's worse, this "High Roller Group" was also implicated in a bribery scheme, in which TX Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian received a donation for \$100,000 from them three days after he approved the holding company's application to build an oil waste disposal site.

**High Roller Group ultimately donated \$477,000 in campaign contributions to Wayne Christian and three other commissioners who ruled on the project.**

### **What you can do**

Don't let the "High Rollers" take over your town — together our voices are louder than theirs. Please attend the public meeting on **Monday, March 25th at 7 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn**, address below:

5015 S US HWY 75,  
DENISON TX 75020

You can also formally voice your opposition by visiting [www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/](http://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/) and commenting about pending permit application **167047**.