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ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 091912 4a

Date: September 19, 2012

Subject: Briefing on SP-2008-0513D TXI Hornsby Bend West; SP-2008-0515D TXI Hornsby Bend East; SP-99-01-86D and TXI Sand and Gravel Operations Webberville Texas.

Motioned By: Robin Gary

Seconded By: Mary Ann Neely

Recommendation

The Environmental Board recommends with conditions to approve ordinance with variances and staff conditions with additional Environmental Board conditions.

Board conditions:

Watershed Protection Department and Travis County Natural Resource collaborate to develop a more sensitive monitoring program than that recommended by the URS baseline study in order to protect habitat and water quality given the substantial change in land use. Monitoring thresholds should be more sensitive than the suggested 1 standard deviation above maximum constituent levels observed at any of the baseline wells collectively.

Support and continue monitoring program for as long as mining activities are on-going and/or haul road is in service, meaning that the monitor program should extend beyond the currently proposed two year initial study period.

Wells should be monitored more than the currently suggested once each year. Monitoring should include both routine monitoring and storm event sampling.

Surface water quality examples should be included in the storm event monitoring to examine the effectiveness of water quality controls at creek crossings.

Mining should stop if the modified for baselines thresholds are exceeded until the issue fixed.

Air monitoring sites should operate while mining, haul road, and/or processing plant are in use or operating.

City of Austin Environmental reviewers should look at 609S native species to be used so they are appropriate to the area.

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Rationale:

Ground water is a sole water supply for many area residents. An adverse effect of employing an internal haul road must be monitored as long as the area is actively mined and/ or haul road is in service.

The baseline condition definition suggested by URS of the overall maximum value observed at any of the 10 sampled wells plus 1 standard deviation, does not build in a sensitive enough warning system to assess impact on local wells. Outliers are traditionally removed from scientific analyses. Either water quality should be monitored relative to observed values at individual wells or the threshold should be a median value plus 1 standard deviation.

Elm and Gilliland Creek discharge into the Colorado River. The Colorado River is both habitat and drinking water source for many downstream. We need to take precautions to protect these waters.

Vote 6-0-1-0

For: Maxwell, Gary, Anderson, Perales, Neely and Walker

Against:

Abstain:

Recused: Schissler

Approved By:

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair