

New Jersey Sierra Club
Resolution Advocating A Halt To Millington Quarry Development In The Absence
Of An Approved Cleanup Plan

WHEREAS developers in the town of Basking Ridge in Bernards Township, with the approval of the Bernards Township Council, want to build a mixed use development project consisting of up to 235 housing units, 215,000 square feet of retail space and a hotel of up to 250 rooms on the contaminated site of the 183-acre former Millington Quarry, and

WHEREAS this site contains commercial fertilizer from landfill brought in by the owner of the quarry that was used to improperly cover soil from the quarry and may now not support vegetation, and

WHEREAS the site contains an expanding lake from runoff that is projected to reach 50 acres and has unacceptably high levels of contaminants, such as lead, Benzo(a)anthracene and metals such as aluminum and silver at the lake bottom, and

WHEREAS the developer envisions this lake for boating and other recreational uses, and

WHEREAS the possibility exists for heavy fertilizer runoff into the lake and surrounding communities, which include the Passaic River, and

WHEREAS the site contains a cliff wall of approximately 200 feet adjacent to a NJ Transit rail line which could possibly have damaging erosion and runoff, and

WHEREAS there is no approved environmental cleanup plan, yet the township is trying to proceed without one, and

WHEREAS a secondary access road to the site is proposed at a NJ Transit train crossing on Pond Hill Road, posing a danger to rail and vehicular traffic, and

WHEREAS there are limited roadways in the area that would be unable to support the greatly expanded traffic into and out of the development, and

WHEREAS there is no public transportation element in the site plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club urges that planning for this development be halted until the developers and the Township Council agree on a cleanup plan, which has been subject to open and transparent public hearings, to remove the contaminants from the quarry site and the lake bottom, and to complete the remediation and full restoration plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Chapter recommends that no changes to existing zoning rules be made by the Township Council until the approved environmental cleanup is complete, and until a public transportation component is incorporated into the site plan.