

STOP THE ASPHALT PLANT on HWY 421



Mountain City based Maymead Inc. is planning to open another asphalt plant on the scenic Doc and Merle Watson Hwy at 5251 US 421 South Boone, NC

Asphalt plants mix aggregate with petroleum products to make asphalt. The process releases **tons of toxic chemicals** into the air each year, including volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and very

fine condensed particulates (soot and even heavy metals).

- Many of these are highly toxic and/or known carcinogens, e.g. benzene, formaldehyde, hydrogen sulfide, mercury, and cadmium
 - Adverse health effects increase with long-term exposure
- Citizens with asthma and other respiratory ailments will suffer most
- Asphalt emissions significantly degrade air quality, but also degrade the water quality of our beautiful rivers, creeks, and streams

The following are within a 2-mile radius of the proposed asphalt plant:

- **Parkway Elementary School** and the **Two Rivers Community Elementary School**
- A 4-mile section of the Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) including the Grand View Overlook, Boone's Trace, and a portion of the Mountain to the Sea Trail. The Clean Air Act includes a provision to Prevent Significant Deterioration of air quality where air quality is better than the national standards, and the BRP is a Class II air quality region.
- 7 miles of the South Fork New River and 10.5 miles of streams
- 8 churches
- The new Rocky Knob Bike and Hiking Park
- Organic Farms and a large number of private homes

The Proposed Maymead Plant will be located on the Doc and Merle Watson Scenic Hwy.

- The proposed asphalt plant would have a **significant negative impact on Watauga’s tourism industry**, which accounted for \$290 million in local annual revenue as of 2008.
- The Doc and Merle Watson Scenic Highway is one of three main gateways into Watauga County. The Citizens Plan for Watauga County, developed by the Watauga County Commission, states:
- “Gateways are inextricably linked to the perception of this unique environment and the rich quality of life, incentives for property owners and the community should be developed to maintain attractive and compatible development that will enhance the total economic value of the “Gateways” to the community.”

The proposed Maymead asphalt plant will **significantly decrease property values** for local homeowners.

- A study by the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) looked at property prices before and after the Maymead Asphalt plant was built in Avery County revealed homeowners suffered an **average drop of 27% in property values** (as assessed by the county)
- There are indications that Maymead is considering opening an attached quarry as well. Studies have shown that:
 - Home values within ¼ mile of a quarry will drop by about 30%
 - Homes 1 mile away will decrease by about 13% in value
 - Homes as far as 3 miles away drop by 6% in value

A concerned citizens group **HC WATCH**, (High Country Wataugans against Toxins Close to Home) opposes construction of this **High Impact pollution producer**. We urge all concerned citizens to take the following actions:

1. Contact your county commissioners (listed below) and request a moratorium on all new asphalt plants in Watauga County unless they are in a sealed containment building
2. Attend future public hearings on this matter and voice your concerns

Jimmy.Hodges@watgov.org
810 Parkcrest Drive
Boone, NC 28607
(H) 828-264-8529

David.Blust@watgov.org
8142 Hwy 105 South
Boone, NC 28607
(H) 828-963-6440

John.Welch@watgov.org
365 Keystone Drive
Boone, NC 28607
(H) 828-262-3768

Billy.Kennedy@watgov.org
1100 Rock Springs Road
Vilas, NC 28692
(H) 828-297-4123

Perry.Yates@watgov.org
789 Stadium Drive
Boone, NC 28607
(W) 828-264-5650