

HB 6494

Legislative Public Hearing Blasting Damage Deborah Fijal Rindge Chester CT 2/19/2015

(Madam Chair) (Mr. Chairman) and Members of the Committee,

My name is Deborah Fijal Rindge. I live in Chester Connecticut. In June of 2012 I lost my well due to blasting. After a 2 year quest, my conclusion is that people in Connecticut need help. Where you live should not determine if your health, property or water is protected. Oaths are taken by local and State officials to represent and protect all citizens. Blasting is an Ultra Hazardous Activity.

We were fine... they blasted... we now have damage...You blast... You pay.

I wish to thank Senator Art Linares for representing me, to bring this issue forward.

I would like to see the State of Connecticut adopt the 20 ideas below as legislation to protect when blasting for Civil Engineering, Open Pit Mining, Quarrying and all construction projects:

Retroactive payment will be made for all blasting damages going back as far as possible.

Litigation is not necessary to receive payment for blasting damage.

Time, distance, firepower, seismograph, and other recordings have not been accurate proof of damage and are not to be used as determining factor for damage claims.

Blasters, owners and operators of quarry operations, and construction companies will be covered with a large bond and insurance.

Blaster, quarry owner, and operator will pay fees for Geological experts.

Town Fire Marshals will oversee, inspect and record all blasting activity and file a technical report for local and state records.

Property to be blasted with surrounding one- mile radius will have geological survey, pre and post blast survey, notification of blast, all records filed with property owners and offices.

State of CT will establish standards for earth removal, quarrying, gravel extraction and blasting using CT DEEP as third party to oversee and inspect all aspects of mining and blasting operations.

The CT DEEP will be expert witnesses for blasting and related damage along with CT. State Fire Marshal's office division of Fire Safety and Explosives.

Property owners will have option of a buy-out deal by quarry operators and owners at market value plus distress compensation.

Owners and operators of any stone extraction business cannot sue cities or towns if a cease and desist order is applied.

Decisions regarding stone extracting and quarry blasting business made by referendum vote, overruling planning and zoning boards.

Property owners can make blasting damage claims up to 3 years in cases of damage delay.

Laws that pertain to this issue will be State laws.

Water filtering systems paid for by blasters and others in the business of rock mining.

Remediation required for land, soil, and water, when quarries or related industry is closed.

Closed quarry operations will not be used for landfills, dumping of fly ash, or any other toxic filler.

CT. DEEP as watchdog will be responsible for continuous monitoring of air, water, rivers, and soil.

Damaged parties will not be subjected to insurance increase or dismissal for their proximity to quarry or related operations.

Definition of quarrying will be separate and distinct from the definition of excavating.

Deborah Fijal Rindge

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Chester, CT. 06412

2/19/14

860-525-5868

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Dear Public Safety Committee Members,

My name is Deborah F. Rindge and I live in Chester Ct.

I would like to request that a hearing be scheduled in order for me and others to share our experiences with personal property damages due to Construction and Quarry Blasting. Countless people across Connecticut have been affected by blasting.

I recently lost my water well due to a neighbor blasting a foundation into the same ledge that my house and well have been on for the last 35 years. I have brought my concern to Senator Art Linares and feel it is very important to bring to light the necessity for changes and additions to the blasting regulations for the State of Connecticut. Presently there is nothing in the regulations that protects people like me with property damage due to blasting. The regulations have been in place since 1972. The present regulations lack protection and reimbursement for damages to property caused by blasting that takes place during construction and quarry situations. The present regulations make the damaged parties have to prove that blasting caused their damage. No proof is necessary for the blasters they just walk away to blow up the next job with the potential for more damage. The damaged party has the burden of proving what happened by hiring professionals such as geologist, hydrologist, and engineers at their further expense. These professionals are conflicts of interest who work for and are friends of the blasters, fire marshals, and town officials to name a few. These professionals tell us that nothing was damaged from blasting, they tell us ..."Your house is weak, and your well is old". The insurance investigators repeat the same line..."damage was not the fault of blasting." Then the insurance company refuses to pay. Why do the blasters have insurance? If you want to blast you have to pay when the blasting causes damage. Damage can and does happen under the best of conditions. Blasting is an Ultra-Hazardous Activity which is unpredictable in its outcome. Blasting is the destructive activity that enables construction to take place. I will repeat...You want to blast you pay. My well and property was fine... they blasted..., now I am damaged. Protection and reimbursement is necessary for the blasted and damaged citizens of Connecticut. They need their homes and property, wells and aquifers, septic systems, and foundations, walls and roofs, protected against those who do damage accidentally or negligently and walk away with extreme wealth and special protection. This situation is totally unbalanced. Damages happen outside of the rules of blasting. Seismology, time, distance, fire power,

and other safety criteria do not matter. The fire marshals should be recoding and watching every blast and creating accurate documents the public has access to. The situation at hand is unfairly stacked against the damaged parties in Connecticut. I have submitted twenty two additions that I would like to see in order to balance and even the playing field for the business of blasting.

Please consider my request, I am passionate with this subject and many people need your help.

Many Thanks

Sincerely

Deborah Fijal Rindge

Citizens call for tougher blasting laws

By Denise Coffey - Staff Writer

Regional - posted Fri., Jan. 24, 2014



Some residents claim blasts at this Thompson site have caused property damages along Reardon Road and Riverside Drive.

Photo by Denise Coffey.

The first time Maine Drilling and Blasting set off a charge on a Reardon Road property in Thompson, Joseph Janeczek and two friends were working in his garage on Riverside Drive. "When that blast went off, those two ran out of there," Janeczek said. "They thought the building was coming down on them."

Since that blast nearly two years ago, the explosions have continued sporadically. They've left many residents complaining of damage to their homes, foundations and wells. Seventeen residents voiced concerns at a Thompson Planning and Zoning Meeting on Oct. 28. Three months later, many of those questions remain

unanswered.

MDB has denied responsibility for any damage, as has its insurance company. Residents are afraid that there will be more damage to their properties if the blasting continues. And they believe if damages do result, they won't get straight answers from anyone.

It's an issue that several communities in Connecticut have had to deal with. Blasting in Shelton, Lisbon, Paucatuck, Chester, East Haven and Thompson have yielded complaints ranging from cracked basements to damaged roofs. But it's all very difficult to prove. Blasting companies are required to file permit applications before blasting. Shot records are supposed to list the size of the blast, number of holes to be drilled, and the depth and diameter of those holes. Getting those records has proved nearly impossible for many residents affected.

Deborah Rindge, of Chester, claims her private well was ruined when a company blasted ledge in her neighbor's yard. Rindge thinks it's obvious that the blasting caused the well damage. "I was fine," she said. "They blasted. Now I'm not fine." Rindge had to file a Freedom of Information request to get a copy of the permit application from the fire marshal. She couldn't get the shot record.

Now Rindge is on a mission to change the blasting laws in the state. She wants blasting and insurance companies, state and local officials to be held accountable.

Copies of blast permit applications are supposed to go to the blasting company, the state fire marshal's office and the local fire marshal that approved it. Thompson residents haven't been able to secure the one filed by MDB.

"No one wants to release anything," said Joseph Janeczek. MDB and the Office of the State Fire Marshal haven't responded to repeated calls from residents or *ReminderNews*. Thompson Fire Marshal Rick Hayes hasn't produced any records and hasn't immediately responded to calls from *ReminderNews*.

What MDB agreed to do was to conduct a "pre-blast survey" for Thompson residents.

Thompson resident William Chvirko said there were two problems with MDB's proposal. The first, he said, is that it comes after more than a year's worth of explosions. Data from those earlier explosions won't be included. "Did they blast the same holes, at the same depth with the same amount of powder?" Chvirko said. "How can they make a fair comparison?"

His second concern is the objectivity of the company doing the survey. GeoSonics has been contracted by MDB as a third party to conduct pre- and post-blast surveys in Thompson. Information on its website lends credence to Chvirko's cause for concern. Expert testimony is one

of the company's services.

They bill themselves as a "solid, technically-experienced consultant to represent your interests," on the company website.

"But who are they representing?" Rindge asked.

Chvirko isn't optimistic about his chances for recouping money for damages he believes were caused by the explosions. Still, he would like to see the town take certain steps. He would like to see the company bonded for possible future damages. He would like to see on-site inspections of the blasts. He would like notification of when the blasts are going to be set off.

Janecek wonders if the town will end up footing a much larger bill in the future. The town owns the Gladys Green/Pineview Court Housing Project on Riverside Drive. Sewer lines run beneath Route 12. "If the blasting damaged my 12-inch thick foundation, what are they doing to 4-inch thick concrete sewer pipes?" he asked.

Rindge said she wants legislation passed that would offer stronger protection to property owners. "I'm not going to stop," she said.

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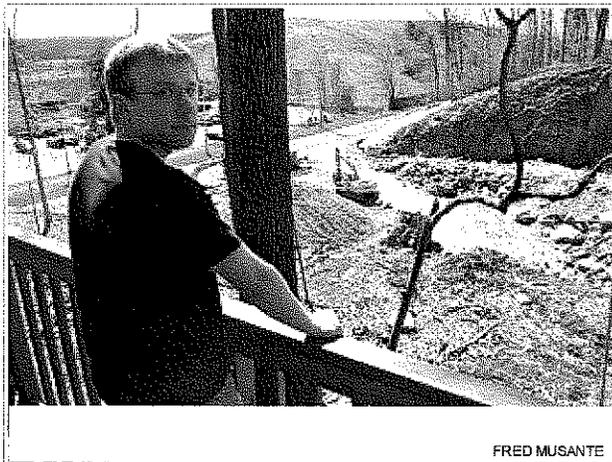
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Last Update: Feb 13, 2015 9:21 AM

No Fix Yet In Shelton Excavation Mishap

BY **Fred Musante** | APR 8, 2013 9:51 PM
(0) | Commenting has expired || E-mail the Author

POSTED TO: Shelton



FRED MUSANTE

Shelton resident John Wardowski stands on his back deck overlooking a construction site where he says faulty excavation work caused part of a "buffer zone" to collapse.

Last month Shelton homeowner John Wardowski complained to the city's Planning and Zoning Commission that faulty excavation work had left his house perched at the edge of a pit carved from a hillside to allow the construction of a strip mall.

He and a neighbor also said blasting damaged their homes and broken a public water service line.

The PZC is scheduled Tuesday to hear more about a developer's plan for rectifying the excavation that went awry at the River Road property.

Meanwhile, Wardowski and his neighbor are still waiting for answers.

He said last week that except for the

construction of an access ramp inside the excavation pit, nothing has been done by the developer or the blasting contractor's insurance company to resolve the situation.

And although a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), Joan Flannery, has asked for an investigation of the blasting company, Shelton Fire Marshal James Tortora said he has not found any violations and believes the matter should be left with the contractor's insurance company.

Background

Bishop Management owns land at 781-785 River Road, underneath Wardowski's property, at the end of Turner Road. The company also owns the Connecticut Sports Center, across the street on River Road.

In 2011, the company won approvals from the Shelton Planning and Zoning Commission to change 781-785 River Road's zoning from residential to commercial.

That paved the way for the developer to build a retail building on the site, the construction of which required the blasting of rock ledge.

But, in December, after extensive blasting and material removal had taken place, the side of the "rock cut" collapsed — and carried with it a 25-foot buffer zone meant to separate Wardowski's property from the retail property.

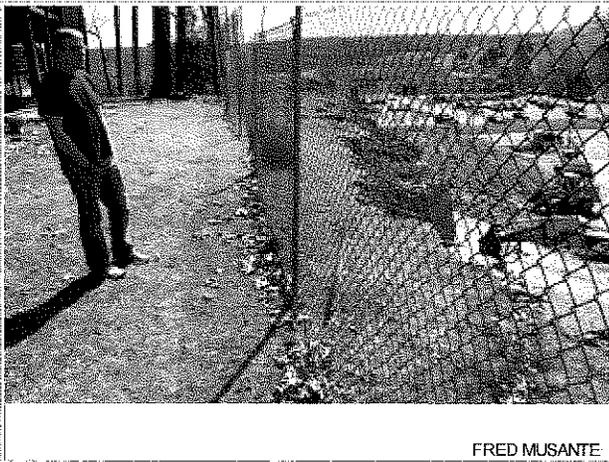
The collapse left Wardowski's house perched precariously at the edge of a steep cliff.

Shelton Planning and Zoning Administrator Rick Schultz slapped a stop work order on the troubled project in December.

The stop work order was revised in January, requiring the developer to propose a remediation plan. Last month the commission voted to authorize Bishop Management to begin work on the retaining wall, but said they must seek additional approval from the commission before actually pouring concrete.

Hearing

The PZC hearing scheduled for Tuesday is on modifications of the development plan, Planned Development District 73, at 781-785 River Road, because excessive excavation encroached onto the "buffer zone" the approved site plan required along the south edge of the pit.



FRED MUSANTE

Wardowski in his backyard. The stake with a yellow ribbon just beyond the chain-link fence marks the edge of Wardowski's property.

That excavation left Wardowski's home at the end of Turner Road, a private road to a row of homes atop the hill overlooking the Sports Center of Shelton, perched only 15 to 20 feet from the edge of the sheer, 45-foot cliff.

The site plan approved in 2011 by the PZC required a buffer zone adding 15 to 20 more feet, planted with shrubs to screen Wardowski's view.

Work on the shopping development was halted by a stop work order issued in December after the side of the pit collapsed.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Rick Schultz blamed the developer for not performing test borings that could have shown that the hillside was made of loose rock and dirt, not solid rock, as the developer, Bishop Management of Shelton, assumed.

Bishop Management also owns the Sports Center, located across the street from the problem development site, as well as several other commercial property developments nearby.

Investigation?

Flannery confirmed that she sent letters to Tortora and Connecticut Fire Marshal Robert Ross in March following the first session of the public hearing on March 12, but she wouldn't comment further because it is still an open matter before her commission.

But according to Tortora, Shelton does not have any municipal blasting regulations and the state fire marshal won't start an investigation unless he, the local fire marshal, recommends it.

[Click here for more information on blasting from the city's website.](#)

And Tortora said his review last December, based on a complaint by Wardowski, found that the blasting contractor, Shoreline Blasting of Madison, CT, was not responsible for the collapse of the south wall of the excavation pit.

Tortora said he referred Wardowski to Shoreline Blasting's insurance company and doesn't see any reason for his office to investigate the matter further.

Damages

Wardowski said the blasting company's own seismic monitoring data show the blasting contractor set explosive charges that exceeded the limits set by town and state regulations.

He said the data show ground vibrations of about four inches per second, although the regulations' limit is two inches per second.

Wardowski and a Turner Road who also spoke at the March 12 PZC hearing claim the blasting caused them damage.

Wardowski said it caused cracks in the walls in his house and that water is seeping through cracks the blasting allegedly caused in his garage floor.

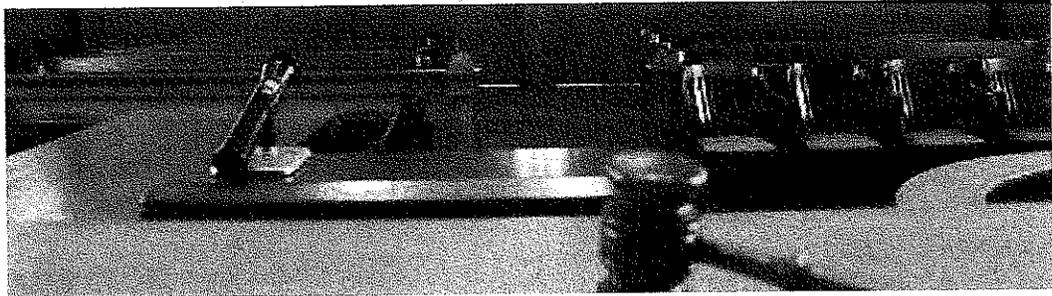
His neighbor blamed the blasting for damage to her water service line that resulted in a \$2,300 water bill, plus the cost of repairing the line at her own expense.

The damage is under review by Shoreline Blasting's insurance company, but Wardowski said the insurance adjustor has not returned his telephone calls seeking information about the progress of his damage claim.

Shoreline Blasting and the state fire marshal's office did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

Comments

There were no comments



Expert Testimony

Put GeoSonics/Vibra-Tech's experience and expertise in your corner. Whether it's for litigation, public meetings or hearings, companies have relied on our trusted testimony for over 60 years.

No matter how carefully business is conducted, the mere fact that the status quo has changed can bring complaints and claims from property owners. Whether they genuinely believe damage was caused or just see "deep pockets" available, the resulting administrative hearings, formal complaints and litigation can end in disaster for your company, unless you enlist a solid, technically experienced consultant to represent your interests. Permitting of new operations requires discussion of blasting and side effects that may occur from mining and quarrying. Installation of heavy equipment may create noise that would affect communities. In these cases, testimony before regulatory agencies, political bodies and other public forums require qualified experts in the field.

GeoSonics/Vibra-Tech has built its reputation on providing solid technical and engineering support, as well as the services necessary to protect its clients in the event of unwarranted claims. With over 60 years' experience, our firm has the body of knowledge necessary to defend such claims. From the early 1940s when we recorded vibrations with the first portable seismograph to the present where our computerized ISO-Seismic System is the industry's leading technology, GeoSonics/Vibra-Tech has provided the personnel, instrumentation and data to address our clients' permitting and legal needs.

GeoSonics/Vibra-Tech has conducted in excess of one million inspections in our history, from huts in the desert to skyscrapers in New York City, and we have defended thousands of damage claims. Most major insurance carriers in the U.S., including Nobel, a division of Lancer Insurance Company, Cigna, Aetna, Fairmont Specialty Group, Allstate, Nationwide and Travelers, have called on our help in evaluating claims.

Our experienced staff have also testified as expert witnesses in hundreds of lawsuits and public meetings on blasting, noise, pipeline leaks, gas explosions, accidental detonations and other cases involving vibration and shock stresses. Measurement, analysis and compliance only go so far in today's world. There is always the threat of a suit, even if you do everything correctly and within standards, and qualified third-party expertise may be necessary to address concerns. Our senior staff offer a winning combination of education, experience and professional demeanor, with a proven track record when it comes to testifying, presenting and advising on vibration, air blast, noise, blasting and similar issues.

Key experts are listed below. Please select one to view his or her bio.

[Douglas Rudenko](#)

Deborah F. Rindge

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Letter to the Editor

Blasting Damage Public Hearing for Legislative Change February 19, 2015

This is an invitation to Rhode Island residents damaged by Connecticut blasting and quarry operations
To make their voice heard. Please join us to help bring forth needed Legislative change.

The highly taxed and valued property of Connecticut residents should be protected and paid for when damaged by blasting. The Blasting Companies hold insurance but the damaged parties do not get paid. Construction and Industrial Quarry Blasting has caused many residents great loss and stress as blasters and the industries they work for walk away leaving destruction in the wake of their original blasting project. Blasting is an Ultra Hazardous Activity. Can anyone really say that Geology is an exact science? Innocent people have been required to prove that blasting damaged their property by hiring Geologist and Hydrologist that tell them blasting was not the cause of their damage. Foundations walls and roofs are now cracked and leaking, the water is brown and the once excellent wells are now dry and the air is polluted with glass particles. The property is devaluated and the bill is large and in the hand of the property owner.

Our property was fine...They Blasted...Now we have damage. You Blast You Pay. It is time for Change.

Please come to the Public Hearing for new Legislation on a proposed Bill concerning Blasting HB 6494
Make your voice heard letting Legislators know what has happened to you.

The Hearing is Thursday February 19, 2015 at 7pm

West Hartford Town Hall Legislative Chambers 50 South Main Street West Hartford CT

Send your testimony to www.cga.ct.gov click on Committees ... go to Public Safety or call 860-240-1570

Deborah F. Rindge Chester, CT.

Subject: The Concerned Citizens of Bradford & Charlestown RI
From: Debbie Rindge (debbierindge@yahoo.com)
To: debbierindge@yahoo.com;
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:25 PM

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 Posted by choldenshea on February 11, 2015 at 5:40 PM

I just got off the phone with a very nice woman from Connecticut. Chester, Ct, home of the infamous Sam Cocopard Or Cocopardi depending on which rap sheet you have read. Her name is Debbie Rindge and she is in need of help from those in our group who have suffered damage to their homes as a result of blasting. She has gotten the ear of local politicians and council people who are amenable to hearing affidavits from those effected by blasting. Granted, this is legislation for Ct. It will have no bearing on RI if it ever passes. It could be something RI could draw from if we ever want to try and push the same thing through here.

There is a meeting at the West Hartford Town Hall on February 19, 2015 at 7:00 in the Legislative Chambers [://mapq.st/1Me6m6T](http://mapq.st/1Me6m6T) to hear testimonies from those effected by blasting.

Debbie is fighting this fight alone and in the land of Insurance Companies who like to deny anything is anybody's fault. If you are busy but have a story to tell I will provide you with the email address to send your story directly to the Commission on Public Safety. www.cga.ct.gov Click on "Community" and then click on "Public Safety" You can relay your experiences there. Or you can call The Public Safety Commission at (860) 240 1570.

am I mentioning this? Debbie needs help and she saw us as a group that was suffering for what her state started. We need to get more proactive with the legislation Blake Fillipi is trying to put forward on quarrying and we need to grow as a group because this issue of quarrying and blasting too close to residences has to stop.

As I am sending this out via email and posting to our website ccbcri.com, I apologize in advance for the redundancies. In the meantime I have cabin fever and I am out to touch the Devil's ass! Let's keep the communications going!

Tina Holden Shea

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The following information is a timeline of the damage to my well and other property at 71 Maple Street Chester Ct. which I believe is due to the blasting of a basement during construction at 69 Maple Street.

April 25 2011 I stopped at 7am at neighbor's construction site (69 Maple Street) owned by Ann Cromarty to question the blaster (Shoreline Blasting Corp. Madison, CT) as to what he was doing. I was surprised that no one had told me about the blasting that was about to take place. The blaster was rude and told me not to worry about it. I told him my house and my water well are pinned into the ledge that he was about to blast and I was very concerned. I asked him why no one had called me or looked at my property or put a seismic reader on my house. He again blew me off with "Listen it's only a surface blast don't worry about it!" I was shocked at his unprofessional and uncaring manner over such serious business as blasting, and I worried throughout the several day blasts. I was never contacted or checked on during the many days he was blasting the deep hole for the basement. I was working and not home so I was unable to watch over the events.

Summer of 2011 My well use had drastically changed due to a surprise divorce. After being married for 33 years, I was now living alone. I was financially struggling to get on my feet, I now had no garden, washed no cars, did very little laundry etc...The well was now being minimally used. After being a homemaker I had to find a full time job and started working 10 hours a day and Saturdays to try to rebuild what was left of my life and keep my house. I noticed that there had been some changes in water pressure during this time but I wasn't thinking about it... I had been too stressed and distracted to notice much and now, I was never home, working so many hours.

October 2011 I had the furnace cleaned and turned on (which I only run in winter.) After the repair man left I had a great deal of rushing water noise in all the heating pipes. I had to call him back to purge the system from massive amounts of air. Never had this happened and I had no idea at the time I was having well water problems. The system picked up air when the well was not working properly and had lost pressure.

October 2011 to May 2012 There were various fluctuations in water pressure again I thought nothing much of it at this point being distracted as previously explained.

May 2012-June 2 2012 For many days during this time my daughter and her husband come to use the shower and wash clothes due to remodeling at their home. (The most use of the well since the blast with 3 people using water) They asked me about the erratic pressure but I had no answer, it was very noticeable that something was wrong.

June 2 2012 The water in my well is gone! The pump is sucking air! I am in a panic! Not a drop of water comes out of tap. I call Appleby Plumbing. He says he has very bad news" the well is gone with no recovery". He runs high tech readings and tests to document and verify the water loss and lack of recovery. Since the building of the house in 1980...the original well had never had a problem, its depth was 175 feet with 6 gallons a minute. There had never been a reason until now...to have the water level checked It had served the house and family with plenty of water, it never failed and was never prone to problems.

June 11 2012 I have to have the well drilled deeper. They drill all day to the depth of 390 feet in order to find water. The well driller has to stop the drilling to change the size of the drill bit to a smaller size and he informs me that there is some change ...a jog in my well and this is very unusual it shows that something major happened at around 30-40 or so feet down. The water is not at this level. He has to change the drill bit from 6" to 5" due to this change. I now have to install a new larger pump because of great depth difference, a new holding tank system, new electrical wiring, new pipes, pay for a well driller, and a plumber to oversee and install this emergency procedure. I now end up with having a bill I cannot afford for a new well and all systems at the cost of 15,000. My homeowners insurance does not cover this.

June 11 2012 This is the day of drilling the well deeper. My insurance company sends an investigator out to watch the drilling. I am told my insurance is not responsible for covering the damage. The insurance investigator verifies and documents everything being done by the well driller and plumber.

June 11 2012 I now remember the blast I was so concerned over. The day of well drilling I contact the Fire Marshal for Chester Richard Leighton and ask if there is a blasting permit, a date, and who did the blast, at 69 Maple. I call because it is not on file in the Chester Town Hall which is where it should be filed. Fire Marshal calls back and says there is a permit and says that he has it and tells me the blaster is Shoreline Blasting Corporation out of Madison CT. He gives me the date of blast leading me to believe it was a one day blast. We are in the middle of drilling a new well so I end the conversation.

June 2012 (after the damage) I get to thinking about what has happened and that maybe something is very wrong. I looked at the size of the rock that has been made into a wall and the massive amount of the large and small rock that was buried as back fill at 69 Maple St. (see pictures) I now think about how rude and uncaring the blaster was for my property. I think about what the neighbor who lives below blast (he is closer but is not on the ledge like I am) was also told when on the day of blast this neighbor called the town because they were also not notified ...again the rude blaster said "it is going to be just a surface blast and if you have a problem call your insurance" (the town building dept. told them that one which was a lie) I thought about my other neighbor who years earlier did have a surface blast that went deep enough for the footing of his garage. The blasted rocks were small and his blaster came to my property to explain what was going on and to check on my property and how none of this was done for this blast. This blast far exceeded the previous mentioned surface blast. I am pinned into the same ledge for this blast unlike the previous one and I remembered how different a surface blast looks. While the land was being cleared at 69 Maple and the sight work was being done, I was also told by the neighbor's sight manager Mike Malcarny that it was to be a surface blast and a partial basement or no basement at all. It was now a full drive in basement. The truth had not been spoken... too many times, by the owner, the blaster, and the town, who never bothered to contact me. I have been a taxpayer for 35 years and this new construction was taking precedence over my property value and its protection. Could it be possible that zoning laws were violated? The questions were building.

June 2012 I contacted the Chester First Selectman to let them know what had happened to my property. He told me that Fire Marshall Richard Leighton had the permits for blasting and they were not on file at the town hall.(Richard Leighton works for Westbrook Ct as fire Marshall as well as Chester)

July 2012 I contact the Fire Marshall Richard Leighton and ask him for a copy of the permits and a copy of the blasting regulations. I was rudely brushed off and told "there is no need to see them and they contain nothing that you need to see or know about." When I ask about the rules and requirements for blasting I am rudely told "go get the blasting info on line if I want it

July 12, 2012 I contact the Department of Consumer Protection for advice on what to do and they send me to The Department of Construction Services at 111 Country Club Rd in Middletown. I am referred to Detective Marc Lamberty of the CT. State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit in Hartford. I contact Detective Lamberty to ask what I should do.

July 17, 2012 I contact the selectman of Chester and he informs me that Leighton will not give me the blasting permit and he tells me that I have to write a Freedom of Information letter to the Fire Marshall Leighton and he will send it to Leighton via the town of Chester's email address. I am informed by the selectman that Richard Leighton will not investigate the blaster because Leighton has issued the blasting permit.(???) Richard Leighton's boss is the first selectman and Leighton refuses to do his job? The first selectman has no power over who is under him?

July 20, 2012 I finally receive a copy of blasting permit thru the town hall and the FOI letter.(I am informed and corrected by Leighton that I was supposed to write a formal letter and pay for the copy.) He is worried over this formality when he refuses to do his job? Where is the paperwork that I should be able to see at any time?

August 28 2012 Detective Lamberty writes back and tells me to go to the town of Chester Fire Marshal and that it is the Fire Marshals job to issue the blasting permit and also to investigate the complaint. He says, "If in the course of the investigation it is determined that a violation of the Connecticut Explosives Regulations occurred the local Fire Marshal will turn the case over to the State for further investigation."

August 28,2012 I go to the town hall and give a copy of this info to the First Selectman's office and ask him to please tell his Fire Marshal what Detective Lamberty has told me the job of Fire Marshall requires him to do. (see Email)

September 4,2012 I send an email to First Selectman to try and find out why no one has got back to me about investigating my damage. I ask if he thinks that I should report this slight of duty by Leighton to the State Fire Marshalls office. I never receive an answer.

September 18, 2012 It appears that the First Selectman has not been able to get through to his employee Leighton. I write a letter to Leighton to formally request him to investigate my damage. I tell him how I was told that he was to investigate my damage because he was the one to issue the permit. I reminded him of his job and told him if I did not hear from him in a timely manner I would contact the State Fire Marshal's office regarding his refusal to investigate.

September 28 2012 I receive a letter from a Fire Investigator for the town of Chester (I was told that Richard Leighton was the fire investigator?? His name is Roberge) (It appears he was brought in to do Leightons job. His name was not listed in town's website when I first did research.)Mr. Roberge is listed as the fire investigator from Old Lyme who writes me a letter representing the town (see letter) and tells me that the town has approved the information of what the blaster did at 69 Maple and a copy of said letter is forwarded to the State Fire Marshal. (Again I ask for said proof of this shot or blast report that proves that the blaster is correct in his technique and I get no reply. I am left out of what this investigation has uncovered. I am told nothing and no one contacts me to explain the technical outcome proving to me the blaster is correct.) The laws of blasting were never explained to me.

October 8,2012 I get a call from the Old Lyme Fire investigator Roberge and he tells me to call the Blaster "they are waiting to hear from me." I call and they claim they have no idea why I am calling. I am told by the woman answering the phone..."So this call isn't what you thought it would be is it?" I do not know why the town told me

to call the blaster. It is the job of the Town's Fire Marshal to investigate my complaint of the damage to my property. He never came to look at my property. No one... The town , blaster, fire marshal's office cared.

October 8, 2012 That same evening I suddenly get a call from the Blasters insurance Company. Lancer Nobel out of Cleveland Ohio and I am given a claim number to have my property damage investigated.

October 9, 2012 I finally get a call from the town of Chester Fire Marshal... Richard Leighton, he is very nervous and he wants to know my insurance claim number. I refuse to give it to him. With his voice shaking he wants to know" what my plans are" and I inform him I am waiting to see what the blasters insurance can tell me about my damage. He makes up his own history of what he has told me and I remind him to read the email trail that I have created which documents what really has taken place with my investigation problems and his lack of cooperation and help on my complaint. (Seems he is concerned by the idea of the State Fire Marshall being contacted?)

October 18, 2012 DRS Seismic Consultants from Oxford CT arrives at my property to investigate the claim. He tells me not to hold my breath on having the insurance pay. He says that hydrology really is how to determine my damage and that the insurance company never uses this technology. They only use seismic, distance, and time Which have very little bearing on my well loss. I tell him how I feel that the blaster was unprofessional and uncaring in regard to my concerns and I tell him that no seismic reading was done. I tell him no one contacted me to inform me on the deep blasting to my ledge. He tells me that DRS are called in mostly for pre and post blast surveys. I am now aware that I never received a survey. (Neither the Town of Chester or the Fire Marshal or the blaster had informed me of this info.) After my complaining about the blasters poor unprofessional habits DRS informs me that the "Blaster is a really nice guy and that they are friends, he knows him very well they work together all the time. He says that the blasters attitude has no bearing on the claim. I tell him I want a second opinion that this is a conflict of interest. He tells me he will forfeit the job...the company will not pay for a second opinion but they would if my claim were larger!

October 18, 2012 I called Lancer Nobel and made a complaint saying that I was sent a "conflict of interest" for my claim investigation....DRS is friends with the blaster...DRS is friends with the town. DRS had worked with all those who had anything to do with the town of Chester previous blasting projects including the Fire Marshall Richard Leighton who refused to do his job! (see town report about blasting info) and he works with the blaster. I asked for a second opinion and was told by Ed Planicek from Lancer Nobel Insurance Co. that I would have to pay for it! I asked for hydrologist he said no.

November 28, 2012 They transfer all the info on my case from DRS to Eric Dussell of Vibration Dynamics from New Hampshire (another conflict of interest who is a friend)who comes to the house and takes no measurements.. Takes a few pictures.. And again tells me he works with all the same people! He uses all of DRS's info and writes up the report. I expected and wanted an unbiased investigator sent out from Ohio. That never happened.

I now realize that I have more damage when questioned by Dussell . There is structure damage and I find a new split and leak in an exterior garage foundation that resulted in water for the first time since blast there is a crack in floor that has been made much deeper. There is now cracked wall board in two ceilings in the side of my house that is pinned into the blasted ledge. (The left side corner of house as pictured is pinned into the ledge)

January 2013 I have to wait until January after I make many calls. I receive the answer from the Lancer Nobel Insurance Company after all this time regarding my damage claim. They inform me I will not be paid for my well damage. There are many facts on this report that are wrong. (Please see copy attached and my notes on their copy for discrepancies). This is so unprofessional.

January 23, 2013 I receive a copy of the shot report that I ask for from the insurance investigator. The Fire Marshall and the town of Chester would not give me the shot report or proof of said approved investigation mentioned in the letter dated Sept 28th written by (the stand- in Fire Investigator Mr Roberge) (See town Letter sent to me) There was never an explanation of shot report so I could understand its technical content and the shot report is missing a day of recording and appears incomplete.

My Observations and research As Follows:

The insurance Report Discrepancies

1. The new well rate of gallons per minute is incorrectly stated at 1.2... the gallons per minute in new well is 20 gallons per minute.
2. Lancer says the pre blast survey was not conducted because of a large distance to blasting. They claim my house is over the amount of distance allowed for damage (300 feet) but their own insurance investigation report says the distance from blast site at 69 Maple to my house at 71 Maple is 280 feet. The town of Chester says in their report (see" resident question and additional information report on a town of Chester blasting project from 2008") that the distance required for a pre and post blast survey is 300 feet...I am well within that range and never was approached before... during... or after... blasting. The town and the blaster had 3 days during the blasting to find me, call me, leave a message, tack a note on my door, to alert me and check my property. They seem to be making excuses for the blasters negligence. (see attached Insurance and town of Chester reports)
3. In a Chester report on the blasting for a bridge it states that there is supposed to be a pre and post blast survey... proof of an independent pre-blast survey of existing property and structures within 300 feet of blasting activities... Inform property owners and residents within the vicinity of blasting operations...have names of those in proximity to intended site of explosive use...I never was told about blasting at 69 Maple and never had the chance to get anyone to set up rules and regs for my protection as they are seen here(see document published by town in 2008)
4. (Lancer Nobel investigation says that they do not know for sure that the tan clapboard house is mine) ...it isn't because my house is mustard gold! (see picture) There is no proof that they were ever at my house or checked my property.
5. Lancer Nobel Insurance company sited various info and data found in reports from blasting taking place all over the country as truthful documentation and precedence to deny my claim. (If they can do this I will also do this to show how damage to my well is the result of such blasting in the following section in my research by siting examples from various parts of the country and info from documents I found on-line authored by the N.H. DEP.) (see copy) (Report by Golder Associates for N.H.DES July 2009 Potential impact of Blasting and related activity on water wells) A very interesting report
6. My house was built in 1980 not 1977 as sited in Insurance investigation report.
7. The damage to my well and ceilings and foundation is not due to poor construction or workman ship or age it is due to Blasting into the ledge that my house and well are pinned into and have been on since 1980 with no problems until the blast next door.(No pre-blast survey is in their favor now isn't it?)
8. DRS said I needed hydrology reports and investigations but insurance Co did not include that in well loss investigation. Also said that if my claim was worth more money I would have gotten a second opinion and/ or they would have paid for damages.
9. Lancer Nobel's investigation report did not show pictures of the rock removed from the blast site at 69 Maple. They did show a picture of my house. I consider this to be incomplete and missing the point. When you see what was blasted... the size and amount of the rock speak volumes to what happened to me on that ledge. (see pictures)They also do not specify how much rock was blasted from the ledge. I

was told by DRS that it takes less charge to blast large rock than small...there was equal if not more small rock that was hidden in the backfill of the foundation on blast site.

10. Lancer Nobel gave an incorrect depth of the blast... that is nowhere close to what took place for a full basement dimension. Look at the full basement and include the amount of depth to be able to pour footings and it is much deeper than what they say.(see insurance denial)
11. The insurance company and the blaster know that the proof of burden lies with the damaged property owner. The blasters work is an ultra-hazardous activity. They know that with the Strict Liability law I have to prove the loss. After my property is blasted how and why do I have to pay again for a technical expert to prove my damages? Hydrology should be included in the investigation of property damage and paid for by blasters insurance company among other law changes to protect the damaged property owners. I would then have to pay for a lawyer to fight my case? All this money and debt is on me?

Research

A third party who has hired 2 blasters to do work on his land states that Shoreline blasting has a reputation for using " lots of fire power in their blasts." (Apparently Shoreline Construction is tied in with Shoreline Blasting.)

Another source says that several years ago Shoreline Blasting caused extensive damage and was sued by property owners on Old Nod Road in Clinton CT. They were blasting a large area next to highway 95. This area is referred to as the "Pit" and there are no records on file in the Fire Marshal's office in Clinton regarding this damage and lawsuit against Shoreline Blasting. The Pit is owned by Empire Paving and as I understand it was closed down due to the damages it created several years ago.

Another case of damage caused by Shoreline Blasting took place in Clinton CT. around 1996 during the building of the multi-million dollar Clinton Crossing Outlets. Many home owners on Cow Hill Road Clinton CT have had various forms of damage due to the severe blasting. A law suit was started but never finished against Shoreline Blasting for some reason. A home was purchased on Walnut Hill by the developer because of severe damage. There are apparently no records of this damage on file with the Fire Marshal in Clinton? I was told by the Fire Marshal of Clinton when I called the last week of May 2013, that the fees for the blasting permits are given back to the Fire marshal because there is no place to put them...the town budget is extensive and they are not needed! (He told me his sister had damage on Cow Hill RD) Is this why there is no paperwork on the blasting permits? Are the permits and other documents in these towns like Chester and Clinton being created after the fact for someone like me who demands to see them? This documentation is not on file somewhere?

A recent report about blasting damage to 2 properties along River Road in Shelton CT dated April 9, 2013 states that Shoreline Blasting Corp. blasted rock leaving a 45 ft. drop-off that collapsed after blast. Mr. Wardowski, who suffered severe damage, said that Shoreline Blasting's vibrations were above the Town of Shelton and the State of CT requirements. A neighbor Ms. Kirnagova said the dynamite blasting damaged her water service line as well as foundation damage to the homes. (See Article)

The Fire Marshal for Seymour, CT Paul Wetowitz was quoted as saying (in an article in the New Haven Register published November 15, 2009) in regard to multi damages in Seymour, Ct that the blasting laws in CT were adopted in 1972. He claims that in 2008 there was an attempt to update the CT explosives Code. Proposed changes never happened and several blasting experts retired in the State Fire Marshall office. He told me because "they had enough." (See article) Wetowitz told me there is no law that requires a pre blast survey...blasters know this and can do what they want.

When there is no pre blast survey there is never any proof that the property was damaged by blasting. What a perfect set up for everyone to walk away from the damage that they created and the insurance refuses payment because of the laws as they are now that leave the property owner with no one in their corner. Once again the damaged property owner "gets blasted" with huge bills.. To fix their property.. Hire a lawyer if the money value is large enough.. And if they can afford it.. Pay for a hydrologist or engineer to back their proof of damage. Again the property owner has no guarantee to win because of lacking laws. Wow.

To my knowledge a variance was never used for neighboring 69 Maple Street to change the use of the land from what it had been originally. There was a note in 69 Maples file that there had been a question as to" if the piece of land was even a viable building lot." (See Attached copy) I was never contacted by the town with a variance to sign or contacted by the Town of Chester or the blaster about the drastic change to the ledge that I have lived attached to for over 30 years? Is this a zoning violation on behalf of the Town of Chester?

There are numerous cases all over the state of CT and the country that have had property damage caused by blasting. It appears that change needs to be made to protect foundations, homes, wells, water quality, aquifers and all property that can be damaged by blasting. Each case is different and do not all fall under the same circumstances. Never the less, all have suffered and were all innocent property owners who got stuck with big bills for someone else's negligence and or dangerous and ultra-hazardous activity. Damage still happens outside of the set distances of time, fire power, removal of rock and other rules set for supporting blasting safety. Property values are affected and great financial loss is on the damaged property owner when the Insurance that everyone tells you is there for you, and is heavily paid for to protect such damage, walks away. Why is the insurance there if no one ever gets their damages covered? Blasting has been proven to be a very damaging business. There is a great need to change the law in order to protect the property owner.

I found a published article on line. The N.H. DEP says that seismic reading used to make a determination about impact to water and wells is not an appropriate procedure.

The N.H. DEP draft found on line says that bedrock wells installed topographically up gradient of blasting area may be partially or entirely drained if bedrock is removed from hillside groundwater discharges from fractures this can occur immediately or over time and the aquifer can be redirected as a result of changes to the ground topography.

(My well is situated above the blast site at 69 Maple and my house is 280 feet away pinned into same ledge that was blasted) I believe this is a fact that backs up what happened to my well and property at 71 Maple St.

The N.H. DEP says when 5,000 cubic yards of rock are removed wells within 2000 feet can be effected and municipalities should consider implementing water monitoring programs and 3rd party oversight.(see copy)

NOTE

My inquiry and findings have proven to be an unnecessarily long and difficult process. It has taken me nearly a year to find out what is shown on these pages. I am sure there is more to this story. The Town of Chester... the Chester Fire Marshall... the Blasters Insurance Company... The insurance investigators... Shoreline Blasting Corp... the Chester Zoning Board and maybe others... are not helping me and possibly have worked together to cover their tracks and possibly their paper work . Their relationships are not conducive to a fair outcome...they are all too closely connected. This connection and protection of each other is a conflict of interest .How is it that I have been left out of the loop... trying to figure out how and why I have suffered this damage to my property... by those who should have protected my interest? The supposed investigation done by the Fire Marshall was not shown to me; the shot report was not given to me and was not explained in order to prove that Shoreline Blasting was correct in how they blasted at 69 Maple. No one showed up to even see what happened to me on that ledge. Please advise me in this most serious matter. It seems my loss is not great enough to warrant a lawsuit. There are no lawyers to help me because there is no law that stands up for what has happened. There is a large group of property owners paying taxes on damaged property who need to be protected. The little guy is tired of being stepped on and bearing the burden on all fronts... It is time to change this. These irresponsible people who have taken their jobs for granted, have no respect, and only care about their interest, are out of line and need to be stopped as well. To me the loss is immense and the time and stress is great. I hope to be able to right this wrong doing and I greatly appreciate any help and all information pertaining to this matter.

Many Thanks, Deborah Fijal Rindge

Finished this finding August 2013

Deborah F. Rindge

P.O. Box 71

Chester, CT. 06412

April 12, 2014

860-526-5868

debbierindge@yahoo.com

To Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick

Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington D.C.

I am a concerned citizen who has questions in regard to the impacts of blasting in a nearby quarry operation located in Thompson CT. I am presently working on changing the State of Connecticut's blasting regulations. I lost my 175 ft. drilled well as a result of a neighbor blasting a full basement into the ledge my house and well have been on for thirty five years. My intensive research into who would pay for the cost of my well loss due to this blasting led me to the town of Thompson CT. involving a quarry operation in Grosvenordale. The CT. Television news station WTNH Channel 8 out of New Haven CT. (The Investigators) did a story about the damage caused to the residents of Thompson, CT and my well damage in Chester, CT back in October 2013. I became interested in what was taking place in Thompson and went to the P&Z meetings to do research and tell the people who were being blasted and damaged continuously from this quarry blasting that I needed their help to change the situation by changing the CT. blasting regulations. At this time I had been working for a year and a half to find my answers. I found out that no one pays for this damage and it is up to the damaged parties to prove that damage was caused by blasting. There is nothing in the law that protects people like us. I wanted to help myself and others to get a solution to this enormous problem. At present I have some concerns that need to be addressed about the blasting that has been allowed to take place in the town of Thompson. I figure that the Army Corps distinctive location of the dam property adjoining the quarry land could lead to getting answers to help this group of innocent damaged people. I am not sure if there has been an investigation to see if the blasting has had a negative or potential negative effect on the West Thompson Lake and dam. As I say I am a concerned citizen who has been brought into an area of concern due to my own hardship and the hardship of others, and I need some answers to the questions I have. I have made inquiries and have not received information back from those I contacted.

As a private citizen I have not received a satisfactory answer from either town or state agencies that I have contacted about potential problems involving blasting with regard to air, water, river, well and soil testing. I am now making a request to your agency to help me get the information I need in this matter.

I have contacted the CT. DEEP, The EPA out of Boston, The CT Health Dept., the C.D.C.in regard to hazardous substances, and the Army Corps of Engineer representative Mr. Siamac Vaghar from Concord MA(per the suggestion of Ct DEEP). Back in October when I went to my first Thompson P&Z meeting along with Channel 8, what I heard the people saying, along with what I could smell in the air that evening, prompted me to make the calls to the above mentioned agencies.

While in the meetings in Thompson, I listened to people complaining about brown water from taps in kitchens and baths, toilets that would not flush due to sediment backup in the filters, well water changes and fluctuations of levels and pressure, cracked foundations, leaking roofs, cracked plaster, family members being traumatized by blasting vibrations, ill family members who were in no condition to be under such stress, I heard people saying their houses and businesses shook violently, people complained of a strange smell like eggs or sewage that was filling the air ever since the blasting began. There were concerns about the Thompson Dam, concerns about the French River both being in such close proximity; people were worried for their safety and health. There were reports of train cars removing tons of stone and truck traffic causing dust and impact to the roads past the damaged homes. It was endless and very distressing. On the way out of town I could smell what smelled like a pre – methane odor filling the evening air. Being a victim of blasting and in debt for damage done to my well to the tune of \$15,000 with no one to pay for this loss, I could relate to these people and their stress. From what I could tell their town is not really concerned about them but more concerned about receiving the tax revenue that helps the rest of the people not affected by the quarry. This issue is being handled at meetings of the P&Z who appear to have full jurisdiction to vote on quarry issues with no say by these damaged individuals or other town people. This very important issue is not put to a vote by the people who have damage they are excluded in this determination. A “third party” geology team determined that homes and wells were not damaged by blasting. They are hired as expert witnesses and work for the blasters and insurance companies.

I asked the CT. DEEP to test the air, to test the water in French river, to test the soil and wells. I am concerned about health risks with the potential of silica dust and polluted water, this dust from blasting could have an effect on the wetlands changing the wild life activity. The dust could also affect the French River. The potential of silica dust is a danger to the people in the area. This quarry dust has been proven very dangerous in other areas where blasting is going on; it is worth testing and monitoring how the dust is being handled.

The following information was given to me and I would like someone to please look into it:

The Thompson dam apparently had a leaking problem sometime after its construction. This would be located on the side next to the left side of the road leading in the direction of the quarry. There was a crack in the ledge or whatever holds back the water in that area. Concrete was used to stop water leaking into or onto the church property across the road from dam. I was told that the Goumond Brothers hauled in this concrete for the repair. This may be something that would be weak after so many years and could be a concern when blasting is done in such close proximity. Damage happens even when State mandates for blasting are followed. (We have recently seen terrible damage to life and property in other parts of the country because the complaints and concerns made were ignored.)

An engineer had done a survey which showed an approximate height difference from the lake and dam area to where the blasting depth is now. It is a difference of 20-30 feet. That makes the dam and lake up gradient to the blasting area. The French River is several feet lower than the blasting area in the Quarry. Apparently there have been sightings of water seeping from the blasted ledge in the quarry. It appears that the water is draining because blasting has taken place below the water table.

There are wells across the street from the quarry on the dam side of Reardon Road that have experienced water depth and pressure variations. The wetlands in the same area have changed as well. They appear to be draining... the wildlife pattern has changed as a result of the water table variation. These wetlands may be on Army Corps land and or private property that adjoin the dam.

There is a house located very close to the quarry on adjoining property used as the office for The Army Corps of Engineers.

Thompson also has a Brownfield left by Belding that could be a concern when there is blasting possibly moving contaminants into the river or wells, and aquifers. There is also the possibility of exposed blasted stone leaching minerals that can affect the water.

The blasting has recently resumed with permission being granted by the Planning and Zoning Commission signing the permit to blast for a year as of March 21, 2014. There is no one able to enter the private property where the blasting takes place. The town fire marshal does not have to witness or record blasting activity. There are no records held at the town hall that show shot reports. The quarry operators have said the blasts will be toned down but there will be a lack of trust after all the previous damage. We are told Maine Drilling and Blasting holds all blasting info and will not answer calls or questions from the press or others who have asked to see the shot reports and other data. The people who are damaged have not received a copy of the blasting plans.

As I understand it the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's job is as follows:

You are the Nation's Environmental engineer....you care about wetlands, water, environmental protection etc.

You help Communities respond to needs regarding water and protecting its environmental benefits.

You help communities with technical engineering expertise.

You help with all aspects of Brownfields.

You have knowledge in Legal determination...permits, environmental impact, (you can determine if things are being done properly such as in a case like this)

You own and operate 600 dams

You understand a variety of federal, state and local environmental regulations things are being done properly such as in a case like this)

Due to the Army Corps expertise and jurisdiction and the close proximity of the Corps land that could be at risk, as well as the Thompson CT. citizens property, I am asking for the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate this matter.

All of the areas of knowledge and jurisdiction listed above could be a benefit for the people of Thompson who suffer from this blasting damage. People deserve their homes and property to be protected and when damaged, have it paid for. I for one am a very concerned citizen and would greatly appreciate your consideration. This type of situation is playing out all over the State of Connecticut and the United States. I would appreciate if I could get a copy of the findings and determinations made with this case. I am very interested in the findings as I will continue to work on changing the blasting regulations for industrial blasting and construction blasting to include balance, protection and reimbursement for the blasting damaged citizens of CT.

Many Thanks,

Sincerely Deborah F. Rindge

**AN ACT CONCERNING BLASTING.
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**Environment Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

Bill No.: SB-369

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING BLASTING.

Vote Date: 3/14/2008

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/29/2008

File No.:

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee, Representative Tim O'Brien

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason for the bill is to address noise and vibration issues in blasting areas near or adjacent to residential neighborhoods

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None submitted

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Representative Tim O'Brien, 24th District: Representative O'Brien asked for this legislation to be raised because of the effects many of his constituents have been experiencing from the regular explosive blasting that is part of an ongoing operation of the Ticon quarry in Plainville, just across the town line from where they live in New Britain. Their concerns, and his, are numerous and range from airborne dust coming from the quarry to disruption and property damage caused by ground shocks from the blasting at the mine. Greater legal protections seem to be warranted in order to fully address the problems from blasting-caused ground shocks. Rep. O'Brien believes that it makes sense that the state should provide greater and more specific protections for residents whose homes are in proximity to blasting operations. SB 369, as it is written, expands the statutory authority of the State Fire Marshal to provide the kind of specific protections that Rep. O'Brien's constituents need.

Amy Stegall, Stafford Springs, supports this bill. She would ask that several changes be made to the bill. Specifically that a formal grievance or mediation process is instituted for those who may be negatively impacted by active blasting. A notification process whereby property abutters and any nearby school or senior center be advised at least 24 hours in advance that blasting is about to take place. Finally a provision to limit the number of times, or length of time, that blasting can occur without special use permit or PZC approval on a lot that includes a private residence or is not a licensed quarry via approval of the fire marshal only.

James Burns, Stafford Springs

Jeff Condon, Stafford Springs

Neil Foster, New Britain

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Connecticut Water Works Association: Water companies periodically and routinely employ blasting in the normal course of business to ensure public water supply mains are properly installed consistent with state Department of Public Health regulations and guidelines. CWWA therefore cautions that such regulations must be crafted by the state Department of Public Safety in such a way as to ensure that water companies may continue to meet their public health and safety obligations. CWWA points this out because it is their interpretation that draft regulations had proposed revisions regarding the radius for pre-blast surveys, well testing and pre-blast notification. These proposed revisions posed concerns to the water industry because they would have made it more difficult and costly to meet their obligation to provide a pure and adequate supply of water to their customers.

Reported by: Jason Bowsza

Date: 3/25/08