

Hamlin Valley, UT

Property owner and future resident.

To whom it may concern:

As a property owner in Hamlin Valley, UT, I respectfully urge our elected representatives and county officials to focus their attention and support on the residents of our community.

I am writing to express my significant concerns regarding the iron county conditional use permit, submitted by Progressive Contracting, Inc. in Hamlin Valley/ Modena Canyon. My primary focus is on public safety, the impact on our infrastructure, and ensuring that Iron County taxpayer funds are not used to finance any part of this project. It is a top priority for the residents of Hamlin Valley that our state prioritizes safety, protects our water resources, and prevents PCI from utilizing our taxpayer funds for this endeavor.

an application from Progressive Contracting Inc. (PCI) for a proposed conditional use permit to conduct surface mining at the Pozzolan/Moderna Mine, (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2025-0005-EA), located in Iron County, UT. The Pozzolan Mine is situated on land owned by BLM, which has leased the property to PCI. This land is located near 12000 N Modena Canyon Rd, Beryl, UT, and encompasses approximately 200 acres. It falls within the NW1/4 SW1/4; NE1/4 SW1/4; SW1/4 SW1/4; SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 14 and the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 23, T33S, R19W, SLB&M, Iron County, UT (BLM property with no APNs). The property is zoned for Agriculture 20 Acre (A-20).

My home is situated on just over 38 acres, approximately 20 miles north of Modena. I have a strong vested interest in both Hamlin Valley and Modena Canyon Road. For the past few years, I have been building my homestead and investing in Utah, visiting my property most weekends. I plan for my family and me to retire there soon.

The access to the location of the proposed mining permit covers a 9-mile stretch of an unpaved roadway through Hamlin Valley and Modena Canyon Road. That stretch of roadway is the only roadway residents in Hamlin Valley can access our property.

Modena Canyon Road is extremely unsafe. On May 12, 2023, I was involved in an accident on this road. As I crested a hill, I was surprised to find that the road was washed out. This incident occurred not far from the proposed mine site. The trench that had formed across the road was over 18 inches deep. I was traveling downhill at about 15 mph while towing a utility trailer and found that my truck was unable to stop or even slow down. The impact bent the frame of my 2012 Ram 3500 truck, and my insurance company ultimately declared it a total loss. Fortunately, I did not sustain any injuries.

PCI's proposal for the mine site roadway includes only the barest necessity of road maintenance. Based on the Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management's policy, Policy MS-9113, Section 1.5 – Roads, paragraph B, concerning Federal Lands Transportation Designated Network roads, to be considered fully "public roads". Policy MS-9113, section 1.5 – Roads, paragraph C, further requires continuous coordination with other agencies and public road authorities to ensure that land use, resources, and public interests are represented. I respectfully ask you to consider the risk to public safety if this proposal is approved as written.

There must be a thorough investigation into the traffic volume, size, and weight of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), and the safety of passenger vehicles traveling on this road. I travel this route weekly,

and it needs to be properly engineered before CMVs, particularly those associated with the proposed mine, begin operating alongside passenger vehicles.

The corners of the road will need to be relocated and/or significantly widened to accommodate trucks that exceed 80 feet in length and weigh between 25 and 40 tons. This is a public road, not a mine haul road, and it requires appropriate upgrades. Improvements such as culverts, concrete swales, and potentially bridges will be necessary.

Furthermore, according to the PCI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), "Iron County would be responsible for the costs of culverts, concrete water crossings, and bridges." I refuse to allow my taxpayer dollars to fund these improvements. PCI should cover all expenses related to ensuring that their trucks can safely travel Modena Canyon Road.

PCI has numerous leases in the vicinity with BLM. The road improvements should be extended to the top of the canyon. total of 11 miles from highway 56. It will encompass future mining locations that PCI currently has leases on. It would also help residents with access and possibly bring other community members to approve of the mining. Currently, they plan to stop the road improvements 50' past the proposed mine entrance, which is well before the end of their land leases. Modena Canyon Rd. should be engineered by the county and PAVED to proper specifications to support the mining trucks.

Additionally, paving the road would drastically reduce the amount of water needed by over half of what PCI is projecting. This cost of paving the road would be well worth the water savings! Millions upon Millions of gallons of water will be saved! PCI can make more money. They can't make more water!

I installed a well on my land. I had to drill to a depth of 710' to access water. If the water table drops, I will not have water! My well was extremely costly and in no way would I be in a position to afford to drill it a second time. As our elected representatives I respectfully request that you protect our resources.

I have an extensive background in construction and heavy equipment use and operation. A 4,000-gallon water truck can wet up to 2 miles of road with one full tank when only using the rear sprayers. However, if the front sprayers are also in operation, this distance decreases to 1 mile per load of water. PCI would need at least two 4,000-gallon water trucks running nonstop to keep the road dust-free for their trucks to travel, not including the demands of mining operations. The water usage for PCI could increase depending on wind and weather conditions.

Additionally, PCI has stated that it will require 4,000 gallons of water per hour for both road dust control and mining dust control. This translates to numerous trips up and down our road. Operating for 11 hours a day, minimum of five days per week, this totals an astounding 220,000 gallons of water per week. Over the course of a year, that amounts to 11,440,000 gallons of water!

If this continues for 10, 20, 30, or even 50 years of mining, it could dramatically affect our water tables—potentially resulting in millions of gallons of water loss. This water usage needs to be drastically reduced! Water is life! I love Hamlin Valley, Utah, and I intend to reside in this area for the rest of my life.

PCI has obtained a small mine permit, which is likely to keep their bond, permits, regulations, and other costs low, ultimately resulting in fewer restrictions. However, this mine may not remain small. PCI has numerous adjacent parcels leased from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), totaling 1,120 acres. All

these parcels are connected and include the proposed 200 acre site, which could lead to the development of a very large mining operation. PCI must be denied this proposal or at least required to cover the cost of the appropriate bonds, permits, evaluations, and other necessary expenses.

Additionally, PCI has not provided much information to the public. A notice was issued on January 26, 2025, primarily through word of mouth, announcing a public meeting scheduled for February 5, 2025. This short notice leaves residents and property owners with little time to prepare to attend the meeting, much less researching the proposal.

It is my strong belief that PCI is intentionally downplaying the size of this mine with intentions for it to become a major enterprise. Any information shared by PCI must be thoroughly scrutinized and investigated before any final decisions or approvals are made. Similar mining projects have often taken years to begin due to extensive regulatory processes, so it's important not to rush this one. I respectfully request you protect our family, neighbors, and our investments in Hamlin Valley!

I respectfully request your prompt attention to addressing my concerns and the many concerns voiced by my neighbors and residents of Hamlin Valley.

Sincerely,