

September 8, 2023

Dear Chief Shinney,

My friend Bob Brooks shared the NEMT blasting plan with me that you had shared with him earlier today. I am also a resident of Wakefield and worked in the public health and environmental engineering field for many years.

I am very concerned that important site-specific information is missing from the NEMT blasting plan and urge you to please postpone your approval of the permit until such details can be obtained and information shared with the community. Other communities, such as [Waltham](#), held community forums before blasting operations were allowed to proceed. Have you discussed with other Town Officials a Town communication plan and including information on the Town Website?

Given the range of concerned parties, from nearby residents, teachers, students, parents (from all of the communities sending students to the Voke), as well as the many visitors to Breakheart, wouldn't it be prudent to give the community a chance to ask questions in a setting with trusted parties like yourself?

Important information missing from the plan:

1. Where are the specific monitoring locations? There is no figure showing this.
2. What specific protections for noise and vibration have been put in place around the vocational high school school, Wakefield high school and the early childcare location for children and youth?
3. What is the expected duration (in weeks or months) of the blasting operation?
4. Have the teachers, students, and parents of the vocational school and Wakefield high school been informed of the hourly duration (hours from 8:00 am to 4:00 PM) and intensity of the blasting operation?
5. Have the parents of children in the early childcare program been informed?
6. Will accommodations be made for students who cannot tolerate the noise and vibration impacts?
7. Will student outdoor activities be curtailed during blasting operations?

These are just a few of the questions. Earlier this year, the NEMT project shared the attached document that is very short on details. Has this plan been updated? The increased number of trucks moving around the school and through Wakefield to handle the blasted rock is also a safety concern.

Many of us in Town are very concerned about the extended blasting operation NEMT has planned. As the Town's Chief Safety Officer, please consider how you can coordinate a plan that informs and prepares citizens, young and old, of the impending operation.

Sincere thanks for your service to Wakefield.

Christine Rioux