

Mr Rhett Bennett,

Your company has purchased and optioned property in Somervell County near and adjoining Dinosaur Valley State Park and obtained a Standard Air Permit for a gas power plant.

Black Mountain's Somervell County project shares a fenceline with Dinosaur Valley State Park and along with the Comanche Circle project would be 4000 acres of industry and construction near the park. Dirt work on this many acres of land with 200 ft elevation changes will mean tremendous silt in the river just from construction. In addition, both projects would discharge storm and wastewater into the rivershed and jurisdictional tributaries of the Paluxy River where the dinosaur tracks are located.

Dinosaur Valley State Park is designated as a National Natural Landmark and is a Texas state treasure. There are over 300,000 visitors to the park annually. It should be protected. As such, legislation requiring a 5-mile non-industrial buffer around state parks is proposed for the 2027 legislative session.

In light of a potential buffer, I ask that Black Mountain consider donating the land that you have purchased to Dinosaur Valley State Park as a good-will environmental gesture and a tax right off. This would protect the wetlands, the Golden Cheek Warbler habitat on the property, and help preserve the aquifer and watershed rather than destroy these and a treasured state park.

Please help preserve this special area.