

10 September 2012

Ms. Ann Hurlburt  
City Administrator  
Scandia, Minnesota, 55073

Subject: Tiller/Zavoral Gravel Mine is BAD for Scandia

Dear Ms.Hurlburt,

Once again I write to urge the Scandia City Council to deny Tiller Corporation's application for a Conditional Use Permit for reopening the Zavoral gravel mine. It is a bad idea that has no conceivable benefit for the City of Scandia, or for the citizens who live in proximity to the mine, or for the residents who live along highway 97, or for anyone who enjoys the peace and quiet of the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway. Such a permit would benefit one corporation and one individual landowner only, and no one else. The City Council has an obligation to serve the best interests of the citizens of Scandia and prevent the reopening of this gravel mine.

The immediate issue is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which fails to adequately address many of the impacts that this gravel mine would impose on Scandia, specifically, Traffic, Safety, Noise, Dust Control, and the potential for damage to the St. Croix River and ground water.

To take the most obvious and most visible impact, Traffic and Safety, the FEIS totally understates the effect of the substantial additional truck traffic on highway 97 and highway 95, and particularly at the 97/95 intersection. Traffic on highway 97 is already heavy, especially during the morning and afternoon rush hour, and it doesn't take much imagination to foresee how much worse it will be with hundreds more truck trips during "haul events" from the mine. Scandia residents all along Highway 97 will be greatly affected by the impact and noise of the increased truck traffic going by their homes and driveways.

As for Safety, the FEIS completely ignores the situation at the 97/95 intersection, with the addition of large numbers of trucks leaving the mine entrance, slowly starting up to cross busy highway 95 to

proceed slowly up the hill on 97 toward Scandia. It is an invitation for serious accidents that should not be permitted.

Discussion of the many other impacts I will leave to others, but I would urge the City Council to reflect on the simple fact that the current zoning law in Scandia specifically prohibits gravel mining on the Zavoral site. That should tell them something, namely that mining in this location is a BAD IDEA. Granting a permit on a technicality based on several-years outdated zoning law would be a significant disservice to the citizens of Scandia. I urge the Council to do the right thing.

Sincerely yours

Edmund K. Summersby  
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