

Anne Hurlburt

From: Robyn D. [robdoc@robdoc.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 5:23 PM
To: a.hurlburt@ci.scandia.mn.us
Subject: A Scandia citizen against the mine

As a Scandia citizen who lives on Quality Trail, just up the hill from the proposed mine site, I would like to have my comments added to the official record: I am 100% against opening and operating this mine.

My opinion is the result of reading the EIS, and hearing what others have to say on the issue, combined with my own values as a homeowner, outdoor enthusiast and taxpayer.

Primarily, my concern is one of safety. I cannot find a way to believe that dozens or hundreds of gravel-hauling trucks at the intersection of 97 and 95 can be safe. As a recreation and scenic corridor, there is a great deal of traffic on 95. While I'm sure most are safe drivers, some are busy admiring the views, reading signs or maps, or are otherwise distracted. While it's not Tiller's responsibility to account for these motorists, I do believe that it would be irresponsible for the city of Scandia to approve of hauling at this site, and essentially put lives on the line. Not only would it be tragic if even one death occurred (and one family shattered), but I have concerns that the city might have some risk of liability should such an accident occur.

Recently, a gravel truck overturned at that intersection. I drove through the intersection in the dark, and to be honest, I was amazed that the accident didn't spawn fender-benders or jeopardize our excellent emergency responders. I'd hate to see our firefighters, for whom I have utmost respect, called out away from their families to respond to accidents at this site, that need not have happened.

Also, as I mentioned, I live very close to this site. When we moved to Scandia eight years ago from Minneapolis, it was the quiet, green, natural beauty that attracted us. Everything about this mine suggests that quality of life will be compromised. I have spent thousands of dollars remodeling our home (local contractor, I might add) and will be enormously disappointed and frustrated if this mine is approved and we have to deal with dust, noise and traffic. This is exactly what I wanted to escape!

Further, if traffic at that intersection worsens (which it certainly will if the mine is approved), I certainly will be choosing to head away from the ruckus, toward Marine instead of head into Scandia for my gallon of milk, six-pack of beer, tank of gas or hot pizza. I hope that the council thoroughly thinks through the impact the mine will have on the merchants of Scandia. I don't want to not support these merchants. I like that they are here and I go out of my way to support them now. I would truly hate to see any of them have to close, but I don't want to have to brave more traffic, dust, noise to get to them. Marine is an easy option without noise, dust and danger.

I know many others have addressed the natural resources that will be lost if this area is mined. I agree with them, but I will not focus on that here. But please know, please understand, that wildlife and natural areas are very, very important to quality of life in Scandia. Please don't sell us down the river!

Thank you.

Robyn Dochterman
16277 Quality Trail N
Scandia MN 55073