

RECEIVED

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CITY OF SCANDIA

To the City of Scandia

My husband, Rudy, and I live at 21715 Quarry Ave N. Our property lies less than 1/2 mile north of the proposed mining operation. Rudy has been under the care of Dr. Marshall Hertz, The Medical Director of the Lung Transplant Program at the University of Minnesota. According to one of his medical reports, interlobular thickening is seen with early interstitial fibrosis. We are extremely anxious that a mining operation which releases any type of particulate matter including silica, even at relatively low concentrations, could have devastating effects on his health.

We are not at all convinced that the DEIS sufficiently addresses these issues. There are two pages with mention of water and I believe, calcium chloride, for dust reduction, but nothing specific. Watering as needed? Who makes that decision? And who decides that there is sufficient rainfall in a 24 hour period to dampen the dust?

The issues concerning water, traffic, noise, loss of wildlife are similarly lacking in specifics.

Although this report was purportedly done by professionals it is sloppily written. Names are misspelled. There is a comment that since the land was once mined it should be mined again. How does this fit into a present day evaluation? Zavoral/Tiller slipped its application in under the wire. This mining operation would be outlawed under present standards. In the section on wells, ours is not depicted, nor are several of our neighbors' wells. Were they deliberately omitted or is it simply bad research?

We live between 1/4 and 1/2 mile north of the proposed mine. Yet our property was excluded from the chart showing property value reductions. The chart extends south as far as the Clapp property -- a much greater distance from Zavoral/Tiller than ours. Again, is this a deliberate omission? There is little question that a 2% property loss is patently laughable.

As an aside, our family has owned property on the river since 1950. We purchased 580 feet of river front property in McLeod's Slough from Rudy's parents in 1976. When we sold our home in St. Paul in 1996, we bought property at 21715 Quarry Avenue on the bluff above our river property. We have lived in our house there since 2000. It is our retirement home in Minnesota.

The Council might consider how a well planned housing development on the bluff of the Zavoral property would benefit the city. Jobs would be created for local engineers, carpenters, plumbers, painters, electricians, etc. There would be a permanent increased tax base with new home owners. Why the rush to mine this property when there are no upsides -- NONE -- for the city of Scandia?

Carol Sundberg