

May 16, 2012

Ms. Anne Hurlburt
City Administrator
City of Scandia
14727 209th St. N.
Scandia, MN 55073

Subject: Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Ms. Hurlburt,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. My family currently owns property near the mining site at 20851 Quint Avenue North. We are very concerned about potential impacts to our property caused by the mining of the Zavoral property. My comments on the EIS are provided below.

- The description of Alternative 3A needs to define the months they will be working. Do they really need to work 12-hour days? If they worked 10-hour days it would appear that they could do the work over 180 days. Please clarify.
- Alternative 3A reduces biological, erosion/sedimentation, economic (impacts to land values) and water resources. Other impacts occur over a shorter-period of time such as visual, water use, noise and air quality, which reduces the impacts associated with the mining operation. We find this alternative to be superior to any of those studied and the EIS should identify this Alternative as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.
- The final EIS should complete a thorough analysis of the air quality impacts associated with Alternative 3A. The analysis currently indicates that the mitigation measure should address any increase in dust/emissions or decreased ambient air quality, but it uses language such as “not likely” rather than making a definitive statement about potential impacts. The EIS should clarify if this Alternative actually reduces these impacts.
- While the EIS indicates that noise levels along the St. Croix River do not exceed standards, there will be an increase in ambient noise. The river is a Wild and Scenic River and should receive greater protection than required by the general “outdoor living” noise standards. The increase in noise will change one’s experience on the river. Therefore, we suggest that the EIS include a recommended mitigation measure to provide berming along the Highway to further reduce the noise from truck traffic.
- We request that an additional Alternative be included in the EIS that would allow the mining to occur over two years and between October and June. This would minimize the impacts of the mining operation to the residents and visitors enjoying the St. Croix River during the highest period of use, summer.

Overall, we believe that if the site is to be mined that it should be done over a 1 or 2 year period to minimize the impacts to the community and those recreating on the St. Croix River. We understand that Tiller believes that their objectives can be met in a shorter timeframe. Please ensure that all of the required analysis of these two alternatives is completed in the EIS in order to allow decision-makers to approve either one of them.

If you have any questions regarding these comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Plowman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lisa Plowman
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-729-5956