

Anne Hurlburt

From: Matthew Quast [mbquast@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 6:21 PM
To: a.hurlburt@ci.scandia.mn.us
Subject: Scandia Gravel Mine Proposal

Dear Anne Hurlburt and the City of Scandia,

I am writing to convey my concerns about the noise pollution from the proposed Tiller/Zavoral gravel mine that will impact the boating community on the St. Croix river. We own a pontoon boat docked at the Marine Landing and we often cruise up river during the week, close to the railroad swing bridge near Osceola and then float and/or fish down stream with the engine off for long stretches. The idea of hearing gravel trucks beeping as they back up and the excavator grinding away and front end loaders that load the gravel, is not a pleasant one. I am a recording engineer by trade and have read the Noise Assessment in the Environmental Impact Statement. I am familiar with the technical jargon expressed in the study and the fabricated idea that suggests the noise generated from the site would be masked by an idling motor boat is a weak argument at best (see page 25). This EIS is flawed and incomplete in its noise assessment because it doesn't take into account the higher standard for quiet that should apply here, and the reasonable expectations of the people who use this stretch of the St. Croix, which is a National Scenic Riverway and national park. If the EIS preparers are actually interested in measuring real noise impacts, they should be talking to people like me who use the river and ask how our experience would be affected. Let's see a statistical analysis of that. Boaters who fish, canoe, kayak and float on this stretch of river would be adversely and objectionably affected by the noise pollution created by as many as 700 trucks a day hauling gravel at the proposed mine!

I must add my name and my fellow boaters to the list of concerned citizens opposed to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Matthew Quast
Marine on St.Croix

Jeff Stonehouse
Marine on St.Croix

Jim Schoeller
Croixside