

Anne Hurlburt

From: Pam Smith [nwpsmith@cox-internet.com]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 12:10 AM
To: a.hurlburt@ci.scandia.mn.us
Subject: Zavoral Mining Project Comments

Ms. Anne Hurlburt
City Administrator
Scandia Community and Senior Center
14727 209th St. N.
Scandia, MN 55073

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

Dear Ms. Hurlburt,

My husband and I own property near the mining site at 20919 Quint Avenue North in Scandia. We are very concerned about potential impacts to our property and to the St. Croix River associated with the mining of the Zavoral property. We have outlined our primary concerns/comments below:

- We would like an additional Alternative included in the EIS that would allow the mining to occur over two years and between October and April. A representative for Tiller Corp commented in an article published in the Marine Messenger that this would be feasible. Eliminating these 5 spring/summer months would minimize the impacts of the mining operation to the residents and visitors to the St. Croix River during the peak outdoor period.
- Alternative 3A currently comes closest to an acceptable time frame, although as indicated in our first point we would like the period to eliminate 5 spring/summer months. 3A reduces biological, erosion/sedimentation, economic and water resource impacts. Other impacts such as visual, water use, noise and air quality are also reduced under a one to two year plan. We find this alternative to be preferable to any of those studied and the EIS should identify this Alternative as the Environmentally Superior Alternative (but again, modified to limit operations to the months of October through April.)
- We are very concerned about ground water quality. We want Scandia officials to be certain that there will be no danger of polluting our ground water – most of us in this area are on well water and depend on a pristine water source.
- We are very concerned about dust and particulate that will be inhaled and that will make its way to the River wildlife and surrounding vegetation. The EIS indicates that this project is “not likely” to increase dust/emissions or decrease ambient air quality – we would like a definitive statement about potential impacts. The EIS should clarify if this issue.
- The proposed reclamation plan seems insufficient. We want to make sure that the new trees are not planted in a 30 to 60 foot hole in the ground. We would like to see berming along the perimeter of the hole with trees planted on the berms with sufficient depth to simulate the forest they are planning to remove.
- Sound is a major concern. Tiller already contributes to sound pollution heard from the St. Croix with their existing trucking routes. It will only get worse (and continue) with increased mining in the area. We would like to propose that they create a very high berm along Hwy 95 with planted trees to help mitigate the sound (and visual) pollution. Tiller will be moving a large quantity of

dirt during this project and it would be an ideal time to create a sound barrier for the St. Croix River!

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Pamela and Michael Smith
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