

May 17, 2012

Anne Hurlburt, City Administrator
City of Scandia
14747 209th St. NO.
Scandia, MN. 55073



Dear Ms. Hurlburt,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Zavoral Mine EIS.

My primary concern with the EIS is the 'probability of major storm event' in reference to Alternatives 3 and 3A (p. ES-6).

The period of risk in Alternatives 3 and 3A seems almost irrelevant when you consider that storm risk will remain high for years until vegetation is reestablished after site restoration.

Recent weather patterns are trending to more frequent extreme storm events – see http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_20639967/severe-rains-happening-more-often-midwest-study-says from today's Pioneer Press.

I do not believe that we should be relying on the traditional 100 year flood event predictions in planning for storm event management. It would seem that adequate protection for the St. Croix River should be more on the level of storm planning for a dam than for a temporary site as in the current EIS. For example, PMP (Probable Maximum Precipitation) for each month of the year should be the build-to standard, not historic 100 year flood, which has no real meaning in a period of unpredictable climate shift.

As a commuter, I also have a concern with traffic impact. The all-way stop at 97 and Olinda Trail is susceptible to rush-hour backups. Adding many more semis to the mix will likely create long backups and commuter diversion to side roads such as 220th that are not designed to handle high-speed traffic. I anticipate the need to finance upgraded traffic control at that intersection if the CUP is granted.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Houlding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jean Houlding
21922 Pomroy Av N
Scandia, MN 55073
651-433-5192