

## Anne Hurlburt

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**From:** Suzanne Lundgren [Suzanne.Lundgren@mpls.k12.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 18, 2012 2:46 PM  
**To:** Anne Hurlburt  
**Subject:** Zavoral Mining and Reclamation Project DEIS

To:  
Anne Hurlbut, City Administrator, and City of Scandia Council Members

From: Suzanne K. Lundgren, Harriet E. Lerdal  
21565 St. Croix Trail N.  
Scandia, Minnesota 55476

We own a cabin on the St. Croix River less than 1/2 mile from the proposed gravel mine, and approximately 22 acres west of the railroad tracks. The cabin property has been in my family for 75 years and the acreage was bought several years ago to preserve for future generations. I grew up during the original mining operations and remember the small farmhouse on the site and the stand of old growth pines and oaks, all of which have been removed due to the previous mining operations. I also remember the incessant noise of the operation, bulldozers, trucks backing up being loaded, and washing processes. I can still remember the day when all was quiet...it had stopped and we could again hear the silence. I certainly don't want to spend the rest of my life ( 69 ) years, listening to this again. There are, however, more serious issues that have been addressed by a volume of studies which I would like to highlight.

No one really knows what the impact of reopening the mine will be except those proposing it and the owner of the property. It will mean \$\$ to them and lots of it. I am not one to discourage others from realizing a life long dream but am in this case! Many people have cited concerns regarding the reopening of this pit, particularly from the TA-COS group. They have initiated studies, and spent relentless hours working against the reopening of this mine. They love The St Croix River and the surrounding areas contiguous to the Riverway as I do, and many others. This will have impacts not only to us but for generations to come and probably forever.

I know you have heard all of this and must make a decision but please listen again:

- There will be immediate increases to traffic and noise pollution, people already have difficulty trying to get onto 95 from the east due to heavy truck traffic going north/south, and reclamation activities will create more noise.
- There will be an immediate visual impact during site preparation, and screening mitigations.
- The operation will result in mining an additional 9 acres, as deep as 70 feet ( 55 additional feet of excavation ) that will contribute 50% of the aggregate hauled out of the mine.
- How can you reclaim a 70 foot hole, and what impact will this have on contiguous water supplies, excavating only 3 feet from ground water supplies. This is very porous gravel/sand and is extremely close to streams and seepages that feed wet lands, marshes, and the St. Croix River; not only on the Zavoral site, but the Page property and my property.
- Any mining of this significance will certainly require extraordinary reclamation measures. Is laying down 4-6 inches of topsoil, adding seed, and planting trees appropriate for an area lying next to the St. Croix Scenic Riverway which was established by leaders who had foresight for generations to come. Is this proposal that short sighted.....except to fill the pockets of those proposing the mine.
- Is it true a reclaimed area will be non-suitable for farming, and will require specialized septic systems for any kind of development? What will the City of Scandia propose for this after it has been mined and reclaimed.... or do you leave this to your successors, who may have to clean up after the present council?
- Most of my concerns are included in the article on your website by Dave Crawford, a retired Minnesota DNR naturalist which was submitted by Laurie Allman ( 2010). Before you put down my e-mail please read it again. Ask yourselves if this is what the City of Scandia wants their legacy to be? Allowing the CUP might allow mining for up to 10 years but what does and does not remain will be there forever!

I could go on but I won't. This is probably the most important vote this council will make! Think of the founders of the St. Croix Scenic Riverway, and the millions of people who enjoy it and use it, much longer than any of us will be here. What do you want to leave for them?

Sincerely,

Sue Lundgren , Harriet Lerdal