


April 16, 2012  
Mark Berge

1. Fees should be assessed to all mine operators located in the Town of Cooks Valley to pay for a qualified independent specialist to monitor ground and surface water quality. Air monitors placed by specialist. Testing of private and agricultural wells for both quantity and quality. Along with this mine operators should be required to provide records of all substances used in mining and processing operations. All wells up to one half mile from mine site should be tested. Mining companies will incur all costs associated with any private or agricultural wells that become contaminated with any substance used in mining and processing operations or if new well has to be drilled because of lowered depth caused by mining or processing operations.
2. Property value guarantees for all homeowners located one half mile from mine or along haul routes in township. Homeowners would be guaranteed price of a similar home not located near a mine or industrial site.
3. Hauling limited to 8 hours per day Monday through Friday and mine operating hours limited to 12 hours per day Monday through Friday, with no hauling or mine operations between 6:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.. No hauling or mine operations on Saturday, Sunday, or the six major holidays.
4. Buffers for residents impacted by mining or hauling operations. Buffers could be trees, shrubs, fences, or sound proof windows, to be determined by property owner.
5. Opacity limit lowered from 20% required in air quality permit, to 10%.
6. Fees assessed by the Township to the mine operators that would cover all property taxes of all residents of the Town of Cooks Valley. This would offset in a small way the disruption of everyone's way of life here in Cooks Valley because of the sand mine companies.

All of these issues are extremely important issues to Cooks Valley Residents, who have not sold out to the mine companies, but have to put up with all of these issues regardless. Also, there should be no further expansion of current mine sites or any new mines, allowed in the Township. Our ordinances allows for this when safety is a concern. Everything from traffic to being allowed to operate within 5 feet of groundwater and possibly in the groundwater, to the use of acrylamide in processing which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a maximum contaminant level goal of zero in public drinking water. Some people who drink water containing acrylamides over a long period of time could have problems with their nervous system or blood, and may have an increased risk of cancer. Certainly these are all very real safety concerns. From an aesthetic standpoint, why would anyone want to destroy these beautiful bluffs, the wildlife and plants they support and instead have sand pits which could potentially have devastating effects on all of us?

  
Virginia Berge

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Public Comments submitted to Town of Cooks Valley

1. Proof of financial security of mining company for all agreements reached and conditions that apply to mining operations, including but not limited to road maintenance, environmental clean up, well replacement, reclamation, property value guarantees and buffers for residents impacted by mining and hauling operations. Mining company shall reimburse township for professional services necessary to validate financial security.
2. Absolute protection of ground water quality and quantity, to include well replacement and necessary landscaping if well is contaminated and must be replaced. This will require records of all substances used in mining and processing operations that are known or suspected of damaging health or the environment. The services of an independent, qualified specialist will be required. The qualified specialist must be independent of mine operators and owners. Wells shall be tested annually. If well water becomes unavailable for human and/or livestock consumption, property owners may choose property value guarantees or well replacement. The Wisconsin DNR has stated they are only able to inspect mines every two years.
3. Property value guarantees that include all properties adjacent to mining property and properties that are negatively impacted by mining operations, construction or hauling. Mining companies shall pay the difference between sale price of home and appraised value. Mining companies shall reimburse proper owner for appraisal completed by appraiser chosen by affected property owners. If property is not sold within 180 days of listing, mining company shall purchase for appraised value.
4. Buffers for residents impacted by mining and hauling operations. The buffers could include trees, plants, landscaping and fences, to be determined by the affected property owners.
5. Fees assessed to mine operators that would fund a qualified specialist to assure compliance of all local, county, state and federal regulations and permits. The qualified specialist must be independent of mine operators and owners.
6. Mining and Hauling should be limited to Monday through Friday from 7 am to 5 pm, with no hauling during school bus hours. Hauling should be limited to 120 trucks per day.
7. No mining operations or hauling on weekends and nationally recognized holidays. Mining companies shall repair or replace damaged structures as the result of blasting and or mining operations.
8. Opacity limit lowered from 20% referenced in all air quality permits to 10%. Compliance shall be assured by an independent, qualified specialist.
9. Mining companies shall reimburse township legal fees necessary to negotiate agreements.

Sincerely,  
Scott and Donna Johnson

**Nancy J. Schindler  
1711 150<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Colfax WI 54730**

**Let me preface this statement by saying I have nothing against sand mines or the people who have sold their land to be mined.**

**Having said that, I do have some concerns regarding the problems created in my home by the sand mining company.**

**I have had my home on the market for six years and just took it off in December of 2011. In January of 2012, the DS mine opened. Since then I have felt the effects of the blast and my home has incurred damage due to blasting.**

**The blasting is loud and offensive inside the home. I imagine it feels similar to an earthquake. The house shakes, the dishes rattle, and the booms within the walls are loud and scary. As a result my home has cracks in the ceiling and the tape is coming loose between the joints of the drywall in the ceiling.**

**My concerns are simple. If I can see the cracking in my ceiling caused by the blasting, what else is happening to my home and around it?**

**Is the foundation breaking apart as well?**

**What is occurring underground to my well and septic?**

**Will the water table go down or dry up which could possibly lead to another well having to be drilled?**

**What will happen to the air we breathe?**

**What about medical conditions that can possibly occur?**

**I cannot, in good faith, put my home on the market again. It doesn't appear that I could a fair price for my home. It sounds like the blasting will be going on for quite a while yet, so repairs to the home need to be put on hold. Who is going to cover the cost of repairs? In fact, who would want to purchase my home as it is now?**

**The peaceful days of sitting outside are gone. Simple things like hanging clothes on the clothesline are also gone. My slice of heaven has been destroyed.**

*Nancy J. Schindler*

June 10th

mark

- ① Fees assessed to help maintain the towns roads and maintenance
- ② testing Ag wells for quality and quantity independent testing
  - 1/2 mile wells need to test lose of Depth compensation to farmers for high use well needs
- ③ Property value guarantee
  - m-f 8 hrs/days 12 hrs day
  - handling between CEP-CA
- ④ Buffers trees, shrubs, fencing
- ⑤ 20% opacity → 10% opacity
  - offset (sand mine) taxes to create funds
- ⑥ ~~new mines~~
  - acclaimine containment →
  - DNR can't help need independent
- ⑦ Bi-annual meetings to address issues and resolve permit for mines
  - website form
- Independent monitoring for Air/water
  - private citizens do it
  - amount of water used by wet plant
  - new mines, roads are congested already
  - property value guarantee up to 1/2 mile

Nancy Schudler

Heidi  
Friedberg

11. No more than 10 acres of mine will be open at one time. Current mines will be delt with on an individual basis to bring them into compliance with this. Any future mines will be expected to do this from the beginning.

12. Fencing for those on haul routes that have children or animals (including pastures/enclosures for farm animals) will be purchased and installed at the mines expense.

13. Property guarantee or mine purchase the home/property at 30% more than assessed value.

14. reimbursement for injungment on an life

already hired pm crew -

## Citizen Request for Mining negotiations

Heidi  
Freeberg

1. Mine's should incur the cost of sound proofing homes via sound barriers, of the residents choice (mature trees, sound wall etc.) and/or windows that are sound proof or at least sound resistant.

2. Yearly water testing by an independent company, that the mine has not already done business with. This may include inspection of the well casing for possible damage incurred from blasting.

3. Air monitoring done yearly by an independent contractor, at various times of the year without notifying the mine as to when. This would be the only way to insure the mine is operating safely all the time.

4. A charge of \$.01 per ton of frac sand mined/hailed/removed/or returned to mine site, will be paid to each person living within ½ mile of the mine. \$.03 per ton of frac sand mined/hailed/removed or returned, will be paid to each individual living on the haul routes on the township roads. Those who live on a haul route will NOT receive the \$.01 that is being given to those living within ½ mile. They will receive only the \$.03 for living on a haul route. Individuals who lease land to be mined, sell land for the purpose of mining, or are descendants (or parents) living within ½ mile of the mine or on a haul route are exempt from receiving these benefits. (all frac sand hauled on the town road will be subject to this charge. This includes waste sand being returned to the mine.)

5. A yearly \$5000 donation to any cemetery that is on a haul route or within ½ mile of a mine.

6. Hauling times of 8am to 3:30pm Monday – Friday.

7. Blasting 2 times per week at midday.

8. Yearly housing inspection for possible damage done by blasting over the course of a year. This will include sewer inspection as well, if resident requests it. Blasting may cause damage to sewer, sewer pipes etc.

9. No more than 1 mine operating within a 5mile radius and NO MINE EXPANTION for 5 years. No more permits/licenses issued for same amount of time. This will give us time to see how the mining process is being handled, how the mines are being operated, who is doing a good job with dust control, traffic monitoring etc.

10. The mine can operate from 7am to 6pm Monday-Friday.

those  
sand

Taxes

on

inter

of

## Preferred Sands

The Town of Cooks Valley must respect all the citizens who live in the township, including those who settled here for the peace, quiet, and beauty of the area as well as those who need jobs. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the town to seek a balanced solution. The only way I see to do this is to limit the number of mines operating in Cooks Valley. I am afraid the mining companies already here will continue to expand to where most all roads here will be needed to move their product. Air and water quality are also primary concerns. The Southern Medical Journal of March 1, 2007 noted that there is growing evidence that noise pollution is not merely an annoyance; it has profound health implications including stress. The body reacts to noises, thus depriving it of restful sleep, concentration and other functions. Because of these concerns of health and safety I am suggesting these points:

- Those affected by substantial increased truck traffic should be compensated
- Truck hauling should be reduced to give people on the truck routes a break. The time limit for hauling should be 8 to 12 hours a day 5 days a week
- Water testing for up to ½ mile from mine area. If any problem is found, testing should be done throughout the township
- Air quality monitoring throughout the township.
- Limits on use of water. Monitored by outside sources
- Limit the amount of open land to cut down on the sand in the air to help air quality. Perhaps 10 to 20 acres per mine
- No mine expansion for at least five years: limit of how many mines can operate at any one time
- Property tax relief for all citizens of the township.
- List all chemicals used and ban harmful ones
- Outside monitoring for all concerns

Gene and Beth Pagel

• Limit amount of trucks on the temporary truck route - 186<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> during construction of 186<sup>th</sup> and DD. No more than 75 trucks per day.

MINING DIMINISHES  
PROPERTY VALUES ~~AND~~

DAMAGE WATER & AIR  
QUALITY.

~~ALREADY HAVE HAD  
BLOWOUTS ON PONDS~~

Because this hearing  
is after the fact, we  
know some of the immediate  
side effects, because of the  
last 2 yrs, roads are  
already damaged, water  
has been damaged by a  
leak, CARS & TRUCKS SUSPEN-  
SION

ARE GETTING DESTROYED BY  
BAD ROADS, WHO WILL PAY

The bible says we  
are stewards of the  
earth.

How will the Planning  
Commission <sup>control noise</sup> WHEN THE  
BOARD CAN'T

PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN  
THE COUNTRY MOVED  
THERE FOR THE BEAUTY  
& QUIET. A FEW TRUCKS  
& TRACTORS ARE NO BIG  
DEAL BUT CONSTANT  
TRUCK NOISE WRECKS  
THAT

ROAD SPEEDS USED TO  
BE 55 NOW REDUCED TO  
25 DUE TO BAD ROADS.



We must protect the HEALTH and welfare of the people in Cooks Valley with HEALTH being the first priority.

1. Number of Permits given
  - a. Limit the number of mines (mining companies) in close proximity to each other,  
Example: no working mines within 5 miles of each other.
  - b. Not approve any more mining permits for at least 2 years then revisit the option after the impact is better understood.
2. Water Testing
  - a. Water testing of homes within X distance. Signed agreement composed by Cooks Valley (not the sand mine companies) or at minimum agreement from sand mine company reviewed by Cooks Valley lawyer before signing.
  - b. Money set aside to continue monitoring water after mining is complete.  
(example: test water 10, 20, 30 years after)
3. Dust and noise control.  
Adjoining properties given the option to have tree / brush wind breaks purchased and planted at the expense of the mining company.
4. Hours and days of operation of the mine site.  
Days a week (M-F) with set hours (quiet time in evening 6-9 pm)
5. Hours and days of operation for the trucking  
Hauling 5 days a week (M-F) with set hours. No hauling when school busses are out, quiet time 6- 9pm.
6. Driver violations enforced and reported to town board.  
(example: after 3 warnings for traveling wrong way, not tarping etc. can't drive for a week)
7. Mining company making up the difference in property owners wanting to sell and or purchases the property.
8. Reclamation land use, have say in determining what the land will look like after  
Example grass area, trees planted etc. (example: if 50 acres are mined 5 to 10 acres need to be returned to trees). Land needs to be maintained after reclaimed, weeds controlled etc.
9. Lights having cutoff shrouds
10. Understand / limit number of wells.
11. Understand wash plant settling ponds and best ways to conserve water usage from wells. Limit amount of water drawn from the wells per day.
12. The mines to do an economic analysis comparing how much money they generate for the Town and County compared to how much they devalue the surrounding land in property taxes and resale, etc...
13. Groundwater monitoring requirements.
14. Property tax relief.