


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