

April 24, 2012  
Mark Berge

In regards to whether the sand companies should pay for testing and inspecting any private well within ½ mile of mine, Preferred Sands representatives questioned where the science and proof is to justify this. At previous meetings EOG representatives have also questioned this. I ask where the science was when DDT was wreaking havoc on the environment or when asbestos was silently killing people. I'm sure you are all familiar with the Erin Brockovich story. Her investigation uncovered that Pacific Gas & Electric had been poisoning the small town of Hinkley California by leaking toxic Chromium 6 into the groundwater, making hundreds of residents sick and leading to 333 million dollars in damages to over 600 of its residents'. Also farm chemicals such as atrazine, which farmers were told they could use in unlimited amounts, ended up contaminating ground water and are now tightly controlled. I would rather error on the side of caution than risk our children and grandchildren becoming sick from things such as acrylamide and silica. Acrylamide and silica have been proven to make people sick. From what I have read, there are increased cases of asthma and allergies around sand mines due to the dust created. The health department recommends private wells be tested annually, and with the addition of the mining, I don't think annual testing is too much to expect from the sand companies.

Second, there is the issue of operating times. I believe 6:00A.M. to 6:00P.M. Monday through Friday is reasonable. No one wants to listen to excavating equipment with their back-up alarms and a steady stream of trucks, running all night long. In talking with my neighbors, I believe, we all prefer to have our windows open when warm enough. This is impossible if the mines operate all night. I do not have air conditioning in my house, so if the township allows EOG to operate all night, I would expect either the township or EOG is going to pay to install central air in my house. On Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30A.M. I could clearly hear some equipment running with its back-up bell going off. I can also clearly hear the trucks as they pull onto 135<sup>th</sup> Ave. with their full loads as they accelerate up the hill. I love to listen to nature at night – excavating equipment and trucks, not so much.

Third, I believe three mines in the township is enough. There should be no more mine applications accepted. As an example, there is a very good possibility there could be a second company operating on property right next to the Dennis Schindler mine. How much can this environment withstand? How much disruption are we expected to endure in our lives. At the Preferred Sands meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>, Doug decided to take the moratorium off the board, despite the many comments from Cooks Valley citizens during the public comment that they do not want any more mines in the township. I believe this is irresponsible; need I remind committee members and board members they represent all the residents of the township, not just those with sand to sell. I hope that is not the case.

In closing, I would like to thank EOG and Tom Maul, as in our case, have been willing to work with us on water testing and blasting issues. I am hopeful they will seriously negotiate on all of the very serious issues that have been brought up during these meetings.

*Mark Berge*  
*Virginia Berge*

---

From: kittenpoohacres@hotmail.com  
To: jsonnentag@sjcf.hshs.org  
Subject: Sonnentags concerns  
Date: Sun, 22 Apr 2012 21:48:33 -0400

### **WATER**

- 1) Well testing and well depth assessment performed by a third party for all wells within 1/2 mile radius of mine site with test results being made available via a website or reports made to landowner and the town.
- 2) Well usage and internal well tests should be reported quarterly via a website or report made to the town.
- 3) Gallons of water need to be limited in order to provide enough water for the town citizens and animals.
- 4) Yearly water testing for acrelamide levels in wells surrounding 1/2 mile radius of the mine.
- 5) Written record of substances used at the plant, that is made available via a website or a written record for the town. The town should be made aware of what's coming back from the plant that is being placed back into the ground.
- 6) Well replacement for landowners up to 1/2 mile away from mine site if their well(s) become contaminated, the groundwater level drops, or the well cracks after blast assessment.

### **BLASTING**

- 1) Blast assessments performed on structures up to 1/2 mile from mine site.
- 2) Blast assessment repeated every year while blasting is occurring at the mine site.
- 3) Property owner reserves the right to request blast assessment sooner if changes are noticed (new cracks, etc.)
- 4) Compensation or purchase of structure that is damaged by blasting (2 appraised quotes, average of the two).

### **AIR QUALITY**

- 1) Plant trees or place berms around the mine site to help control fugitive dust.
- 2) Set up air monitors (at least 2) by the mine site and make those results available via a website or reports made to the town.
- 3) Limit or cease operation on days when wind speeds exceed 25mph to limit fugitive dust.
- 4) The opacity requirement should be reduced from 20% to 10%.

### **PROPERTY CONCERNS**

- 1) Placement of berms, trees, or fences for property owners on the haul route to limit noise and light pollution.
- 2) Establishment of a safety fund of \$.02 a load to remedy property owners' unforeseen safety problems created on the haul route. The town reserves the right to distribute said funds as needed.
- 3) Property value guarantee for homeowners up to 1/2 mile from mine site and homeowners on the haul route (see Howard's development agreement for details). The property owner has the option to sell the house with a one acre parcel or the entire property.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- 1) Establish a maximum open acre rule for active mines in the township. How can we provide for the health and safety for the town if we are all surrounded by mines and every road is clogged with sand trucks?
- 2) Bi-annual meetings to address the public's concerns and potentially suspend permits for violations.

### **SONNENTAG'S CONCERNS IN RELATION TO OUR HOME AND ITS PRESENT LOCATION**

- 1) We bought our house with a reasonable expectation that 135th Ave would remain a town road, not a road that now has to accommodate 4,000 trucks a week and local traffic. We kept up our house (new roof, new siding, new carpet, cupboards, etc.) but our house is now unsafe for our family.
- 2) A town road cannot safely accommodate that amount of traffic and with our house so close to 135th Ave, our safety is threatened.
- 3) We have six children, three of which are under age 4. Small children do not always stay on the property lines, and will follow a loose toy or ball.
- 4) Our son, age 8, has Autism, and does not always appropriately respond to verbal commands. If he is heading for the road and I yell for him to stop, he won't. I don't always hear my door open, especially with the constant truck noise, so if he wanders outside I am very concerned.
- 5) Our garage obstructs the view from the north, so the drivers can't see me and my children until they are almost upon my yard.
- 6) Putting up a fence or trees in my front yard is not an option because they would obstruct the view from CTH DD and 135th Ave at the intersection.
- 7) It is difficult to safely enter and exit my driveway in its present location because of its proximity to the intersection.
- 8) Trucks meeting by the intersections and passing by each other near my driveway leaves no room to move from the lane if deviation is needed to accommodate regular street traffic or an inattentive driver. If a driver executes a left turn from CTH DD onto 135th Ave heading west, the view is obstructed. If a vehicle turns and doesn't see the truck, they could potentially end up driving onto my yard to get out of the way for the truck.
- 9) The schoolbus picking up my children at my current driveway is unsafe for my children and the other children on the bus. A small schoolbus has reduced visibility.
- 10) Ancillary traffic (mine workers' vehicles, mine site pickups, Chippewa Valley Traffic Sand Transport pickups, oversized flatbeds, blasting trucks, fertilizer trucks, diesel-fuel trucks and semis hauling heavy equipment) contribute to an already congested road. All these people don't know our family and that we have small children and a child with Autism. I don't feel safe in this situation.
- 11) My children have no place to play anymore. With all my children home for the summer, how can they walk or bike when the road has 4,000+ trucks on it at all times?
- 12) There is a LOT of truck noise with the sand trucks braking and shifting to get going at the intersection. You have to listen to one truck braking while another truck is roaring as it is shifting into gear.
- 13) We have no privacy anymore with a truck in front of our yard every two minutes. The lights on the trucks are so bright that the light shines right through the house at night. I can't have a reasonable break from the trucks at night because they shine right through my curtains!
- 14) My yard smells like diesel from the exhaust put out as the trucks accelerate from the stop sign.

### **REMEDIES**

- 1) Build a new house and garage back 300 feet to the Northwest. (100 feet behind "proposed" driveway).

- 2) Allow two available exits from driveway (one on 135th Ave further west and an exit on CTH DD [existing driveway]).
- 3) Do a blast assessment and well test for new structures to establish a threshold and re-test yearly.
- 4) Plant trees along fence line by the haul route to reduce noise and light pollution.

