

My wife and I purchased our property at 135 Ave. in Cooks Valley in 2006 because it reminded us of the mix of farmland and wooded bluff country of Lake City, MN. where we had lived since 1986. We chose to live in Cooks Valley for the tranquility, fresh air and the wildlife it offered. Please bear this in mind during these negotiations.

The Town of Cooks Valley has an enforceable non-metallic mine ordinance and it is the duty of the town board to ensure that any permits granted are consistent with the protection of public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens. Therefore, I request the negotiations to remain focused on the concerns expressed by those impacted by mining operations.

We request the following in any non-metallic mine permits issued by the township:

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 well replacement or property value guarantees.
3. Assurance that fugitive dust will be controlled during mining and hauling operations. This could include lowering applicable opacity limits to 10%.
4. Assurance that noise and light will be controlled so as not to negatively impact residents.
5. 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 property 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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. No mining operations or hauling on weekends and nationally recognized holidays.
9. Mining companies shall repair or replace damaged structures as the result of blasting and or mining operations.

Sincerely,
Scott and Donna Johnson

Thankful for comm. & votes Oct. 19
1) year to year permits

2) amt. of open land -
dust bowl system

3) What is your expansion
plan

4) amt of time plant will
be running - Did you
watch 60 min. the
torture & used for -
noise pollution is for
torture - this is why,
we need to have relief
continuous noise & trucks
is disturbing to healthy
citizens

11/11/11
it was like a slice of heaven

5) I am glad you are water ^{at all} ^{conservation} ^{at all} ^{conservation}
but earth caretaker
of the earth; Water is worth
more than gold - you
can't drink gold - sand - oil,

6) property values

7) town determining hours of
production & hauling time

8) mine companies need pricing

Beck Peggel

Plan Commission meeting of April 30, 2012 with Chippewa Sands

My name is Victoria Trinko and I reside at 3717 County Highway A, which is close to the Chippewa Sands mine site on the Buchner property. My main concern is the dust I see billowing from the stockpiled sand piles and where excavation is occurring.

This dust has been blowing since last July of 2011. While outside, I felt grit on my face and my teeth. Friends who visited had their eyes irritated within an hour of being at my place.

I know a water truck exists on the mine site at this time. But last summer, a water truck was promised in July and did not arrive until September and then was shipped to the New Auburn plant.

With sand blowing for this duration of time, I have zero confidence in the ability of Chippewa Sands being able or willing to control fugitive sand. This is a health hazard that I, my family, friends, and livestock should not have to live with.

There is also dirt on the road coming out of the mine site which is blown by traffic on the road. This is an air safety issue and road hazard that needs to be addressed.

I saw the rubber lined ponds where they keep water for washing the sand. However, whenever flocculants are being used for washing the sand, I have concerns about water quality and would like to have reports from the monitoring wells provided to the Town of Cooks Valley town board and testing of neighboring wells.

Victoria Trinko
3717 County Highway A