

February 20, 2017

RE: PurFrac LLC Nonmetallic Mining Application

Thank you for having this hearing.

Listed below are questions/concerns I have regarding PurFrac's application to mine industrial sand in the Town of Cooks Valley, Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

1. If proof of insurance has not been received by now, the application should not be approved until there is such proof.
2. Based on experience in Eau Claire County I would suggest the town board have a solid commitment of the mine's market. One mine in Eau Claire County did not give such assurance and now is unable to sell it's sand. For two years the sand has sat in piles with open sand acreage.
3. Destruction of vegetation and trees upon the land destroys the carbon holding power of that acreage, as well as the value of all crops. Please see <https://www.fractracker.org/2015/07/wisconsin-silica-sand-mining/> for more specific information.
4. Two figures are confusing. The expected maximum depth of the mine is 1100 feet (mean sea level). Groundwater level in the area is 1040 feet relative to mean sea level, yet the mine says it is not going below the water table. How far above the water table is the mine to remain?
5. Blasting is to be used. Following all regulations does NOT mean there will not be damage to nearby residences. Near Hi Crush there are cracked walls, well problems, spooked horses, scared children. It seems as if the tremors follow certain layers of rock/shale and extend farther than one would think. Perhaps it is the constant repetitive nature of blasting. Tremors are not confined to the mine site. PurFrac needs to be responsible for blasting damages outside the mine itself. It also seems as if machinery used to remove sand before blasting and then after blasting is taxed differently and I wonder if that has anything to do with the use of blasting.
6. How will this mine operate year round when the product freezes? The mine needs a plan to stabilize the sand when operation temporarily is halted due to weather or a downturn in market.
7. All private wells within ½ mile should be tested prior to the establishment of the mine for metals, toxins, and turbidity. Spring would be the best time to do this. Blasting has caused private wells to fill with sand forcing new wells to be drilled. If the well was fine before blasting and then begins pumping sand PurFrac needs to be liable.
8. For the sake of residents near the mine and on the planned route, 24/7 is unacceptable. Minimally there should be no Sunday work and all work should cease during evening and night hours.
9. How is it known with certainty that no acid is in the rock? Will any arsenic become evident as the rock is exposed to air?
10. You plan to leave two ponds. How are these ponds lined? Will acrylamide be used?
11. "Progressive and contemporaneous" describes nothing. Please be explicit.

12. The best reclamation in this area seems to be a well established prairie. This is the first mine I have encountered that plans to put in oak trees to create an oak savanna.

13. I would encourage the Cooks Valley Town Board to increase distances of the mining activity to the border of the land and residences. The stipulated distances are minimal. Additionally, the town board could require yearly reports from the mine regarding water use, reclamation acreage, tons of sand removed, etc.

16. As a condition the board could also add inspection rights.

17. Nearby residents need to be reimbursed for loss of value in their homes sited right near the mine.

18. There is nothing at this time to indicate the mine is going to contribute to the cost of road repair to the town and county. This needs to be when 250 heavy trucks are running daily. Is that one way or to and from the dry plant?

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