

REDWOOD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Meeting Date: June 25, 2024



A meeting of the Redwood County Planning Commission convened on Tuesday, the 25th day of June, 2024, at the Redwood County Government Center.

The following members of the Redwood County Planning Commission were present: Mike Kaufenberg, Mark Madsen, DeVonna Zeug, Jeff Huseby, Ed Carter, Mike Scheffler, and County Commissioner Dave Forkrud. Also present were the following individuals: Dan Alexander, Deidra Lecy, Nick Lecy, Betty Lecy, Samantha Sullivan, Shane Schofield, Joey Lecy, Ben Lecy, Andy Holt, Mary Preuss, Michael P. Preuss, Alan Berends, Cindi Huseby, Rod Paskewitz, Bob Paskewitz, Land Use and Zoning Supervisor Jeanette Pidde, and Environmental Director Nick Brozek.

At 1:00 p.m. the June 25, 2024, Redwood County Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Madsen.

Chair Madsen read the Planning Commission rules and procedures. Printed copies were available to the public.

At 1:02 p.m. Chair Madsen called to order a public hearing on Animal Confinement Feedlot Conditional Use Permit Application #5-24, submitted by Daniel Alexander.

Prior to the Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission members were provided an informational packet, which included the following information regarding the matter:

1. Daniel Alexander is seeking to operate a 30,000 head, 3-barn turkey operation on a 15.7-acre tract in the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 12 of Vesta Township.
2. The site is located in the "A" Agricultural District. A feedlot over 300 animal units is a conditional use in said District.
3. The site is currently permitted under CUP #96. There are two existing turkey barns on the property, and Alexander proposes to add one barn to the existing operation. The existing CUP authorized construction of one 10,000-head (180 animal units) turkey barn. The addition of the second 10,000-head turkey barn did not require a new CUP, as it remained under the threshold of 200 animal units over the permit level. The addition of the new 10,000-head (50 animal units) brooder barn and the prior addition puts the feedlot over the threshold for requiring a new CUP (410 total animal units).
4. The nearest county open ditch is 2,400 feet southwest of the site, and the nearest county tile line is 800 feet northeast of the site.
5. The three closest residential dwellings to the site, other than the landowner, are as follows:
Paul and Kathryn Alexander, 20797 330th St., about 1700' northwest of the site;
Chad and Leah Donner, 32680 Garden Ave., about 3200' southeast of the site;
and Aaron and Kari Scheffler, 20885 320th St., about 4000' southwest of the site.
6. Redwood County Code of Ordinances requires feedlots to meet or exceed a 93% annoyance free rating on the University of Minnesota Odor OFFSET model.

Redwood County Government Center - Environmental Department

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7. The ratings for the proposed feedlot to the nearest residences are as follows:
 1. 20797 330th – 98%
 2. 32680 Garden Ave. – 99%
 3. 20885 320th St. – 99%
 4. A copy of the Conditional Use Permit application, maps, plans, and proposed permit conditions were enclosed.

Dan Alexander was in attendance to present the project to the Planning Commission. He made the following statements to the Commission:

- Alexander purchased the existing turkey site with the condition that he take the barn from the site down the road and move it to the purchased site.
- He would like to move the barn to the east end of the site and connect it with the existing barns.

The Planning Commissioners had the following questions and comments:

- This is a brooder barn?
- Do they currently trailer the birds?
- Would this be less stress to the birds?
- This would be for 10,000 head of brooder turkeys?
- Who's going to move the barn?
- What is the plan for the manure?
- When did Alexander take over the operation?
- Did Alexander look at the conditions?

Alexander responded that:

- It is a brooder barn for 10,000 head. He would have the birds in that barn from one day old to five weeks old, when they would be moved to one of the larger barns.
- He would have about 6 flocks per year.
- He would like the brooder barn moved to the site, because it's better for bio-security to be contained.
- Currently the birds are trailered. It would be better to be able to move them on-site.
- Eric Marcus will be moving the barn. The field approach will need to be built up to get the barn across the road. They will wait until the ground is frozen.
- The manure is nutrient dense. He needs about 500 acres to spread it. It is spread once per year, usually in the fall. He sells some manure to his dad. It's on the manure management plan.
- Alexander has rented the operation since three years ago. His first flock in his name was in January.
- The conditions are fine.

Chair Madsen asked if anyone was present to speak in support of the project. No one came forward.

Chair Madsen asked if anyone was present to speak in opposition to the project. No one came forward.

Chair Madsen then closed the public hearing at 1:08 p.m.

Chair Madsen directed Brozek to lead the Commissioners through the Findings of Fact Worksheet. The Planning Commissioners discussed the factors.

Zeug made a motion to approve Animal Confinement Feedlot Conditional Use Permit Application #5-24, subject to the conditions proposed by staff. The motion was seconded by Carter and passed unanimously.

At 1:15 p.m. Chair Madsen called to order the a public hearing on Application for Extraction Interim Use Permit #6-24, submitted by Rodney Paskewitz of Duro Rock Supply Co., on behalf of landowner Artesian Properties LLC.

Prior to the Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission members were provided an informational packet, which included the following information regarding the matter:

1. Duro Rock Supply Co. is seeking to open a granite quarry in Section 18 of Swedes Forest Township. Specifically, Duro Rock's operations will be located in part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼ SW¼).
2. The site is located in the "A" Agricultural District. Extraction is an interim use in said District.
3. The proposed project area includes approximately 10 acres of granite extraction and approximately 5 acres of boulder extraction. The topsoil will be stripped off and stockpiled for reclamation. The granite material will be mined through blasting or cutting. Duro Rock is seeking a 10 year permit.
4. There are wetland areas on the parcel and two plant species of note: Oregon Woodsia is state-listed as a special concern plant, and Wolf's spikerush is state-listed as threatened. Duro Rock will pursue a Threatened and Endangered Species Avoidance Plan and coordinate with the DNR regarding the threatened plant species found on the site. Duro Rock will also pursue a Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) No Loss Wetland Application to determine the wetland impacts, if any, and any needed replacement plan.
5. Pursuant to Title XV of Redwood County Ordinances, § 153.283(E), the applicant is required to provide proof of bodily injury, property damage, and public liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1,500,000.00 per occurrence. The applicant is also required to post a bond or irrevocable letter of credit as security to Redwood County in the amount of \$2,000.00 per acre, a minimum of \$10,000.00, or 125% of the estimated/bid value to reclaim the property, whichever is greater. The Redwood County Board of Commissioners may require a higher surety amount, if in the reasonable discretion of the County, the unique characteristics of the proposed project require more substantial restoration or reclamation. Further, a surety is required for a minimum of one year beyond the ending date of the permit. This site requires a \$30,000.00 surety.
6. There are no nearby Redwood County ditches or tile lines.
7. The three closest [Redwood County] residential dwellings to the site, other than the landowner, are as follows:
Matthew and Becky Huhnerkoch, 21383 Co. Hwy 27, about 750' east of the site;
Jeffrey Huseby, 21581 Co. Hwy 27, about 1640' east of the site;
and Joey and Betty Jo Lecy, 43198 Co. Hwy 7, about 3,275' east of the site.
8. A copy of the Extraction Interim Use Permit application, maps, plans, and proposed permit conditions were enclosed.

Rod Paskewitz was in attendance to present the application to the Planning Commission. He made the following statements to the Commission:

- He would remove boulders for landscape projects. He would remove some trees, the boulders, and then reclaim the area back to pasture.
- For the quarry, he would use cutting and blasting to obtain architectural stone, rip rap, crushed stone, and large boulders for landscape.
- A mobile band saw would be used for cutting, creating minimal noise and dust.
- Large blocks would be tipped and loaded onto trucks.
- Depending on the quality, the remainder would be crushed.

- Blasting would consist of drilling holes and placing a blasting agent in the holes. The frequency could be as much as months apart or as much as once per week. They may need to do a small blast to remove slag in the way of cutting.
- He's not a certified blaster. He will hire a blaster. The size and force of the blasts will be dependent on what they're trying to do. Care will be taken to do blasting that won't affect wells or structures.
- They don't want to damage the raw granite. Because they need to protect the granite, there wouldn't be large blasts.
- He would be open to doing an alert via text or email to neighbors prior to blasting.
- Sorting and crushing involves heavy equipment.
- There are other quarries in the area.
- He would use mufflers, berms, and leave as many existing trees as possible.
- He would water the roadways if needed.
- There is a large amount of usable material in the area, and there is a demand for it.
- The site has already been disturbed.
- The infrastructure is already in place. It is a heavy truck-traffic road. Three-phase power is present on the site.
- As far as environmental concerns, he has had the rare species and wetlands identified.
- He has applied for a water-appropriations permit.
- He will avoid plants or take them through the lengthy taking process.
- He will work away from the wetlands and obtain an avoidance plan.
- The DNR will take wells and water into consideration when granting his water appropriation permit.

The Planning Commissioners had the following questions and comments:

- Is the pit in Redwood and Yellow Medicine County? (Madsen)
 - o Paskewitz responded that the pit is split. But, the access road/safest driveway is in Redwood County, as well as the boulders. There is enough hard rock on the Redwood side to operate a quarry.
- Does the power come in on the Redwood side? (Scheffler)
 - o Paskewitz responded that yes, the power is on the Redwood side.
- Where are the wetlands and plants located? (Scheffler)
 - o Paskewitz Responded:
 - The threatened plant is on the far side in Yellow Medicine County.
 - The endangered plant is on the Yellow Medicine County side, right at the border.
 - He could stack blocks to prevent dust from affecting the little clump of rushes.
 - If taken, he would have to do a taking procedure.
 - The wetlands are on both sides of the county line. He would need engineers to determine the avoidance plan.
- When were the plants identified (Madsen)
 - o Paskewitz responded that he hired a company to do the wetlands determination, which is good for five years. The plant determination was subcontracted. The DNR approved the report, but he's not sure how long it's good for.
- There were previous concerns about eagles, skinks, and livestock. Does the DNR include that? What about the wetland identification? (Madsen)
 - o Paskewitz responded that skinks are off the endangered list, and there are no endangered animals included in the survey. He hasn't done the avoidance plan yet because of the high cost, but he will move forward with that before the quarry can move forward. He needed to know the wetland boundaries, so he had a specialist delineate the wetlands. The borders were adjusted and signed off, which is good for five years.

- Brozek commented that the wetland rules are federal and state rules. The Board of Water and Soil Resources tells anyone working in a wetland area to have the wetlands delineated right away.
 - o Paskewitz commented that 4.12 acres of the wetlands are in the lake on the property.
- Will they be mining the same thing as in Paskewitz's other pits? (Carter)
 - o Paskewitz responded that his other pits are gravel pits, so there's no blasting. The other pits are for sand, gravel, boulders, and crushing, and he's been operating for 6-7 years.
- Scheffler commented that hard rock is the key. You can pump one quarry and the other could stay full of water. It's much different than sand and gravel. What is the elevation difference between the quarry and the lake?
 - o Paskewitz responded that it's a big elevation drop.
- Scheffler commented that it takes a lot of pumping and depth to drain anything with the hard rock.
 - o Paskewitz responded that his engineer said the same thing.
- Scheffler asked if there were many seams or cracks in the quarry.
 - o Paskewitz responded that there are fewer seams in high-quality dimensional granite. Some of the wetland areas weren't wet at the time of delineation, but they were distinguished by plants and the landscape.
- Carter asked how much blasting would be happening.
 - o Paskewitz responded that he can't say for sure, but he will have an expert and be careful not to destroy the dimensional stone. He will do everything he can to contain the noise and dust.
- Scheffler commented that the blasting company will set up seismographs at the neighbors' homes to measure the power of the blasts for effects on the neighboring properties and their wells.
- Huseby commented that there was a blast by a different company that went rogue in Mankato.
 - o Scheffler responded that it was a production blast, which is not the same agent that is used now.
- Huseby asked about crushing and work hours. Will it really be sunrise to sunset?
 - o Paskewitz responded that he's very willing to limit the hours. It's a beautiful area. He would have berms and trees and work during hours that people are usually at work.

Huseby recused himself for the remainder of the hearing.

- Has anyone who does blasting been to the site? It would be good to see something from a blasting company. What happens if there's an issue? (Madsen)
 - o No. It's difficult to know what steps to take first. Duro Rock would be responsible. They'll have to outsource some work. They carry insurance above and beyond what's required and try to have better and safer practices. (Paskewitz)

Chair Madsen asked if anyone was present to speak in support of the project. No one came forward.

Chair Madsen asked if anyone was present to speak in opposition to the project. The following individuals spoke:

Ben Lecy

- His well is 435' deep, and it's feed by cracks or seams. The cracks may go a long way or a short way.
- If he has a deep well and it goes dry after a blast, who pays for that?
- The overburden in the area is 28' deep.
 - o Scheffler responded that the DNR would monitor the well level – Paskewitz would have to go around in a radius to monitor wells. DNR enforcement would hold Paskewitz/Duro Rock responsible.
- All of the neighbors have wells and are concerned. There has been no blasting since the 80s.

- There are critical habitat concerns. Bobcats have made a comeback and blasting would drive them out. The planning commission should look at the concerned species.

Nick Lecy

- He bought the land directly north of the subject property.
- There is a dam that controls the lake. They're going to do work and don't want blasting to damage the dam, which is not very far from the proposed quarry.
- Where is Paskewitz pulling water from?
 - Paskewitz responded that he would pull it on the Yellow Medicine County side (pending a permit there) and put it into the tree area. The PCA would likely require a settling pond. The bottom of the Yellow Medicine quarry is 15' above the lake level.

Mike Preuss - Preuss read in a letter, which has been attached to these minutes. The letter included a page of questions, which were not referenced by Preuss.

- The Grannes pit is nearly two miles away from his house. He's only 700' from the gray quarry on the Yellow Medicine County side of the quarry. There are several homes within 1000' from the quarry.
- He's not as worried about the blasting as he is about the rock crusher, backup alarms, and foreman yelling. The area amplifies the noise coming in his direction.
- The area has been developed into tourism. There's Grandview Winery and Iverson Tree Farm. A quarry is not conducive to current land use.

Paskewitz made the following statements in response:

- He feels the concerns are exaggerated.
- Highway 71 in Renville County is more dangerous near gravel pit sites, and he's never had an accident. The proposed signage would fix the traffic problems.
- Noise doesn't destroy lifestyle. He lives next to the recycling center which created noise and smell, and it doesn't destroy his lifestyle.

The following individuals spoke in opposition:

Deidra Lecy

- There was a quarry a mile away and when that one blasted, the whole house shook.
- She brings kids into the back 80 on her property to learn about skinks and other wildlife. Cranes have recently nested there.
- There are school trips to the area for environmental and wetlands learning. She brings high-trauma kids to the area to experience nature. She carries insurance to cover all these trips. There are groups that do team building on her land because of the wetlands, boulders, and wildlife.
- Mining may end sharing the area with groups from schools/churches
- The area is used for recreation, and she enjoys the peace and quiet in the river valley.

Paskewitz asked why the quarry operation would prohibit children from coming. Deidra Lecy replied the loud noises would be a problem for the high-trauma kids. Paskewitz replied that farming noises are similar to boulder extraction, and they may not be there every day. Economics will determine that. It will be a small operation.

Ben Lecy

- Everyone has their own interpretation. Paskewitz's small operation may be a large operation to others.

- There is a large number of people concerned with the loss of a fragile ecosystem. By preventing the quarry from opening, they can make sure nothing happens to the ecosystem.
- The river valley is how they get away and have recreation such as hunting.

Paskewitz replied that it is a matter of sorting through facts and myths and making use of a large resource. He stated that he believed it could work if they kept communication open.

Deidra Lecy

- We've spent our lives protecting this area for wildlife/habitat. We've invested a lot of money and time to protect this area.
- When the quarry is done, the state of MN is still looking for a hazardous waste site, which is a large concern.

Paskewitz responded that he also wants to protect the lake. Deidra Lecy asked about the garbage piled in the site currently, including old appliances. Paskewitz stated that he would haul the garbage to a landfill and clean up the site. He stated that he wanted to work with the neighbors, and that he would berm the quarry area and keep the rest of the property for recreation.

Alan Berends

- Granite falls has a quarry, and as a child, he could hear blasting from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 mile away. He got used to the blasting as an adult. When he moved out to his farm, it is so quiet. He treasures the quiet.
- People hunt on the land, and there are deer on the property. The blasting would disrupt deer, turkey, ducks, and other wildlife.
- His well is 70' deep. He's afraid that the water table will drop.

Betty Lecy

- All the neighbors want quiet.
- There are so many semis associated with a quarry that it's an accident waiting to happen with the line of trees blocking the view.
 - Paskewitz replied that he drives truck, and there are a lot more dangerous roads.
 - Nick Lecy responded that in the fall, there's no way they can stop coming down that hill. Also, he has a deer stand, and the backup beeper from equipment on Paskewitz's property could be heard from the deer stand.

Shane Schofield

- He owns recreational property in the area. It's one of the most beautiful places.
- This region is not right for this, and it needs protecting.
- Paskewitz bought the property to make money.
- Paskewitz wrote a letter trying to buy Schofield's property.
 - Rod Paskewitz responded that he didn't write such a letter, and it's a common last name in the area.

Jeff Huseby

- He's concerned about the noise. The river valley is quiet, but noise reverberates. The trumpeter swans can be heard.
- He's on the township board, and they're not in favor.
- Cutting wouldn't be so bad, but blasting and crushing would be noise pollution.
- His well is 25-30' deep, and it sits on a rock shelf. It would be very difficult to drill deeper through rock.
- It would hurt property values to have an active quarry.

Deidra Lecy

- If the permit moves forward, she would like an inventory of all wells within one mile. There could be contamination from vehicles/machinery/equipment used in a quarry operation.

Chair Madsen then closed the public hearing at 3:07 p.m.

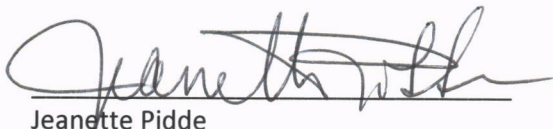
Chair Madsen directed Brozek to lead the Commissioners through the Findings of Fact Worksheet. The Planning Commissioners discussed the factors.

Forkrud made a motion to deny the application for Extraction Interim Use Permit #6-24. Madsen seconded the motion. There was further discussion regarding a need for more information from a blasting expert and the DNR. The motion failed 5-1, with Forkrud voting "aye." Huseby abstained.

Carter made a motion to table the application for Extraction Interim Use Permit #6-24 to the July 30, 2024, regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting, to allow the applicant to bring more information about blasting and environmental and water impacts. Zeug seconded the motion, and it passed 5-1, with Forkrud voting against the motion. Huseby abstained.

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the minutes from the May 28, 2024, Planning Commission meeting. Zeug made a motion to approve the May 28, 2024, Planning Commission minutes. Carter seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Following a motion by Kaufenberg and second by Scheffler, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.



Jeanette Pidde
Land Use and Zoning Supervisor
Redwood County Environmental Office



Mark Madsen, Chair
Redwood County Planning Commission

6/25/24

Michael and Mary Preuss
6378 190th Ave.
Belview, Mn 56214
612-270-9087
320-368-0362

Redwood County Land Use and Zoning Board.

Meeting date 6/25/24

Opposition to the Duro Rock conditional use permit application.

We have been notified by the Redwood County Land Use and Zoning Office that Duro Rock has applied for a conditional use permit to open a rock quarry in Sweeds Forest Township about 1,000 feet from our home.

Noise.

Our house second closest to the site and sits just above the river valley in Sioux Agency Township about 1,000 feet from the quarry. There is little to no noise barrier other than a sparse amount of trees to lessen the noise that is generated by the proposed operation. Even this offers no amount of noise reduction more than ½ of the year when the leaves are gone. We can hear plainly the rock crusher at the Grannes pit and the back up beepers on the equipment there. We can even hear normal talk coming from the quarry area at times when Duro Rock employees are working there. Even though the operator may keep equipment noise levels maintained according to OSHA specifications, those specifications are for operator safety, not for controlling environmental noise pollution. The constant combined noise of rock drills, saws, water pumps, and heavy equipment for up to 12 hours a day and 5-6 days per week will most certainly make it very unpleasant and near impossible to enjoy the lifestyle that we have worked so hard for the past 43 years!

(Please see pictures of the quarry from our bedroom window)

We are also concerned and convinced that the noise will be loud enough to be heard inside our house even with the windows closed. Mike's job allows him to work from home 2-3 days per week. When the weather is favorable he enjoys sitting on the back porch (facing the quarry) or front deck some of the time while he does computer work and makes phone calls. This would no longer be possible let alone enjoyable. He will need to retreat to the basement to avoid the constant drone. Even that may not be enough as it is a walk out basement having the full width of the basement facing the quarry. We have 2 more levels directly above it that face the quarry. We enjoy watching TV on the back porch (1st floor facing the quarry) and Mary enjoys sewing on the second story with 2 walls directly facing the quarry. There certainly will be no "sleeping in" when the opportunity exists from being ill or a day off. Our bedroom as well as a second bedroom has one full wall facing the quarry.

Mary enjoys horse riding. We have 2 horses that are in a small upper pasture area with the barn located even closer to the quarry. Horses are not like cows and they are very upset by noise. Even constant wind sets them on edge as they rely on their hearing for protection. The bottom pasture where they eat grass is within about 600 feet of the proposed quarry. We don't see them wanting to go there to eat. Also, horses do not have the same demeanor when they are stressed. The noise will most certainly cause behavioral problems and may sometimes make them unmanageable to ride. We have just talked about "noise". What kind of trauma will they be subjected to when "BLASTING" happens? It's not like you can prepare them for it!

- **Blasting**

Here again our concerns are many and we have no buffering from the blast wave that will basically hit us full force as it comes up the hill towards us. I just can't imagine what that would sound like in our house let alone outside and for our horses. I would venture to guess that if we were to use OSHA guidelines for hearing protection that we would need to wear hearing protection while outside or risk hearing damage. What about inside? Will there be multiple charges throughout the day long? I envision that during the first few months there would be more frequent blasting to remove the top fractured rock and to create the ramp going into the quarry area for the front end loader to haul out the rock.

Structural damage has been reported from blasting. Surely our windows will rattle, pictures on the wall will rattle, dishes in the cupboards will rattle. What does this do to our buildings over a longer period of time? I'm not an expert but if you keep pounding on something long enough even with a small hammer you can do damage to whatever it is you are pounding on!

Our well is about 1,000 feet from the proposed quarry at 110 feet deep and sits just on top of the granite shelf in a layer of very fine sand. For a few years after it was drilled we had problems with this very fine sand being pumped into our supply. We needed the well driller to do some things to try to stop it. It gradually settled down within a few years later. Our concern is that the blasting may cause the sand to get stirred up and once again cause the problem. What guarantee is there of this not happening? Who pays for a new well or maintenance of the current one?

- **Traffic**

The location of the proposed entrance is on a curved hill into the river valley. Because of this it may be very difficult for traffic going east down the hill to see and stop in time for traffic exiting/entering the quarry. In the winter season the hill is sometimes covered in ice and snow making it near impossible to stop. There are numerous gravel pits to the east of the quarry location and the truck traffic is sometimes as much as one per minute going east or west when there are road construction projects to the west of here somewhere. There are also regular gravel trucks that run daily. Farm trucks and fertilizer trucks, loaded semis all are frequent on this road. In the fall we have loaded sugar beet truck traffic going to Renville. They drive fast and most are not "Real truck drivers". We also have seen a large increase in traffic the past years with people going to and from Grandview Valley Winery just to the southeast of the quarry 2 miles.

- **Property Value**

Mary and I have spent the past 43 years enjoying the peacefulness of the area. I personally have enjoyed living in this immediate area for some 60 years. In 1981 we started with a bare patch of land large enough for a building site. With a lot of our own personal labor and by investing the majority of our finances we have created our lifelong home. We have always intended to retire here which is hopefully coming up within the next 3 years. Should this conditional use permit be approved, that dream of retiring in the peaceful setting that we have created will be gone let alone dealing with all the noise until retirement. Should we come to the realization that we cannot deal with the continuous noise and decide that we must leave, or health issues or something else would cause us to need to sell, what would our property be worth with the noisy quarrying operation so close by and occasional blasting? Who would **want** to live next to that kind of noise?

- **Environmental Protection**
- **This is not your average patch of farm land!**

Sometime in the late the 1970's the Wild and Scenic River Area was established to protect the Minnesota River Valley. The proposed quarry is in that area. It was partially because of this Act that Mary and I felt that it was "safe" to invest our resources into building our home where it is. The Act prevented any further mining in this area. Since then however in the mid 2000's some provisions have been made to allow certain **existing** operational mining to expand. It appears to be on a case by case basis.

In the mid 1980's the Federal Government wanted to put a Nuclear Waste Repository in this very same area that the quarry is located. It took the DNR's involvement to stop that notion as they had earlier declared the "Five Line Blue Tail Skink" in this area an endangered species. Since that time the DNR has purchased a large amount of land with granite rock outcropping just to the north of the quarry area for Skink Habitat. No motorized vehicles are allowed into the property. In the mid 2000's the Skink species had been downgraded to "Guarded" status. The DNR has stated that "they need to do another survey to determine the Skink's current status." What is that status currently? They also noted that "there are many rare indigenous species of plants and geological features in this area that need to be protected."

- **Recreation**

Just to the northeast of the proposed site is a wetlands area with a large slough that was created by the local land owners with funding obtained from the DNR and the Minnesota Waterfowl Assn. Local land owner residents now enjoy waterfowl hunting there because of the perfect habitat that they have helped to make. Because of the lay of the land **all** of the drainage from the proposed site would end up in this fragile habitat. You may wish to contact the DNR and the Minnesota Waterfowl Assn. about this proposed quarrying activity before making any decisions.

Questions about the proposed quarrying operation.

Submitted by

Mike and Mary Preuss

6378 190th ave.

Belview, MN

How many days per week of operation?

What would be the hours of operation?

What are any intended overtime hours of operation? From? ____:00am. to? ____:00pm.

Would Saturdays be scheduled for operation?

Would major Holidays ever be considered for operation if needed to fill an order?

How many employees are expected to work at the site during normal operation?

How many rock drills would be operating on the average at one time?

How many jack hammers would be operating on the average at one time?

How many rock saws would be operating on the average at one time?

How many front end loaders would be operating?

What is the average expected decibel level of the entire operation at a given distance?

500'? _____ 1,000'? _____

Is there any concern **at all** about the noise level during normal operation at neighboring residences?

Who will do the blasting?

About how frequent would the blasting be?

What are the limitation of the hours or the days that blasting could occur?

How and when are neighbors notified of when blasting would take place?

Is there any concern about blasting possibly disrupting neighboring wells?

Should this happen, will Duro Rock and the blasting contractor be liable for well repair or replacement?

About how many semi-truck loads of granite blocks , boulders and aggregate per day, week, month or year would be hauled from the proposed quarry?

Are the entrance and exit of the proposed quarry of concern because of their locations on the curved hill?

Where would the water pumped from the site drain to?

If there is heavy rainfall of 3+ inches where would all the water drain to?

Where would the rock dust contaminated winter ice and snowmelt drain into?

Does Duro Rock currently have any mining operations? How many? Where?

What kind of rock?

Are there any occupants that live within 1,000' of any of those mines other than land owners, friends, relatives or employees of the company?

Can you give us names of those residents so that we may contact them about their experience with your mines?

How many employees does Duro Rock have currently?

What experience does the Duro Rock have with mining Granite rock?

Who are the principal owners of Duro Rock

Who are the Officers?

Who owns the mineral rites at the proposed quarry?

