

RECEIVED
JUN 27 2012

BY: _____

06/24/12
Mr. Bob Patton
Executive Director
Environmental Quality Board
520 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Patton,

Silica frac sand mining is a major concern here in southeastern Minnesota in terms of its potential devastation to the health, welfare and safety of our citizens and sensitive environment. The counties of Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston and Fillmore are all under threat. 155 acres of land has been purchased by Winsor Permian in Hay Creek and 40 acres in Frontenac, with the intent of silica frac sand mining, processing and transport. This valley, on both sides of the river, is rich in the highly sought after Jordan sandstone- close to the surface and highly mineable. The land is selling at 5-7 times its market value and the energy companies are willing to pay. Other land owners have been approached.

I live in Goodhue County which currently has a one year moratorium, due to expire at the beginning of September. It was enacted by the county only through public outcry and subsequent filing by citizens. Winsor Permian cannot apply for a permit until the moratorium expires or is lifted.

During the moratorium, a mining study committee was appointed by the County Commissioners to study the impacts. Seven of the appointed committee members appear to be pro-mining , as well as four of the five County Commissioners. I have attended every meeting of the study committee and have witnessed the lack of environmental expertise or review. The final report from the study is due out on July 11th and it is believed by many that the outcome will approve frac sand mining in the area with no regard for the potential environmental damage from the magnitude of this type of mining.

According to Minnesota Land Trust, this part of the state houses almost 40% of the rare and endangered plant and animal species in the entire state. We also have a very sensitive water issues.

I respectfully request a full Generic Environment Impact Study on behalf of the citizens of Goodhue County.

Sincerely,

Jody McClrath

Florence Township Planning Commissioner, Chairman of Save-The-Bluffs Citizen's Group
34767 Rainwater Ct.
Frontenac MN 55026
651.345.4779

Cc: Florence Township Board and Planning Commission, MN Senator John Howe, MN Representative Tim Kelly, Save-The-Bluffs Members