From: John Litsenberger
To: *EQB_Silica Sand
Subject: Comments
Date: Sunday, January 05, 2014 1:49:10 PM

Overall I can see there has been a lot of work that has gone into this "tool kit". A few comments:

Does not cover underground mining. I firmly believe underground mining to be a very viable option for SE Minnesota operations. As such, counties and townships need to address setbacks from active wellheads, property setbacks, placement of ventilation holes/openings, hours of operation, blasting procedures (these will differ from surface mining blasting), and protection of mine access openings. Here, in Goodhue County, we did address several of these issues, however, not all.

In your discussion on setbacks, it is inferred that homes built after a mine is already in operation will enjoy the same protection as those built previous to mine operation. This should be a reciprocal agreement-that is, once a mine operation is permitted, any new home construction has to adhere to the setbacks in place.

On pages 3 and 4 there is reference given to the State Technical Assistance Team. I would strongly recommend that at least one member of this team be from industry and that the team is not 100% state or federal employees. Industry often will be ahead of the state and federal people on industrial best practice procedures.

Thank you,

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