

Lane, Roger

From: Robyn Wood <rwood9399@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 12:39 PM
To: Planning & Development
Subject: Opposition to new quarry in the Town of Rutland

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To the Dane County ZLR and Town of Rutland Board:

I am writing to register in opposition of the new quarry on Center Road in the Town of Rutland. My opposition is focussed on General Standard 4, which is not satisfied.

Standard 4 of the Town of Rutland Comprehensive Plan 2005-2024

Standard 4 *There are adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, and other necessary improvements to allow the land use, or improvements are planned to provide adequate measures.*

We value our quality of life in our rural town, including the advantage of having our own private wells. We are concerned with the effects the quarry will have on our wells and the quality of the water.

Water pumped out of the quarry site is un-regulated and un-controlled, and has caused the area to flood. This problem has not yet been addressed by the applicant, even after the CUP application was denied in 2020, because no effort had been made *then* to rectify it. The applicant promised that “things will be better if an expansion is permitted”. *See* Town Board Report, CUP 02496. This has not improved, and the standard is still not satisfied.

Nothing has been done to assure the town residents that our wells will continue to provide clean, clear water. Nothing has been done to assure residents that our water table will remain viable and that our water will remain potable. “The documented evidence is clear that the applicant has failed to follow through on necessary site improvements in the past. . . .*See* Town Board CUP Report CUP 02496. Again, the standard is not satisfied.

Quarries disrupt the existing movement of both surface water and groundwater. They interrupt natural water recharge and often lead to dramatic drops in the water table resulting in reductions in quantity of drinking water available for neighbors in all directions surrounding the quarry site. Residential wells in the vicinity of the quarry may run dry and the base flow in the regional streams may be reduced. Furthermore the dust from blasting and grinding as well as the siltation carried by the drainage through the blasted rock can affect the quality of the groundwater over a widespread area.

Operators of pits and quarries remove virtually all vegetation, topsoil and subsoil to access the resource. In so doing, they remove any natural habitat that may have been on site, and disrupt pre-existing stream flows . . .The extraction of aggregate resources changes the slope of the land and alters water drainage patterns . . .Once the aggregate is extracted .water storage capacity is lost. Aggregate operations . . . are characterized by the release of significant amounts of particular matter (i.e. dust) and noise pollution from extraction and processing activities as well as smog precursors and greenhouse gases from the operation of heavy equipment and machinery. The heavy truck traffic to and from aggregate sites is often a serious hazard and nuisance affecting people over wider areas, and is a significant source of air pollution itself.

—*See* Pembina Institute, 2005

In extreme cases, properties dependent on wells for water can be rendered virtually worthless in the event of a total collapse of the water table. It is also important to note that these impacts are permanent.*See* Pembina Institute, 2005

Thank you.
Klay Bertz
Center Road
Town of Rutland