



Memorandum

To: Stillwater Township Town Board
Reference: M J Raleigh Truckin' Inc. Mining Operation 2023 AOP

Copies To: Barbara Riehle, Clerk
Soren Mattick, Attorney
Mike Raleigh, Applicant
Project No.: 20464.000 – Raleigh Miller AOP

From: Evan Monson, Planner
Routing:

Date: October 12, 2023

SUBJECT: Updates regarding the Raleigh/Miller Mine & 2023 AOP

MEETING DATE: October 23, 2023

LOCATION: Parcel IDs 15.030.20.23.0001, 15.030.20.22.0002

APPLICANT: Miller Excavating Inc., and MJ Raleigh Truckin', Inc.

ZONING: Agricultural District, Aggregate Mining Overlay District, St Croix River District (portions of PID 15.030.20.23.0001)

ITEMS REVIEWED: Related Materials regarding 2023 Annual Operating Permit

OVERVIEW

The Town Board approved and issued an Annual Operating Permit (AOP) to the applicant on July 27, 2023.

The resolution included conditions similar to previous approvals, along with conditions regarding groundwater testing, and correcting violations identified during an inspection of the mine by the Township and the County in May 2023. The groundwater monitoring plan was to be submitted to the Town by September 14, 2023, while the violations were to be corrected by September 14th as well.

The 2023 AOP also permitted stormwater features to be located at a depth below 814 AMSL (above mean sea level) on the South Pit, provided an amendment to the County conditional use permit (CUP) for the mine is approved by the County.

The applicant submitted a groundwater monitoring plan to the Township on September 13th. Said plan was forwarded to the watershed district, Washington County, and the Township Engineer for review. The Town Engineer reviewed the plans and noted it exceeded county requirements. The applicant's contractors (Sunde Engineering) are working on plans for the CUP amendment regarding the 814 AMSL depth on the South Pit, this would include new grading and restoration plans that will need to be reviewed by the Town Engineer, Watershed, and the County.

Town Staff discussed project progress with Steve St. Claire this week. Mr. St Claire noted that the well drilling is ongoing; they are awaiting a new drill bit after encountering rock earlier this week. Mr. St Claire noted their contractor (Sunde) is continuing to finalize plans for the CUP amendment with the County, and that they are working to correct the items identified by the County at their May inspections.

The County conducted a follow-up inspection of the mine on October 6th. The County Planner noted the following to Town Staff:

- They are working on bringing the berms on the northeast into compliance and reclaiming the area. This will be done in the coming weeks.
- They have put in a berm on the northwest side and are planting trees in the area from the road where you could see the conveyor.
- They fixed fencing along Pawnee and have put a fence in between the house and the south pit.
- They will be adding the berm to the south of the north pit into the site plan, and this will be covered in the CUP amendment.
- The western pit road will be covered in the CUP amendment.

The County also noted the applicant is working on finalizing the stormwater plans and will submit an application for the CUP amendment here in the coming weeks. The watershed's conditional permit dated 1/27/23 stated that an amendment from the County approving the 814 AMSL depth for stormwater features would need to be secured and submitted to them.

SUMMARY

Completed

- Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

Ongoing

- Well drilling.
- Correcting violations previously outlined by County.
- CUP amendment with Washington County.
 - Will cover stormwater, grading, and restoration plans; pit road along west end, and berm along south end of North Pit.

Attachments

- 2023 AOP resolution – dated July 27, 2023.
- Inspection Memo – dated June 5, 2023 & correspondences with County dated October 10, 2023.
- Groundwater Monitoring Plan from Sunde Engineering.

