

PROTECT OUR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

It is crucial that before permitting the mine, the Waterford Township Board and other elected officials must demand thorough examination and evidence that it will not negatively impact our community, our families, and our irreplaceable water and environmental resources.

We must find a way to allow the Waterford Township Board to say NO to this quarry, and we seek your help.

We encourage all area citizens, from Northfield and all of Dakota County to the Twin Cities and beyond, to oppose the approval of this mine.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- Attending Waterford Township meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at Sciota Township Hall, 30038 Alta Ave, Northfield, MN 55057.
- Sharing the information in this brochure with your neighbors, friends, and relatives.
- Contacting elected representatives, especially at the community, county, and state levels, to express your concerns about this project.
- Voicing your concerns to anyone interested in environmental issues, especially those in a leadership position.
- Sharing information about this project with outdoor enthusiasts and people who are interested in birdwatching, fishing, hunting, and wildlife habitat.
- Encouraging area students and young people to speak out against decisions made by elders that may negatively affect their future.
- Displaying a Waterford MN Conservation Society yard sign on your property.
- Helping our cause with a financial donation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We welcome your interest, involvement, and assistance, regardless of your connection to Waterford, Minnesota!

For detailed information about the proposed Waterford Township limestone mine, visit <https://waterfordtownshipmn.org>, where you can find many documents regarding this project on the home page, under "News."

For updates and information about the Waterford MN Conservation Society, please visit our Facebook page via the links below, or email rusticacresmn@gmail.com if you wish to be added to our distribution list.



facebook.com/WaterfordMNConservationSociety

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WATERFORD MN

Conservation Society



STOP THE QUARRY

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THE PROPOSED LIMESTONE MINE

In October 2022, Bryan Rock Products, Inc. submitted a Mineral Extraction Permit to operate a limestone mining and processing facility in Waterford Township, on the southern edge of Dakota County, Minnesota. The proposed mine includes 223 acres of total quarry area and is proposed to be active for approximately 50 years.

The quarry operations will include topsoil and overburden removal, dewatering, drilling, blasting, processing, loading, hauling, and reclamation, producing approximately 26 million cubic yards of aggregate over its years of operation. The dewatering depth is proposed to be up to 145 feet, through a karst aquifer system.

We are concerned that the proposed mine will negatively affect not only Waterford Township but also the greater surrounding community, due to its potentially serious effects on water resources, the environment, and public health, as well as the dramatic increases it would bring in noise, vibration, traffic, and hazardous roadways.

Quarry mining at this site will take agricultural land out of production, destroy wildlife habitat, and threaten local wetlands in the North Cannon River Watershed. Mining in limestone aquifers has been proven to interfere with groundwater flow paths, lowering the water table and changing groundwater flow directions. And the dewatering process associated with this mine may pose significant risks to local agricultural, municipal, and residential water quantity and quality.

The proposed site is underlain by a shallow aquifer hydraulically connected to the underlying Prairie du Chien–Jordan Aquifer. Considering that groundwater from these aquifers is the source of 90% of drinking water in Dakota County, and for a large percentage of the Twin Cities metro area, we believe the protection of this vulnerable resource must be prioritized over aggregate mining.

WATER RESOURCES

The average Minnesota resident uses 50 gallons of water per day. At full operation, the volume of water pumped from the Waterford mine is estimated to be up to 11 million gallons per day, or 4 billion gallons per year. This is equivalent to the water consumption of 220,000 residents, in a rural township with a population of just over 500.

The extraction of billions of gallons per year from our aquifers raises profound concerns about the future groundwater resources of not only Waterford Township, but the entire region.

Water is a fundamental resource that is essential for our primarily agriculturally-based community. The expected water drawdown may dramatically change our water table and could significantly affect the fertility of our topsoil, negatively impacting all community members who rely on soil use for their sustenance and livelihoods.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed limestone quarry's impact on water resources could have cascading negative effects on our local ecosystems, watersheds, and critical wetland habitats.

The water pumped from the site will be dumped into the Chub Creek watershed, which drains into the Cannon River and Lake Byllesby. This depletion and subsequent addition of water (at higher temperatures, and with silt and surface pollutants) will impact the area watershed, with potentially disastrous consequences to native fish, mussels, and other aquatic organisms.

The proposed mine also has the potential to drain area wetlands, which provide the region not only with essential bird and wildlife habitat, but also protect area waterways by filtering surface contaminants generated by agricultural runoff and roads.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

A consistent water supply is vital. While Bryan Rock has stated they will aid residents whose wells are affected, the additional emotional and financial stress that re-drilling wells will place on our community members is significant.

The total average daily traffic generated by the project is estimated to be between 165 and 440 trips per day, or up to 40 trips per hour. The excessive weight and increased stopping distance of gravel trucks will create new public safety and infrastructure issues for the local community.

The added potential hazards associated with blasting, dust and particulate pollution, emissions from trucks and other mining equipment, and water contamination pose direct threats to the health and safety of area residents.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

The proposed quarry's dewatering practices would exacerbate changes to our climate that are already happening, worsening the effects of drought and impacting groundwater resources and agricultural practices. Emissions from mining equipment include sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxides, which can poison humans, animals, and crops while contributing to regional and global climate change. Mining in limestone also removes a crucial carbon sink, increasing carbon dioxide and further exacerbating climate change.

PROPERTY VALUES

Waterford Township consists primarily of residents who have lived their entire lives and have raised their families in this community. The operation of the proposed limestone quarry will likely have an adverse effect on local property values, directly impacting the financial wellbeing of residents who depend on the value of their land for their long-term financial health.