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TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK
APPLICATION FOR A SAND PROCESSING FACILITY
FOR HIGH COUNTRY SAND, LLC
PUBLIC MEETING

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The above-identified Public Meeting was held
on the 12th day of February, 2014, at the Augusta High
School, E19320 Bartig Road, Augusta, Wisconsin 54722,
beginning at 7:02 p.m.

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Taken before Rheanna M. Fauske, RPR

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APPEARANCES :

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey Gerike

Lynn Norheim

Ricky Strauch

Dean Solie

Stephen Weiss

OTHER APPEARANCES :

Scott McCurdy, Moderator from Cedar Corporation

Attorney Rick Schaumberg, Town of Bridge Creek attorney

1 MR. GERIKE: Let's get started. Let's call this
2 meeting to order and do roll call. Rick?

3 MR. STRAUCH: Here.

4 MR. GERIKE: Dean?

5 MR. SOLIE: Here.

6 MR. GERIKE: I'm here. Steve?

7 MR. WEISS: Here.

8 MR. GERIKE: Lynn?

9 MR. NORHEIM: Here.

10 MR. GERIKE: I need a motion to open the public
11 hear.

12 MR. WEISS: I'll move.

13 MR. NORHEIM: I'll second.

14 MR. GERIKE: Motion by Steve and second by Lynn to
15 open the public hearing. I'm going to turn it over to
16 Scott, here, from Cedar Corp.

17 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Jeff. I appreciate
18 everybody being here this evening. I hope everybody
19 can hear me. If there's anybody that can't hear me in
20 the back, raise your hand, please. Just as a matter of
21 interest, can those of you who are from the town of
22 Bridge Creek, please raise your hand? Excellent.
23 Thank you very much.

24 One of the things that we wanted to go over before
25 we get started this evening is just to let you know

1 that the board and/or the moderator, which is myself,
2 have the right to restrict any speakers to new topics.
3 And if we need to, so that in order that everybody can
4 be heard, set time limits. I mean we held a public
5 hearing here last year, but not in this building but in
6 the community, and we went through -- I think it was
7 about 11:00, 11:30 by the time things were done. I
8 guess, you know, if we need to go that late tonight,
9 that's what we'll do. We're going to try to hear
10 everybody. But if we start getting repetitive topics,
11 we may ask you to sit down and move on to a new topic.

12 Okay. First thing we'd like to do is have the
13 gentleman from High Country make a short presentation
14 to the group so that everybody understands what we're
15 talking about. Jason?

16 MR. STRAND: Gary.

17 MR. MCCURDY: Gary Strand is from Cooper
18 Engineering up in Rice Lake, and he put the plan
19 together for High Country Sand.

20 MR. STRAND: Wow. This is impressive. Normally,
21 my public hearings involved wastewater treatment
22 facilities. I don't normally get a full board when I
23 have those public hearings. And about halfway through
24 the chairman's looking at me, and he says, aren't you
25 done yet? So this is different.

1 We're here for a wash plant on the Carlson farm
2 for a frac sand mine, an industrial sand mine. Not all
3 of this sand is used for frac sand. It's sold for many
4 uses. I don't know if everybody knows where the
5 Carlson farm is, but there's Highway 12, and there's R.
6 So it's not very far off Highway 12 and R. There's
7 another map that kind of gives you an idea of where it
8 is. 35 acres --

9 MR. MCCURDY: Excuse me, Gary. I can hear some
10 individuals saying they can't hear you. Perhaps, you
11 can use the microphone?

12 MR. STRAND: Sure. Assuming I don't get too loud.
13 This is what the whole site looks like. Gravel road
14 coming in off of R. We got a raw stockpile here. The
15 actual wash plant sits on this little footprint here.
16 We got a finished stockpile here. And then these are
17 the three treatment ponds where the wash water is
18 allowed to clarify before it's reused. And then we got
19 a large freshwater pond, storm water pond, makeup water
20 pond -- whatever you want to call it -- that catches,
21 basically, all the water on this site.

22 So the normal route here is that the sand comes
23 in, it gets dumped here. And an end loader bucket
24 comes into the wash plant, goes through the wash plant,
25 is conveyed out into this certain pile area here, where

1 we let the water drain out of the sand. And then that
2 goes back into this freshwater pond. And then the sand
3 is hauled back out and sent on down to wherever it
4 goes. And this is just showing where the floodplain is
5 and the wash plant is right here.

6 Our access road is right through here. And we are
7 allowed to construct an access road in the floodplain,
8 provided we don't add any material to the floodplain.
9 We have to have a net zero gain of material in the
10 floodplain so that we do not decrease the storage of
11 the storm water within this area. The sand is coming
12 from the Martinson mine right here. It's traveling
13 about a mile and a half down H and R and into the wash
14 plant, and it's going on out. And it goes up
15 Highway 12 up to Hallie, where there's a transloading
16 site where it goes on railcars and disappears.

17 This is a drawing of the groundwater. The
18 groundwater elevation and the groundwater flow
19 direction. And north is this way. And so the water
20 seems to flow towards Thompson Creek, which is what you
21 normally would expect.

22 As part of this getting approvals for all this, we
23 have to look at all kinds of things besides
24 floodplains. We have to look at wetlands. And as you
25 can see here, there are three possible wetlands on this

1 property. And yes, we are going to fill this piece of
2 wetland. But this is a picture of that wetland looking
3 north and looking south. And it's really not what
4 anybody would call a high-quality wetland. There's not
5 much for soybeans either. And I -- that's part of the
6 reason why we are allowed to fill it.

7 This is actually the form that we get back from
8 the DNR that says, yep, as long as you fill less than
9 10,000 square feet, you can do it. And that was the
10 application we sent in to do that.

11 This is what a wash plant looks like when it's put
12 on one piece of paper. This is the front-end loader
13 bucketing a -- sand into the first hopper. Then
14 there's a screen that takes out the big chunks. And
15 then it goes into this hopper and is mixed with about
16 5,000 gallons a minute of water. And it's washed
17 through this screen. The purpose of this is to
18 separate out the sand that's too big. We don't want
19 it. That goes into this stockpile. And it either goes
20 back to the mine or it gets sold as some other product,
21 other than, in this case, frac sand.

22 The rest of the sand and water mixture goes
23 through some pumps, goes through the cyclone, which are
24 two trains, identical units, where the bulk of the
25 water is separated out along with the sand that's too

1 fine to be used as product. The rest of it goes down
2 into these hydrosizers, where it's mixed with more
3 water. And the product that they want to keep -- well,
4 actually, the product that they don't want is flushed
5 out the top. It's floated off into this hopper. And
6 then that's pumped through another cyclone that tries
7 to get rid of some more of the water. It's always a
8 process of separating a product from the water where it
9 goes into another hydrosizer that separates out the
10 fine sand, that is still product but not the size that
11 we want, into these stockpiles. And all the rest of
12 the water goes back to this hopper. Well, it goes back
13 to this cyclone into a screen that separates out as
14 much of the fine sand that it can, that is a waste
15 product, and the rest of the water all lines up in the
16 settling pump. It's mixed with polymer.

17 We have to get these fine particles of soil to
18 separate out from the water. And these particles are
19 so fine that they really don't want to separate. They
20 like to stay apart. They're -- they're actually
21 electrically charged. They all have the same charge,
22 and they all want to stay away from everybody else.
23 And so we use a charged polymer that's charged the
24 opposite charge. And it pulls them all together to
25 make a particle large enough that it will settle in a

1 reasonable time. And that soil settles in those three
2 settling ponds. And the clear water flows over into
3 the clear water pond. And that's all sent back through
4 the process.

5 And -- now, everybody asks why -- where's all this
6 water come from? We have a high capacity well permit
7 that we've -- Carlsons have applied for, and they have
8 received it. And that's used to fill these ponds.
9 Now, the actual amount of water used in this process is
10 about -- I wrote it down here -- the amount of water
11 that leaves the site in the sand is about ten gallons a
12 ton. So if we're going to wash 300,000 tons per year,
13 that's 3 million gallons of water a year that actually
14 leaves the site. The rest of it's all recycled.

15 And over the course of a year, if we were to
16 average that out, that's 14 gallons a minute. We don't
17 need a high capacity well permit for that. But these
18 ponds hold about 9 million gallons. So if we're going
19 to sit here and fill these ponds up at 14 gallons a
20 minute, that's going to take about a year and a half.
21 And that's why we have a high capacity well permit so
22 that we can fill these things in a reasonable time.

23 I don't know what I got that there. Here's the
24 industrial well approval. And as you can see here, we
25 are not allowed to pump willy-nilly. We have a maximum

1 pump capacity of 500 gallons a minute. We can do that
2 only for an average of 14 pounds, 140,000 gallons a
3 day. Our best day is a half a million gallons. That's
4 the maximum we can pump. We can pump it at 500 gallons
5 a minute, but we're only allowed 500,000 gallons in one
6 day. And the part that's not on here is that we're
7 only allowed 4 million gallons a month. So even with
8 our high capacity well permit, it will take them two
9 months to fill these ponds the first time. So it's not
10 like we're going to be sucking the entire world dry
11 filling these ponds.

12 This is what a wash plant looks like. This is
13 what that drawing that I showed you a little while
14 back, that's what -- that's what it is. There's enough
15 frac sand mines around here you've probably seen that
16 already. They're all about the same. They all are
17 about 3,300,000 tons per year. 300 tons per hour.
18 That seems to be the size that fits the mines that are
19 functioning in the frac sand industry in Wisconsin.
20 Very rarely do you see something different.

21 Really the only piece of equipment that's
22 operating here, other than the dump truck circling
23 around, is the one front-end loader. And all he's
24 doing is bucketing sand out of this pile into there,
25 and the rest of it runs by conveyors. There will be

1 another front-end loader loading product into the
2 trucks that are leaving.

3 We got to get load applications from the county.
4 They don't like us to just driving dump trucks out on
5 the road in one spot over and over again without
6 talking about it. They like to see driveway permits.
7 They like to see driveways constructed that are safe
8 for the traveling public. And so this is the one that
9 we came up with that meets Eau Claire County's -- we
10 have a turn lane in so that traffic can go by -- by a
11 short acceleration lane here, not much, because we're
12 going into an intersection. Everybody coming from this
13 direction should be slowing down. That's the copy of
14 the driveway permit from the county.

15 This is the copy of the air permit. There's a lot
16 of concern about dust. And so the DNR has said, well,
17 if you're going to do a frac sand processing plant,
18 you're going to get an air permit. And there's several
19 classes of air permits, based on the amount of
20 particulates that you're going to produce in a year.
21 The lowest grade or type of permit is a Type A
22 Registration Permit. And this is what most sand mines,
23 processing plants, apply for. And this is what they
24 get. Because they actually don't discharge enough
25 particulates to need a full blown permit.

1 And another thing we have to do is deal with storm
2 water. And this is the best approval that we get from
3 the county on that is an e-mail after all the work that
4 we do. And that's where we are tonight. So does
5 anybody have a question? Yes?

6 UNKNOWN WOMAN: So you mentioned sand mines in
7 general and not ones that need special permits, but
8 what about silica? Are you lumping that into the same
9 category?

10 MR. STRAND: All sand is silica.

11 UNKNOWN WOMAN: But is this a finer version of
12 most sand mines, or --

13 MR. STRAND: The issue of sand and silica dust are
14 two separate issues that seem to run together. If we
15 talk about frac sand mines, silica dust is very
16 hazardous. But the silica dust that causes silicosis
17 is a crystal in silica that you get from breaking
18 silica particles. When you saw concrete, you're
19 actually cutting the particles. You're making sharp
20 edges on these particles. And you will get sick and
21 die if you breathe in enough concrete dust when you're
22 sawing that. The same goes for crushing. But gravel
23 crushing, where you're breaking -- you're fracturing
24 the large particles, you're making fine dust that can
25 cause silicosis. Drilling in hard rock -- hard rock

1 mines is another good example of where this happens.
2 And the way they control the silica dust in those
3 situations is always with water. You never dry cut
4 concrete. It's sawn with water to eliminate the dust.

5 The same with drilling in hard rock. In frac sand
6 mining we're dealing with a wet product to begin with.
7 We're dealing with a special particle because these are
8 round sand grains that we're looking for when we're
9 mining frac sand. If there are -- if there are sharp
10 particles, they just aren't suitable for fracking. So
11 the deposits that they search for are round particles.
12 These particles are formed on beaches. These are
13 prehistoric beaches that are from inland seas. And
14 this sand has been washed and washed and washed for
15 thousands of years as those seas were here and
16 eventually receded. So what we have here is beach.

17 MR. MCCURDY: Excuse me, Gary --

18 MR. STRAND: So what's missing is the -- the sharp
19 particles --

20 MR. MCCURDY: Gary?

21 MR. STRAND: Yes?

22 MR. MCCURDY: Are you about finished with your
23 presentation?

24 MR. STRAND: I'm finished with this one. I'm
25 taking questions. I --

1 MR. MCCURDY: I appreciate that. We're here for a
2 public hearing so that these gentlemen can hear --

3 MR. STRAND: Okay.

4 MR. MCCURDY: -- that the public has concerns.
5 And so what we would like to do, now, is move into the
6 public hearing aspect of this so that we can hear those
7 people who have signed up to speak to the board.

8 MR. STRAND: Okay.

9 MR. MCCURDY: Okay.

10 MR. STRAND: So I'm out of place taking questions
11 at this point?

12 MR. MCCURDY: I -- we don't have the time nor the
13 agenda tonight for you to take questions and field all
14 the questions that I think these people could possibly
15 bring up to you that have been brought up to the
16 board --

17 MR. STRAND: Okay.

18 MR. MCCURDY: -- numerous times. So I appreciate
19 your answer to the young lady over there, but I think
20 at this point we'd like to start with hearing the
21 public.

22 MR. STRAND: Okay. So who will -- will you
23 moderate that then?

24 MR. MCCURDY: Yes. Does High Country have anybody
25 else that wants to make a presentation tonight? Jason,

1 Mark, Todd? Okay. So with that, tonight, we'd like to
2 hear first from Christine Yellowthunder. She's
3 speaking against the proposed application.

4 MS. YELLOWTHUNDER: Good evening, gentlemen. I
5 came tonight to speak, as I have many times, before
6 this board concerning the factor that I am entirely
7 distraught. I'm distraught because I really wish I
8 could put in my hand or have an answer to be given to
9 me about where is the common sense. We live in an
10 agricultural community. And of all communities of any
11 basis of work, agricultural communities certainly deal
12 with common sense. And I want to know where it's gone.

13 Water is the source of life. Clean water is a
14 non-renewable and limited resource. And once it's used
15 up, nobody can get it back. There is no more. No more
16 aware of this fact than any other community is an
17 agricultural community, which Bridge Creek is.

18 As distraught as I am, I want you to know because
19 I'm distraught and because I've appeared here before
20 this board under the onslaught of many mining
21 applications, I want you to know that I stepped back
22 and took a broader look at what's going on, not just in
23 Bridge Creek but what's going on in Wisconsin and the
24 rest of the country. And I have some facts that I'd
25 like to present to the board. One of which I have

1 presented in the past but two more that have come to my
2 attention and the attention of others concerned about
3 Wisconsin.

4 The fact that water is essential to life is so
5 fundamental that on July 28th, 2010, the United Nations
6 adopted a resolution instituting the human right to
7 safe and clean drinking water. And the U.S. signed on
8 to this resolution as a full participant. Also, in
9 2010, a report from U.S. global intelligence agencies
10 warned that one-third of the world's population will
11 live in areas where the water deficit will be more than
12 50 percent. Further, global demand for water in 2030
13 will outstrip the supply of this earth's water by
14 40 percent. Two years ago I presented this information
15 to the town board. Marc Bierkus, Professor of
16 Hydrology at Utrecht University and author of
17 groundwater utilization studies warned, in 2010, that
18 if water takings from the Great Lakes became similar to
19 global groundwater takings, the Great Lakes could be
20 bone-dry in 80 years.

21 As a result, the U.N. has required each country,
22 including the United States, to prepare a national plan
23 of action, which must address three principles. The
24 second of which is the obligation to protect. That
25 spells out the following: Every government, which

1 includes local government, is obliged to prevent third
2 parties from interfering with the human right to clean
3 water. The government has the obligation to protect
4 local communities from inequitable extraction of water
5 by corporations or other government agencies.

6 Citizens and communities can now begin to hold
7 their government accountable if companies are
8 destroying local water resources. Utilizing this
9 obligation to protect, citizens can challenge any laws
10 or practices that either removes or contaminates water
11 resources from a community. Cases are beginning to be
12 heard in the state of New York. With all the fracking
13 attempts that are going on in New York, communities are
14 now taking to court their own government for failure to
15 protect. And it's not just in the United States, other
16 countries are also following this because of this U.N.
17 resolution.

18 In 2012, Bridge Creek authorized an aquifer study
19 to be conducted by Cedar Corporation. The findings
20 were presented and a high concentration of capacity
21 wells were noted in the area of Bridge Creek, where
22 High Country has applied for a processing plant under
23 the non-metallic mining ordinance, and proposes the use
24 of additional high capacity well use that could
25 involve, we heard tonight, one-half million gallons per

1 day from the aquifer. Currently, much of the land
2 surrounding the High Country proposed processing plant
3 site is agricultural. And a significant amount of
4 Wisconsin has been deemed to be in drought status. The
5 concerns for groundwater impact and the impact of the
6 aquifer by yet another depleter of water resource to
7 this area is of grave concern.

8 So here are my questions: I assume that High
9 Country has developed a 5-, 10-, 20-year business plan,
10 as most best practicing companies do, to provide to
11 their potential investors. I also assume that High
12 Country has given time and study to prepare for the
13 Bridge Creek mining agreement conditions so they will
14 be ready if this application is approved. I have
15 several questions.

16 According to the Bridge Creek mining agreement,
17 mine operations shall not cause a measurable
18 redirection of groundwater affecting the current users
19 within one-half mile of the proposed operation and that
20 operations shall not cause a lowering of the
21 groundwater table, including private wells, streams and
22 tributaries, that directly affect agriculture, fire
23 protection, and municipal functioning. That's directly
24 from the code. What is the planned dollar amount that
25 High Country will propose as escrow to the township of

1 Bridge Creek, in order to reimburse existing landowners
2 for this non-renewable resource? And what formula does
3 High Country use in arriving at such a figure of
4 reimbursement? Can Bridge Creek Township control the
5 number of high capacity wells that High Country could
6 drill since those issues are -- since those permits are
7 issued by the state? How can the town board be assured
8 that High Country has the financial means to go repair,
9 reinstate, or produce water resources for those whose
10 wells may be affected? What is High Country's plan if
11 excess storm water is not contained and damages to
12 others do occur? And as always, a concern in any
13 farming community, what protection is this company
14 instituting to prevent and address possible ground
15 and/or water contamination from the use of flocculants
16 in their holding ponds or from fuel spills from all
17 these trucks coming and going?

18 I thank you for your attention to these concerns
19 as no living thing can eat, drink, or breathe money,
20 nor can we live without water. I thank you. And I
21 have a copy of my questions for the board and the
22 official record.

23 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Christine. Next we'll
24 hear from Jan Charles.

25 MS. CHARLES: I brought some things for you. I'll

1 explain later. I'll let you guys distribute this.
2 This is a copy of my presentation and some references.

3 Well, thank you so much for letting me come here
4 tonight. And I'm against sand mining. I'm a
5 registered nurse, lifelong resident of the town of
6 Lincoln, so I'm just west of here. My background,
7 current position is dealing with chronic illnesses and
8 trying to keep people out of hospitals and emergency
9 rooms. I've also worked as a certified occupational
10 health nurse specialists. I've dealt with preventing
11 work injuries and taking care of people who have been
12 injured on the job. And I also spent ten years working
13 in critical care and seeing -- seeing people die on
14 respirators from the end stages of chronic respiratory
15 diseases. So I care deeply about this community, their
16 health, their welfare, and their safety. That's why
17 I'm here tonight to do a little education.

18 And I'm so glad that we had the engineer here.
19 I've got some comments to make to his speech. He
20 talked about crystal and silica sand. It is really
21 common. It's in the earth's crust. The major
22 component of sand, clay, and stone materials that we
23 make everyday products such as concrete, brick, drywall
24 and glass. And, you know, silica sand, then, is found
25 in farm and construction dust. But farm dust is aged

1 and less damaging. Both types of dust have similar
2 concentrate -- have smaller concentrations of silica
3 than freshly mined sand. And farm and construction
4 dust are dependent upon the season of the year and the
5 weather.

6 Dust that cannot be controlled is titled fugitive
7 dust. Sources from mining include blasting, loading,
8 conveying, and trucking. You can use water and
9 coverings to reduce that, but you cannot truly
10 eliminate it. You know, the example I give, how do you
11 control drywall dust? You can't. And I'd like to
12 mention, I think, now that Hi-Crush is here, if
13 anybody's drove out there -- first time I went out
14 there it was in the evening and I was appalled to see
15 the haze in the air. And I know it's in there.

16 Silica is classified as a carcinogen by OSHA. And
17 the reason they looked into it was around 1930 there
18 was a project in West Virginia called Hawk's Nest
19 Tunnel. Hundreds of people died from silicosis. And
20 this is what triggered regulating this. Most of the
21 regulation is internal. It's in confined spaces. But
22 they are doing studies out West at the fracking site,
23 and they're finding that these people are, indeed,
24 going to develop silicosis from the exposures. And
25 this is also evident in Desert Storm, desert sand, some

1 of the -- Medica knows that over there it's sand, too,
2 and these people have silicosis on autopsy.

3 He mentioned -- the engineer mentioned that it is
4 more spherical in shape. More spherical than asbestos,
5 and you see the -- I think it's in the -- the
6 commercials on TV, that's an elongated fiber. So the
7 cylinder nature -- spherical nature of the sand helps
8 it get deeper into the lungs.

9 Now, what we're looking at is respirable
10 crystalline silica. It's that portion of sand that's
11 small enough to enter into the deepest areas of the
12 lungs. Now, fine beach sand is an average of 90
13 micrometers. Human hair is 50 to 70 micrometers. Now,
14 size 10 is going to reach the level of -- of your large
15 passages in your lungs. And the smaller it is, such as
16 2.5, which is my concern, invades much deeper into the
17 lungs. It cannot be removed from the lungs from
18 coughing. It stays there.

19 So freshly mined silica is emitted during mining.
20 It is significantly more toxic, not only because of the
21 roundness and being able to invade in the lungs, but it
22 holds a charge, like he said. It's got a greater
23 affinity for our tissue.

24 Now, these fine particles not only can pass into
25 the lungs, but the real fine particles can pass through

1 the tissue into -- or blood stream and affect other
2 organs and lead to kidney disease and autoimmune
3 disorders. And what happens is when these particles
4 get deep in the lungs, they irritate and they cause
5 inflammation. The body responds. It forms mucus. And
6 that further blocks the airways.

7 Now, the inflammation is going to lead to three
8 majors problems. Lungs become more susceptible to
9 infection. The lung tissue becomes more thickened and
10 scarred, which further decreases the gas exchange,
11 oxygen into our system, carbon dioxide out. It
12 decreases the lungs' ability to expand, because it
13 becomes sand tissue and that doesn't expand and
14 contract, pulling the oxygen in and force the carbon
15 dioxide out. So we've got the reduced exchange in the
16 lungs. Smokers are more at risk for such changes after
17 being exposed to silica. There's no cure. It's
18 progressive and the definitive diagnosis occurs on
19 autopsy. You can do some imaging studies and they do
20 monitoring of employees to see if it's starting.

21 Now, the silica concentration and duration of
22 exposure, size of the particle, determines the effects
23 it has on the body. There's three types of silicosis.
24 The acute would be the -- you know, the sooner it
25 happens would be the acute stage, within two years.

1 And that's usually extremely high concentrations.
2 Accelerated silicosis usually shows up 5 to 10 years
3 after high exposure. And then comes the chronic
4 silicosis which is the most common. It doesn't show up
5 for 15 to 20 years after moderate to low exposures.

6 Symptoms may not be obvious. It starts with being
7 fatigued. You're tired. And you probably just think
8 you're getting old, you know. You're not getting --
9 you're not getting your oxygen. So you have shortness
10 of breath on exertion, can lead to chest pain with
11 irritation, and respiratory failure.

12 Well, who's at risk? Well, the employee of mining
13 companies are protected with personal protective gear
14 and OSHA Law. If they do develop respiratory problems,
15 they have their medical needs and wage coverage under
16 workers' compensation insurance. But an employee must
17 prove that his health problems stem from the
18 occupational exposure. So that's kind of tough,
19 especially if you're a smoker and some years have
20 passed and maybe the company is gone. And having
21 worked with work comp insurance companies, I can
22 guarantee you that they'll do everything to deny your
23 claim.

24 So non-employees in the community, who's at risk
25 there? Elderly with respiratory or cardiovascular

1 disease, children and adults with asthma, bronchitis
2 and respiratory infections, and children, especially
3 those with asthma, are more vulnerable to smaller parts
4 such as silica. And they also breath more air per
5 pound -- pound of body weight relative to adults.
6 They're growing. They have a high metabolic rate.
7 They breathe more.

8 And that brings to mind that people of all ages
9 that are active outdoors have an increased risk during
10 physical activity, because they breathe deep. They
11 breathe that particulate matter deep into the parts of
12 their lungs. So they're more vulnerable to injury.
13 Examples would be children and adults who play outdoor
14 sports or participate in outdoor physical activities
15 requiring increased exertion.

16 Now, the EPA and DNR really don't have any proven,
17 accurate, or dependable scientific data. This has been
18 cropping up all over. And now that it's really
19 becoming more active in the state, they're finally
20 starting to look at it. But we really don't have
21 anything. And what I -- I handed to you guys is
22 something from the state of Minnesota. I don't know
23 why our state isn't on this. But Minnesota has all
24 kinds of information. They have a draft, and it's
25 information that local governments can use to protect

1 themselves. And it covers everything. And you can get
2 that online, Environmental Quality Board, it's called,
3 Tools to Assist Local Governments in Planning and
4 Regulating Silica Sand Projects. And it gives some of
5 the same information I gave tonight.

6 So given this information, if somebody in the
7 community develops a health issue 15 years down the
8 road, who's going to help them? I can tell you people
9 spend a lot of money on their respiratory health care.
10 And it's really sad when somebody comes into your
11 office and says, I can't afford the inhalers. I spend
12 a lot of my time trying to find alternatives for these
13 people.

14 So my question is: Why would you allow the
15 profits of a few over the risk of the health of the
16 Augusta residents, Bridge Creek residents, especially
17 children and elderly? You know, your job is to protect
18 them.

19 We, as citizens, can do our own air monitoring by
20 application of common sense. Visually, we've observed
21 the fugitive dust at mining and processing sites,
22 escaping off open railcars, trucks, off the sand piles,
23 you can see it on objects outdoors. I've been up to
24 New Auburn, and there's a film. We can check the HVAC
25 filters. Up in New Auburn, they've changed them in the

1 schools. You have to have a different one there
2 because of the air, but it's interesting that they can
3 filter the air in the schools, but the kids play
4 outside, too. There's been spills along the roads and
5 railways. You can see it out at the conveyor. I
6 followed a truck, and it's hitting my windshield.

7 So in conclusion, one fact is very well-known to
8 all of us, the air we breathe belongs to and affects
9 everyone. I urge you to protect the citizens from
10 silica exposure -- the silica exposure epidemic by
11 permanently quarantining this airborne health risk and
12 refusing to let it spread. Thank you very much. And
13 believe me, you have all my sympathy with your job.

14 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Jan. Glory Adams?

15 MS. ADAMS: You can pass these down. There's a
16 copy for everyone. I'm Glory Adams from Eau Claire.
17 And I would want my statements to be part of the
18 official record here. I spent many years working with
19 parents and with children, and believe me, any parent
20 in the world wants to protect and care for a child.
21 It's devastating to a family if a child becomes
22 chronically ill. I'm concerned about the number of
23 trucks High Country intends to run.

24 Now, a specific number seems a little illusive,
25 but apparently, it's going to be within 160 to 300

1 truck trips per day. This will go along -- I gather,
2 from County Road O, County Road R, and Highway 12 and
3 up north. Those trucks are going to go by two schools,
4 Augusta and Fall Creek. They'll run through downtown
5 Fall Creek and -- and they'll be going right by -- and
6 downtown Fall Creek, if you've been there, you noticed
7 that there's children's crossings to and from school.
8 Now, County R has frequent buggy traffic entering and
9 leaving. They have a lumber business there. There's a
10 milk cooperative there. And there are children who
11 walk along that county road. None of that was included
12 in the impact study that was done.

13 Now, not all of the county roads proposed for use
14 by High Country are built to withstand the high impact
15 of heavy truck traffic. They were constructed for low
16 traffic with a very few heavy Ag trucks. Bridges in
17 Eau Claire County were primarily constructed from --
18 prior to about 1945. They were never meant to hold
19 heavy sand trucks.

20 Now, the more diesel exhaust is studied, the more
21 they seem to come up with -- of course, the studies
22 become more sophisticated. Now, they are tending to
23 look at not just the exhaust, itself, which contains
24 some 40 toxins. But what happens after exhaust, when
25 these chemicals combine in new ways? And they are

1 finding some devastating carcinogen combinations from
2 those chemicals. Now, the particulates and ultrafines
3 from diesel exhaust can aggravate asthma. Of course,
4 it goes to the lungs. Can cause irregular heart
5 heartbeats and heart attacks. Of course, the EPA says
6 it's carcinogenic. The soot, itself, can irritate eyes
7 and the nose and the throat and the lungs. So if you
8 have asthma and you're breathing in a great deal of
9 this, you're going to irritate your lungs. Again,
10 those especially vulnerable are going to be children
11 and the elderly.

12 What is especially significant with people
13 trucking, as it relates to High Country, is the big
14 increase in truck traffic that will occur. Obviously,
15 the more trucks, the more miles, the more particulates,
16 the more chemicals will get into the air. Trucking
17 leaves a trail of sand behind. It doesn't matter if
18 it's wet or if it's dry. It doesn't -- sand is pretty
19 mobile. It tends to flow. No sand truck can fully
20 contain it. Sand accumulates under the truck at the
21 mine site. And then it's dragged onto the roads.

22 Neighbors complain about the noise. When they
23 unload, there's banging from the tailgates, there's
24 backup beeping. And those noises carry a fair
25 distance, particularly at night.

1 I have checked with Marcus Evans, the highway
2 commissioner for Eau Claire County. And he maintains
3 that High Country has not completed the highway
4 agreement with the county. They also, according to
5 Marcus, owe the county monies. He has tried repeatedly
6 to connect with High Country, but is not getting a
7 response from them.

8 Questions I have for High Country include: What
9 age are the trucks that will do the hauling? That's
10 going to make a difference in emissions. How many
11 exactly -- exactly how many trips are going to be made
12 each day? Now, who's going to take care of the sand
13 accumulating on the highways and how? And how do you
14 justify being so close to Augusta School? Will you
15 cease driving during the hours when children are
16 walking to and from school or when the school buses are
17 out on their routes? When do you plan to pay Eau
18 Claire the monies that you owe them? When do you plan
19 to complete the highway agreements with Eau Claire
20 County? Who's going to pay for the deterioration of
21 county roads that these heavy trucks cause? And during
22 the construction of deteriorated roads, what routes are
23 you going to take? Will the two small bridges on
24 County R and County O handle the excessive, heavy truck
25 traffic?

1 As citizens, we've all paid our taxes to create
2 the highway infrastructure that High Country wants to
3 use. In return, the company needs to be responsible
4 and accountable to the public. Thank you.

5 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Glory. Carol Peuse? I
6 hope I pronounced your name correctly this time.
7 Peuse, I'm sorry.

8 MS. PEUSE: That's all right.

9 MR. MCCURDY: I'll never get it right.

10 MS. PEUSE: That's all right. First of all, I'd
11 like to thank you, the county -- or the town board for
12 having this hearing tonight and would like my statement
13 to, also, become part of the official record. State
14 aid for all public schools in Wisconsin are treated as
15 equally as possible based on each school district's
16 ability to pay for basic educational services and based
17 on property values.

18 When property values go up in a district, the
19 state aid, in most cases, go down. This year the total
20 district equalized aid for the Augusta School District
21 is \$4,193,716. The total student count for this year
22 is 640. This, then, averages out to \$6,552.68 per
23 student for Wisconsin state aid.

24 There are many factors and variables that come
25 into play for calculating Augusta's share of the state

1 aid. The staff of Augusta Schools have been working
2 diligently to improve the education programs in the
3 Augusta Schools. The Augusta Elementary School has,
4 for the last two years, been recognized as a spotlight
5 school and was also selected this year as the school of
6 recognition for earning high scores for the past five
7 consecutive years on the WKCE state tests. Augusta
8 Elementary School has other elementary schools coming
9 to visit and observe the programs and practices that
10 Augusta has in place. Visiting schools have been so
11 impressed with the work that the staff members in
12 Augusta has done for the programs to the point that
13 they want to take them back to their respective schools
14 and implement them.

15 Augusta, through all their hard work, has gained a
16 great deal of respect throughout this area and state.
17 We are very proud of our schools. Wisconsin has open
18 enrollment, which means that parents can choose to live
19 in the Augusta School District and send their children
20 to another school district. Basically, a family in the
21 Augusta School District can send their children to
22 another school because of the health and safety of
23 their children or for other reasons.

24 The proposed High Country washing plant is just
25 over a quarter of a mile from the Augusta Schools. I

1 have already heard of one family that has stated that
2 if the proposed washing plant goes through, they will
3 move from this district. How many others will follow
4 suit?

5 For each one of the students that leave this
6 district, based on this year's state aid figures, it's
7 a loss, again, of \$6,552.68. First and foremost, we
8 lose their talents and contributions to this school and
9 community. Augusta has faced declining enrollment in
10 the past years and, again, has been working very hard
11 to turn this around.

12 Will sand mine operations reimburse this district
13 for loss of state aid or other revenue? What will sand
14 mines do if health issues arise in the future? Will
15 the mines have enough money to take care of those
16 health issues? Our children are our greatest
17 treasures. There is no price that can be put on their
18 health and safety. Thank you.

19 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Carol. We'll hear next
20 from Kim Stencel.

21 MS. STENCEL: You can pass these down. I'm
22 concerned not only about the health and the safety and
23 the amount of water used, just to name a few of the
24 issues that are associated with mining, but also
25 another issue that I call a side effect of the industry

1 and that is the increase of the high-voltage electrical
2 power lines that are now visible on Zank Road, Lange
3 Road, County Road M, and soon to be down County Road H.

4 These higher power voltage lines are unsightly,
5 which definitely has an impact on our natural beauty
6 and that provides unique landscape. And I would think
7 that the power lines would also have an affect on our
8 property values. And yet it is still not known the
9 effects of the stray voltage.

10 So far I have been approached by -- to sign two
11 easements from the electric company and one from the
12 proposed gas pipeline that, when approved, will ingress
13 100 feet into my property for 15 acres, which is 5,000
14 square feet. That land will no longer be able to be
15 used to grow trees, shrubs, flowers, used for
16 outbuildings. The land -- the owners of these lands
17 that this will affect need to be aware of that there is
18 possible chemical use that the company will use to
19 maintain the brush as well. They need to get that --
20 if they do not want the chemicals used, they have to
21 get that in separate writing. All of these chemicals,
22 then, will be sprayed along on the ingress of the land.
23 It will be sprayed in about a hundred feet into our
24 land for acres and for years and years to come.

25 It seems even though we have less input to say of

1 our use of property, we're still having to pay the
2 taxes on these properties every year. So far this will
3 affect 14 families in my area alone. And I am sure as
4 more and more mines are in operation, the numbers of
5 these families affected by the increase in utility
6 additions will rise as well. The property owners will
7 basically have to agree to the easements or have their
8 property acquired through the Eminent Domain law.

9 I'm also concerned as a township member that it
10 will be too late to consider any zoning issues as means
11 of protecting our homes, agricultural lands, and forest
12 lands, because, unfortunately, it's already slowly
13 being decided for us, when we see the transformation of
14 our landscape due to the industrial changes taking
15 place. To me it seems that entitling additional mines
16 impacts more people in a negative way, when it enriches
17 only a few. Bridge Creek residents are feeling that
18 considering more mining in the area is taking away
19 control over our own land.

20 Now, the question that faces the board of Bridge
21 Creek is, how many sand mines are enough, when don't we
22 have -- when we don't have the facts of the long-term
23 environmental and health effects from the existing
24 mines in the area? How much disturbance can our
25 ecosystem handle to keep our standard of clean water

1 and air now? And what about the sense of well-being?
2 Shouldn't our homes be a place of tranquility and our
3 environment a clean and healthy place to live? And at
4 what cost are we willing, as a community, to give these
5 things up? Thank you.

6 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Kim. We'll hear from
7 Terry O'Donahue next.

8 MR. O'DONAHUE: O'Donahue.

9 MR. MCCURDY: O'Donahue. Excuse me, sir.

10 MR. O'DONAHUE: There should be seven of them.
11 Most of my homework was done by my friends in CES, so
12 I'm just resaying. I wrote what I got here. Having
13 read High Country's traffic impact analysis, the TIA --
14 excuse me -- I have formed a number of questions. To
15 wit: One, the TIA did not address the haul route the
16 trucks carrying the wash sand would be using between
17 Augusta and Norma. The TIA only addressed the routes
18 from the mine on County Trunk Highway O to the wash
19 plant on County Trunk Highway R. And now we find out
20 maybe they're going to Hallie.

21 Number two, the TIA did not address the conflict
22 with a very real threat to pedestrian and horse-drawn
23 vehicular traffic along any county, state, or federal
24 highways that sand trucks may use. Many drivers may be
25 unaware of or indifferent to special dangers that large

1 trucks and heavy traffic pose to horse-drawn vehicles.
2 Will truckers respect such vehicles' right-of-way, is
3 the question that must be answered now?

4 In brief digressions, all of us who have lived
5 with the Amish neighbors for any length of time have
6 learned to respect and use caution around these
7 vehicles. A lot of these hot dog truckers are going to
8 be coming from Lord knows where. Never saw a
9 horse-drawn vehicle in their life. And unless they're
10 told, somehow, that they are a problem, a threat, to
11 such traffic, there's going to be some very nasty
12 conflicts.

13 Okay. The TIA -- number three, the TIA did not
14 consider the impact of such a large volume of heavy
15 trucks on residences and businesses also along County
16 Trunk Highway O or County Trunk Highway R, such as
17 Walters Buildings, Borntreger Lumbar, and the DFA
18 facility across from Borntreger's, and Lord knows how
19 many other residences.

20 Number four, perhaps this will be discussed in
21 some other section of the permitting process that
22 involves traffic, but the use of air horns around the
23 horse-drawn vehicles is too dangerous to imagine. And
24 the use of Jake brakes should be banned at any time on
25 county roads. Now, I know you can't ban Jake brakes on

1 county roads, but you should be able to ban them for
2 use in our township or at least around the projected
3 routes of these trucks. Not only would they bother
4 horse traffic, they're going to bother the kids in
5 school.

6 The language of the TIA -- and this is the big one
7 with me -- like most of the mining reports and permit
8 applications we've seen, is too ambiguous. Terms like
9 projected, planned, approximately, primarily, expected,
10 et cetera, so beloved by lawyers, allows the mines too
11 much wiggle room. The mine owners can slide out from
12 almost any reasonable restraints the town board or
13 county may impose. And I know one town board member
14 that almost got blown out of his chair by a
15 we-don't-plan-to-blast-it-this-time blast.

16 Okay. Until these questions have been fully
17 examined by the town board and fully unambiguously
18 answered by the mines and until the miners' lawyers
19 can, without obfuscation, use in any further
20 communications with the town board clear and precise
21 terms what the miners' intentions are, the town board
22 should not even consider this application.

23 Make no mistake. Silica sand used in the
24 hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas wells has produced
25 Wisconsin's gold rush. What motivates the miners is

1 fast, relatively easy, and huge profits. These people
2 are not from here, won't be permanent residents, and
3 have no stake or interest in what they destroy, and
4 destroy they will and have.

5 As suggested by the town board's own attorney, I
6 urge the board to somehow, through zoning if necessary,
7 get control of this situation before everything this
8 may -- that made this town a good place to live is
9 gone. Thank you.

10 MR. MCCURDY: Thanks, Terry. Vaughn Nagahashi?

11 MR. NAGAHASHI: I've got a quick little map I want
12 to have you see when I'm talking. I can turn it around
13 when I'm done. So we'll leave it up here so anybody
14 else can look at it later on.

15 MR. MCCURDY: Do you want to turn that so the
16 committee can see that, please?

17 MR. NAGAHASHI: Good evening. As a resident of
18 Bridge Creek, I am concerned that High Country's
19 proposal will, yet, be another addition to all the
20 other processing plants and mines that we currently
21 have or will possibly have in our area. I think it is
22 very important for all of us to start looking at the
23 big picture, which High Country will be a part of, of
24 what is happening around us and of all of western
25 Wisconsin.

1 Currently we have tonight's subject, High Country
2 Sand, applying for a permit to build a processing plant
3 in Bridge Creek with a mine already permitted in Otter
4 Creek.

5 Hi-Crush is operating a complete mining operation
6 in the city of Augusta and Bridge Creek, which includes
7 a mine, wash plant, dry plant, and loading station.
8 Five Star is operating an industrial frac sand mine in
9 Bridge Creek next to the Eau Claire River and
10 immediately to the north of the former unlined landfill
11 of the city of Augusta.

12 U.S. Silica has applied to the town of Fairchild
13 for a complete mining operation, which has the
14 potential to expand into Bridge Creek.

15 Badger State Mining is trying to come into the
16 town of Lincoln on Highway 12 and AF as a complete
17 mining operation and has also indicated that it may try
18 to build a resin coating plant for their sand. This
19 means use of chemicals.

20 Larchmont Mining Company has created an interest
21 in developing another wash plant in Garfield and
22 possible mine in either Garfield or Cleveland on the
23 south side of Highway 10 near the former Country Video
24 Store.

25 There is a potential reality that we, here in

1 Bridge Creek and Augusta, will be engulfed or
2 surrounded by mines and processing operations. And
3 these six that I've just mentioned are a small fraction
4 of the 150 plus mines and/or processing plants that are
5 currently in operation or in the application process in
6 western Wisconsin alone.

7 So a question I pose here tonight: Is it in the
8 best interest, well-being, or general welfare of our
9 citizens to allow a processing plant to operate just
10 west of Augusta on Highway 12? It says in or Bridge
11 Creek mining ordinance that the ordinance purpose is
12 to, and I quote, to protect public health and safety,
13 to preserve the scenic beauty of the town's landscapes
14 and environment, to protect the public from damage to
15 both the quantity and quality of ground and surface
16 waters, to minimize and prevent adverse impacts from
17 on-site and off-site operations, and to promote the
18 general welfare of the people and the communities
19 within the town of Bridge Creek.

20 I understand general welfare to mean in the best
21 interest of the well-being of the community as a whole.
22 To me it is the ability to continue the lifestyle that
23 we chose to live here for and having the option to
24 create a legacy for our children and ensure a future
25 for our community and our incredible landscape of

1 rolling hills, streams, farmlands, and forests. It is
2 those things that give us a sense of community, that
3 cannot be -- precisely be measured or assessed. These
4 intangibles, so to speak, which are so important to our
5 welfare, they must not be overlooked.

6 So here are my questions and concerns regarding
7 some of these intangibles as they relate to our general
8 welfare: Is it in our best interest to welcome
9 friends, visitors, or tourists to our community with
10 the sight of the continuous procession of trucks
11 leaving and returning to the plant via both County
12 Trunk Highways O and R and, also, State Highway 12, all
13 the way to the State -- State Highway 53 bypass? Are
14 we being good neighbors to the citizens of Fall Creek,
15 who will see a greatly increased number of trucks
16 making their way up and down the main street of their
17 village? Are we being good neighbors to the city of
18 Augusta, if we allow High Country to operate a plant so
19 close to our schools, a district whose school board has
20 already passed a resolution to not allow mining
21 operations within five miles?

22 It concerns me that people may not be willing to
23 continue to invest in Bridge Creek. Are they going to
24 want to continue to live in their homes or buy land and
25 build that dream home or add that pole barn or expand

1 or add businesses when we are surrounded by sand mining
2 operations, trucks, and trains transporting sand and
3 the myriad of potential problems and risks that come
4 with all of this?

5 I am also concerned about the conflict that the
6 mining issues are causing among friends, neighbors, and
7 even family members. The presence of mining operations
8 has caused a division in this community.

9 All of western Wisconsin is being exploited by the
10 demand for our sand. And as long as the mines are
11 doing whatever they can to get their way, most all of
12 us, at best, are viewed as collateral damage. What
13 will be left when they are gone in a relatively short
14 number of years, along with those relatively few jobs
15 and whatever temporary lump -- bump in the economy
16 there may have been for the community? What problems
17 will be left behind that we will have to deal with?
18 Will we see ghost towns like those that occurred in the
19 aftermath of metallic mining? And finally, I'm
20 concerned that our scenic rolling hills may all
21 disappear along with the water reserve that they hold
22 and that the quality of our landscape, vegetation, and
23 wild life may be changed forever.

24 When we consider the risk and concerns that we
25 have just heard from others and we still hear tonight,

1 specifically, regarding High Country's proposed plant,
2 one would think there is enough cause to say no to this
3 processing plant. Yet it's been said that it is almost
4 impossible to say no to mining operation permit
5 applications and that we are better off approving
6 mining permits and then try to regulate them through a
7 negotiating mining agreement between the town and
8 mining operations.

9 But how are we going to enforce such an agreement?
10 And do we have the time, expertise, money, and
11 personnel to keep watch over all these operations?
12 You, as the town board, should not be fearful of saying
13 no to any of these mining operations, if you feel you
14 have just cause to do so. Is the beauty of our
15 landscape and environment, along with the health,
16 safety, and general welfare of our citizens, being
17 threatened or at risk? If the answer is yes, then you
18 should say no to any further mines or processing
19 plants.

20 When we consider the cumulative effect that all
21 these mines, processing plants, trucks, and trains will
22 have on all of us here in western Wisconsin, we should
23 be asking ourselves when is enough enough? And when
24 will our towns be able to start saying no?

25 Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

1 MR. MCCURDY: Thanks, Vaughn. Wanda Hill?

2 MS. Hill: I'm Wanda Hill and I live north of
3 Augusta by the Five Star mines. So I would like to
4 think that I have kind of a (sic) idea of what it's
5 like living by one. And I just want to, tonight, urge
6 the board to please listen to the people, the
7 businesses around them.

8 Things aren't always what we're told in the
9 beginning. You know, we were -- we were told there
10 would be no noise, there would be no sand blowing,
11 there would be no stockpiling. And we are coming to
12 find that none of that is true. I hear constant
13 pounding in my house when they're working over there.
14 We're always going to the door thinking there's a truck
15 in our yard. There's stockpiling. The sand is blowing
16 across the road, which can't be safe for our children
17 and grandchildren playing out there. And they're not
18 -- they haven't even started hauling yet.

19 So I would like to, you know, make sure that the
20 board knows how everybody feels. And that we don't
21 want all of this around us. You know, we have to live
22 next to it. Nobody's compensating us. Nobody's
23 helping us. Nobody's listening to us, basically. You
24 know, you try to talk to the mine, they don't return
25 calls. And I urge you to make sure that when you are

1 dealing with them, to make sure that they listen to the
2 people that are there around them. And -- and just
3 consider how all of us feel in our day-to-day lives
4 that have to put up with it every day. So -- thank
5 you.

6 MR. MCCURDY: Thanks, Wanda. Debra Dickinsen?

7 MS. DICKINSEN: Hi. A lot of the issues that I
8 was going to address have already been addressed, but I
9 still do want to speak. And I want to speak about the
10 health issues and air quality. And this hits home for
11 me because I have a chronic pulmonary disease. I am
12 very careful with my health. And I do everything that
13 I can to maintain it. So certainly having a sand --
14 excuse me -- sand mine located across the road is of
15 great concern. And for those of you who don't know our
16 property is located on the north side of Highway 12 and
17 right before the school.

18 I thought Jan did an excellent job talking about
19 air quality, and she also mentioned the New Auburn
20 School, which is something I was going to bring up.
21 And I did a little research. And they have four miles
22 within -- or excuse me -- four mines within a few miles
23 of their school. And she's right. They did -- the
24 district was concerned, and they installed high quality
25 air filters to prevent the dust from entering their

1 vents. They also did send their filters to a lab in
2 Madison, and they did find silica, even though it's
3 small amounts. But in listening to the engineer
4 earlier tonight, it sounded like there was no risk of
5 silica dust. And if that's true, then I guess the
6 information that New Auburn found has to be incorrect.

7 I wonder, too, you know, we're able to protect our
8 children if they're in the school district, if we have
9 filters in our vents. But so often our children are
10 outside. And they're not here for three months out of
11 year, they're here, basically, 11 months of the year.
12 They can run the school into June and be back in school
13 by August.

14 Like New Auburn, with the -- excuse me -- sand
15 mines, Augusta would be very similar, except for we
16 have a sand mine or a wet plant going in within a half
17 of mile of our school, not a few miles but a half of
18 mile. And I don't know if there's any other school
19 district in the state that would -- has a similar
20 situation where the location would be that near.

21 The proposed site, if you haven't been out on
22 Highway 12, the land is all flat. There's not any
23 trees to block blowing sand. It is clear. And I
24 wonder, too, you know, how we'll deal with the dust and
25 the sand drifting to the school, because certainly dust

1 and sand will travel that far.

2 The mine feels that there must not be any health
3 risks because there's never been a case study done --
4 or excuse me -- the sand mine must feel that there
5 aren't any health risks. And out of -- a sand mine is
6 not willing to put forth the dollars to do a case study
7 that we could test our children to see, are there any
8 health issues five years from now or ten years from
9 now? And I think if a sand moves -- or a sand mine
10 moves that close to our area, we should have measures
11 set up to protect our children. I hope it's not going
12 to be that we have to wait 10 or 20 years for the state
13 to identify that there's an issue when we notice on our
14 death certificate that there's a high instance of
15 respiratory diseases in our area. The burden of proof
16 should fall on the sand mines, not on us as
17 individuals.

18 I wonder about the air monitors and if they would
19 be installed? And who would monitor those, and how
20 many air monitors would be installed?

21 I heard earlier that employees do wear personal
22 protective equipment, so if they're protecting our --
23 their own employees, why is it not necessary to protect
24 -- protect the general public? Not only do we know
25 that silica sand is dangerous for humans, but now,

1 they're also doing research and they're finding that
2 it's dangerous for live -- livestock. We know the cost
3 -- excuse me -- the health cost related to respiratory
4 illness. And -- and again, are the families
5 responsible for covering those costs?

6 I believe that we have rights. We have lived here
7 a many -- many of the residents in Bridge Creek for a
8 number of years. And now we have a mine that's coming
9 in. And who's protecting our rights?

10 I try to think of the benefits of a mine moving
11 into this area, but it really benefits very few. The
12 property, whoever -- excuse me -- the seller of the
13 property certainly benefits financially, and then maybe
14 a few jobs may be created and a few businesses may
15 profit. But is it encouraging people to move into our
16 town? Or do they enroll their kids into our schools?
17 Do they buy the homes? Do they participate in any
18 civic organizations? I don't think so. At least I
19 have not heard of any family moving in because of the
20 sand mines.

21 There are a few heros with the story, and the
22 heros are the landowners who have been approached to
23 sell their property for millions of dollars, and
24 they've refused. And I guess the overall thought -- or
25 my thought is: Is money worth more than our health?

1 Are we willing to gamble with the health of our
2 children, of our residents, and of ourselves?

3 I guess I certainly have concerns with my
4 respiratory disease. I certainly don't feel that if I
5 have to step foot out the door, that I have to put on a
6 respirator or some sort of a mask to protect myself. I
7 should be allowed the freedom of clean air. So thank
8 you.

9 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Debra. Carl Anton.

10 MR. ANTON: Thank you for the opportunity to speak
11 briefly. Many of the things that are of concern to me
12 have already been expressed. I don't intend to repeat
13 them, but I do have a thought regarding your process.
14 That is, there are a great many issues that need to be
15 considered as we see it and to just to collectively
16 think about them and vote would be a disservice. I'm
17 asking that you give us some real thought as to how you
18 might go about making sure that each of the issues have
19 been recognized as important to the extent that you
20 believe they are, to the extent that you believe the
21 facts are in front of you. And in the long-term,
22 whether you believe those issues would promote decision
23 for or against this.

24 I can see it very easily being done without
25 spending that much effort. And I've been, personally,

1 involved in these kinds of things in earlier life
2 elsewhere. I know what kind of time it takes, and it's
3 a great deal. So I would simply ask you that you think
4 about how you might go about doing that so that the
5 residents here will have an opportunity to have been
6 heard in a most meaningful fashion as opposed to -- to
7 a collectively yes or no on this rather quickly. I
8 can't imagine that you plan to do that, but I'm
9 certainly encouraging you to give that kind of thought
10 and consideration to each one.

11 Raise them up. Look at them. Do I have the
12 facts? Are we sure about those facts? How do they
13 weigh in? And then, collectively, how it affects us.
14 I don't want to be preaching in that sense, but it is
15 real important. It's easy to just jump to a final
16 decision without going through that process. So I ask
17 you to give that some thought. Thank you very much.

18 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Carl. Marian Smith?

19 MS. SMITH: As these people before me have said a
20 lot of the things I'm concerned about have already been
21 talked about. And I don't envy you people on the
22 board. I know you have a tough decision to make, and
23 you're going to be wrong no matter what you do, and
24 somebody's going to be angry.

25 But what I want to speak on is a more personal

1 note. Look at these people. I wonder how many of them
2 remember my parents. Anybody? I wonder how many
3 people who knew my children ever saw my parents at
4 their graduations, weddings? They weren't there. They
5 weren't there because my father died of prostate cancer
6 when he was 54 years old. My mother died of lymphoma
7 when she was 60 years old.

8 My father worked for the county or the city or
9 Bridge Creek or whatever spraying a chemical called 2,
10 4, 5-T, or something like that. The first chemical
11 banned. But at the time he was using this, he was told
12 it was perfectly safe. My mother washed his clothes in
13 an old wringer washer. Her hands were in it up to her
14 elbows. Can I prove that's what killed them? No. A
15 couple years ago I read a farm magazine that said the
16 two cancers that were linked to that chemical were
17 prostate cancer and lymphoma. It was safe. I haven't
18 had parents since 1976, and I don't want to see my
19 grandchildren wearing respirators, oxygen tanks.

20 I'd like a few more assurances that this is a safe
21 process. We're just a little ways from -- from the
22 schools. I have two grandchildren going to this
23 school. And I'm very concerned about their health
24 problems when they get into their midlife. Best time
25 of their life they have breathing problems because of

1 unknowns that -- that doctors and scientists are
2 telling us are not as safe as -- as we're told they
3 are.

4 And I guess everything else I wanted to say has
5 pretty much been touched on. But if a chemical company
6 came in here and said we want to build our chemical
7 factory here, but if there's a leak in this, half the
8 town would be in danger or maybe die from it, everyone
9 in this room would stand up and say, no, we don't want
10 it here. But we don't know what's going to happen
11 20 years down the road. Maybe all of us will be ill
12 from this.

13 And -- and I know there's good points to the sand
14 mines, but I just feel like something like that should
15 be taken out of town where someone who wants to work
16 there, has the choice of working there. But the rest
17 of us shouldn't have to be forced to breathe this
18 silica sand into our lungs. Thank you.

19 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Marian. Sarah Erdman.

20 MS. ERDMAN: Good evening, gentlemen. I am part
21 of the school board, Augusta School Board, and I'm here
22 tonight representing the school board. On November 12,
23 2012, a resolution was approved by the school district
24 of Augusta. Be it resolved that the board of education
25 for the School District of Augusta representing the

1 residents and/or parents of the children attending the
2 school district of Augusta oppose frac sand mining or
3 sand processing being located within five miles of the
4 school buildings. Thank you.

5 MR. MCCURDY: Thank, you Sarah. Jason Kirkhouser?
6 Is it Kirkhouse, or --

7 MR. KIRKHAM: Kirkham.

8 MR. MCCURDY: Kirkham. All right. Thank you.

9 MR. KIRKHAM: Everything here has, obviously, been
10 said. There's -- a lot of these people made very good
11 points. And -- but all I want to bring up to the
12 board, I guess, is to say, I have two daughters who are
13 in the school. And if you go right down the hall, it's
14 about three-tenths of a mile to where they're going to
15 be. That's all I got to say.

16 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Jason. Carolyn Jackson?

17 MS. JACKSON: Thank you. I'm a resident of the
18 town of Bridge Creek. But my main concern is what has
19 been brought up so far and that is our children. I
20 pick up a grandson at this school every day. And today
21 he said to me when I picked him up, my best friend is
22 planning to move with his family if the sand plant is
23 -- he didn't say proposed -- but if the new sand plant
24 goes in. And he said, I'm scared Nani -- he calls me
25 Nani-- I don't want to breathe in sand. And I said,

1 well, I would come to this meeting for him. And I
2 would hope that you vote no in order to protect all of
3 our children and grandchildren first and foremost.

4 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Carolyn. Herman
5 Borntreger.

6 MR. BORNTREGER: Well, I really don't have much to
7 say. Everything has been said. A concern has been my
8 -- in my backyard. You don't think much about it until
9 it's in your backyard. And we got children going up
10 and down the road. The school here, too. And I guess
11 everything went pretty much said. I just got a great
12 concern. And I don't envy you, Board. And thank you.

13 MR. MCCURDY: Thanks, Herman. Scott Billerbeck?

14 MR. BILLERBECK: My family owns the adjoining farm
15 next to this. I have a couple questions about it.
16 There's -- they've taken the land that's closest to the
17 line fence all the way around. And the runoff, if
18 you've been on that land -- we've owned it and farmed
19 it for better than 20 years -- there's 8,000 feet of
20 tile up that valley. There's right on the line fence
21 on the south end, there's one spring that feeds the
22 main tile line out of there.

23 From what I seen tonight, they're going to put a
24 sand pile right on top of that. How close they're
25 going to be allowed to be to that fence, I don't know.

1 But any runoff, while they're doing this grading and
2 they take topsoil off, is going to go onto the
3 neighboring property, not onto their own. The tapering
4 ground goes to the south, to the west. And then the
5 spring, if you drove down the land -- or down County M
6 when those heaviest rains were coming, you could see
7 what was going on, that they couldn't control it.

8 Another main concern that we have here, what
9 Carlsons do with their land is their business. We
10 don't want to tell them what to do with their land.
11 But you're proposing putting three ponds or lagoons on
12 some very low ground, with floodplains coming right
13 into it. And Eau Claire, how they're going -- how Eau
14 Claire County will allow them permits to put that in
15 there, I do not know. Eau Claire County will not allow
16 us permits to put a new foundation, new block in the
17 basement of our farmhouse about a quarter-mile from
18 this site. That's all I got to say.

19 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Scott. Mark Pranckus?

20 MR. PRANCKUS: Thank you, Board. I'm opposed to
21 this project. I'm -- just plain and simple. Real
22 simple reason why, I have a son, niece, nephew that
23 attend the school of Augusta. Their bus route is,
24 basically, the route from the Martinson mine to the
25 proposed project. So that's a critical issue for

1 myself and my wife.

2 I'm concerned about the long-term health effects
3 of siting this facility within a mile of the school. A
4 lot of those issues have already been brought up
5 tonight. I -- I -- I -- you know, we don't need to
6 revisit those. However, from the earlier presentation,
7 showing pictures of what that facility will look like,
8 saying, you know, this is a typical sand washing
9 facility, only reinforced my concern from the
10 standpoint of where the site is, again, less than one
11 mile from the Augusta school. The lack of environment
12 -- of engineering controls, open sand piles. Basically
13 talking about grading out the sand to having fine
14 material, a little bit larger material, basically
15 fugitive dust, and having that material being
16 transported downwind -- or the predominant of wind --
17 well, west wind into the city of Augusta and into the
18 school district.

19 I'm also concerned about siting the facility less
20 than 2,000 feet from Thompson Valley Creek which flows
21 into Bridge Creek, both are trout streams, class 1 and
22 class 2 -- or class 3 -- class 2 and class 3 trout
23 fisheries. Again, there is issues to -- of potential
24 groundwater use. I think the last two summers of 2012
25 and 2013 have illustrated how we need to be thinking

1 about planning for extremes with groundwater use.

2 And then I can see the point that has already been
3 brought up tonight and it's a very difficult issue for
4 the board is the fact that we talked about cumulative
5 impacts. And not only understanding this project but
6 then how this project plays into additional frac sand,
7 mining and frac sand processing operations within the
8 town and within the county of Eau Claire.

9 If a permit were to be issued for this project,
10 what I would like to see as required conditions to the
11 permit is: Number one, monitoring, a rigorous
12 monitoring program would be involved. In particular
13 with air monitoring, I would like to see an air
14 monitoring system be designed and implemented to
15 capture and identify the size particles that are
16 associated with silicosis. In particular, I would like
17 to see a standard of four micrometer or less. I would
18 like to see a station established at the site, at the
19 school, and then the appropriate controlled locations
20 to be able to collect rigorous data. I would like to
21 see proper storm water control in place at the site to
22 prevent a discharge of sediment to Thompson Valley
23 Creek.

24 And I think there was -- you know, there was a
25 mention about storm water permit already being issued

1 for this site. What I would like to see is that there
2 is -- that there is a plan for an extreme precipitation
3 event and stuff that has already been mentioned as far
4 as you can't just look at this site and say we're
5 taking all the water and we're addressing the water
6 that is here on this site. You have to put that site
7 in the context of the drainage coming through there.

8 And with all that sand and those ponds, if we were
9 to get large events, what if a spill were to the occur
10 or discharge downstream into the stream or onto the
11 adjacent property owners? What are the engineering
12 controls that can prevent or minimize that potential?

13 What I would like to see are any permit conditions
14 be binding and transferrable. For instance, there have
15 been cases in other counties where a permittee and the
16 town work hard to hammer out an agreement only to --
17 for the permittee to turn around and rip that up and
18 want to be annexed into the city. What I would want to
19 see is any -- all the hard work that the town is doing
20 now, make sure that that is binding and transferrable
21 to the city.

22 What I would also like to see is that the permit
23 is renewable on an annual or bi-annual basis. What
24 this allows is for the proposer to prove that they are
25 being a good neighbor. So once the ink is dry, they

1 can't do whatever they want. They have to, basically,
2 prove that it's a privilege to operate in the town of
3 Bridge Creek and not a right. This also allows the
4 town to adapt to the data that's been collected by the
5 monitoring, both air quality and water quality, and
6 also understand that the advancements and the knowledge
7 of the frac sanding mine -- mining industry become
8 known. Because that's something that's already been
9 talked about tonight is, you know, we don't know now
10 what we're going to know in 5, 10, 15 years as far as
11 the health and the environmental impacts of this type
12 of facility. So with that I thank you for the
13 opportunity to speak and good luck.

14 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Mark. Mark Wise?

15 MR. WISE: Hi, I'm Mark Wise. I live in the town
16 of Lincoln. I'm going to talk tonight about the
17 insurance, bonding, and financial security. And some
18 that -- it's kind of surprising to read the reclamation
19 code. In the code for financial security for a mine,
20 they're required to post a bond or other financial
21 instrument, which could be a letter of credit, for the
22 amount of recovery that the county determines is
23 adequate to reclaim the land.

24 However, in the provision, the -- the mining
25 company or the bonding company has the right to cancel

1 that bond or letter of credit with 90-day notice. So
2 -- and then it also says that if in 60 days, if they
3 don't replace that bond or letter of credit, then the
4 -- the county can shut that mine down. So in a
5 scenario with any factory it's the long-term effect and
6 pollution or whatever that might be there. So at the
7 end of the mine, a probability is 90 days before they
8 plan on shutting down, they could cancel their bond or
9 letter of credit, and then they don't issue it -- they
10 don't renew it.

11 So the county shuts the mine down. They're gone.
12 The county's only recourse is to take them to court to
13 recover the dollars. If there's no asset in that
14 company or if they're gone, it's the taxpayers of the
15 county that are going to pay for that.

16 And the issues we have as residents of the county,
17 we have a pollution exposure because they're going to
18 have ponds. We don't know what's in the ponds. So the
19 recovery and reclamation is a pollution liability to
20 the groundwater, to the creek, and, also, the cost to
21 move that dirt and put grass and seeds in. I think the
22 permit that -- or the bond -- actually, it's a letter
23 of credit that -- that High Country gave to the county.
24 I believe the amount that they agreed on is \$112,000.
25 So, basically, the county has agreed with the -- I

1 think the Otter Creek property, that it's only going to
2 be \$112,000.00 to reclaim that property. But if
3 there's pollution from diesel spill or from wash spill
4 or whatever, that's all you have. And \$110,000 isn't
5 very much. They're spending a million dollars to
6 remodel the Wendy's in Eau Claire. So -- so -- so I
7 guess my point is -- is there is no financial
8 responsibility -- or actually the financial
9 responsibility is all of us, Eau Claire County
10 residents, to the pay to reclaim that the way the
11 ordinance is. And that's interesting.

12 The other thing is, is a bond is a guarantee. And
13 it's a guarantee that somebody will perform. This is
14 the only bond in the world that's cancelable by the
15 person giving the bond. When you guys build the
16 school, you require a performance bond from the
17 contractor. He gives the bond. The only person that
18 can release that bonding company is the school. And
19 it's interesting -- so, basically, the bond or
20 financial security that's required by the county is of
21 no value if the mining company wants to take off.

22 Insurance, this -- I'm an insurance agent.
23 Silicosis is to the insurance companies right now the
24 same as asbestos was. The only difference is, is
25 30 years ago when there was asbestos, every company

1 that had produced it had an insurance policy. And
2 every year that -- if a different company insured that
3 company, every year they had those policy limits. So
4 one company might have had ten company policy limits on
5 that because they had coverage for asbestos.

6 Every policy, today, written that has -- anybody
7 touches sand, has a silica -- silica exclusion in it.
8 So even if you guys require an insurance policy of
9 which the county says you have to have a hundred
10 thousand limits, that's it for this kind of exposure.
11 The state requires \$5 million if you're going to put a
12 grocery store in the Davies Center of the university.
13 So all the county requires is a hundred thousand. But
14 all they require is a certificate. They don't require
15 pollution liability or coverage for silica liability,
16 which is excluded under a policy. So I can give you an
17 insurance policy of a hundred thousand but, really, for
18 this exposure, there's no coverage. So if -- in order
19 for the county to protect themselves or you, Board, you
20 have to require that there's pollution liability on
21 that policy and there's coverage -- or there's no
22 exclusion for silica. And then have you to require a
23 bond that's non-cancelable.

24 And the bond -- what a bond is, it's a guarantee
25 that the contractor will perform. The advantage of a

1 bond is the bonding company will get the financial
2 statement from the company, and they won't give a bond
3 unless there's assets there. So a bond is the same
4 thing going to the bank. You have to have something or
5 the bankers don't look at it. You will not see -- or
6 the county will not see the financial statement of
7 these companies because they're private. So by
8 requiring a bond, you have assurance. But the thing
9 is, the bond should be -- should cover their entire
10 contract, the work to perform, the lack of noise, they
11 don't follow the ordinance. Then all you got to do is
12 call the bonding company and say, they aren't doing it.

13 The problem we have as small people in this
14 county, how are we going to sue a big company? These
15 guys sued the county before they even got in the
16 business, you know. And so the thing is, they're going
17 to sue you in a minute, you as the town of Bridge
18 Creek, the town of Lincoln, or the county don't have
19 the resources to come up with this defense and -- so
20 that's all I have to say. Thank you.

21 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Mark. How do you
22 pronounce her last name? Jennifer Bichanich?

23 MS. BICHANICH: No.

24 MR. MCCURDY: I'm sorry.

25 MS. BICHANICH: It's Jennifer Linse Bichanich.

1 It's originally Linse. Hi, I'm Jennifer Linse, most of
2 you know me as, of recently Bichanich. And I am not a
3 member of the town of Bridge Creek. I do live in the
4 town of Lincoln. However, I feel like we're up in both
5 communities of Fall Creek and Augusta. I've walked the
6 halls of this school, too. And I've left the community
7 twice, once for school in Milwaukee and another time
8 for a job in Minneapolis. But my heart keeps calling
9 me back to this area.

10 It's the fresh air, the green hills, and the cows
11 and my family and friends. And I once again live just
12 a quarter of a mile from where I grew up. I come to
13 Augusta probably two, three times a week, and I spend
14 my money here. I go to the hardware store, the grocery
15 store, the drive-in, The Wood Shed, the vet clinic.
16 And I have to ask myself, would I want to keep driving
17 into Augusta if there is that truck traffic going
18 through? If I had children, would I send them to
19 Augusta? I believe it's a great school system. I'm
20 very proud of the education I got here, but that is
21 something that I would have to take into consideration.

22 My question here tonight for the board and for
23 High Country is one that I heard recently at a meeting
24 at the town of Lincoln. A young woman who recently
25 built a house with her husband near where a proposed

1 processing plant is in the town of Lincoln. They
2 closed on their house in December. And it was their
3 dream to build this house. And she said, what is the
4 benefit to this community to have a processing plant?
5 And I ask that here, too, in Augusta. What is the
6 benefit?

7 Now, when you ask the sand companies, what are
8 they going to bring to us? You'll hear energy
9 independence, which is questionable if you look at our
10 gas prices. And we know that a lot of our fuel is
11 being exported overseas. The other answer that they
12 give you is job creation. Tonight's -- Gary, when you
13 were showing the pictures, he showed how everything
14 would work. And he said, you'd see a front-end loader
15 and a dump truck. That's two jobs. Now, I would like
16 to know what other jobs would be created, what are the
17 skills needed for those jobs, and what are the salaries
18 of those jobs?

19 I heard a person who works for the mines say that
20 -- for a different mine say that the mines are safe.
21 They bring in people with years and years of experience
22 in mining. Like I said, I grew up in this area. I
23 don't know anybody in Fall Creek or Augusta that has
24 mining experience. So if there are experts being
25 brought in, those aren't local jobs. So I believe,

1 Town Board, that you need to require that High Country
2 Sand or any other company coming in give you a list of
3 the jobs that will be created, along with the skill set
4 needed, and the salaries that they will be making. And
5 in any business or even in our own personal finances,
6 when we make a decision, we have to weigh the costs
7 versus the benefits. We've heard about a lot of the
8 costs tonight, from the health issues, the water, the
9 air. The benefits we've heard so far, two employees.
10 So we need to find out who are those other employees
11 going to be, how many -- how much they can be making,
12 and where are they from? Thank you.

13 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Jennifer. Christopher
14 Scoville?

15 MR. SCOVILLE: Good evening. I'm here today
16 because I share concerns of those who came here to
17 express their worry over the chemicals that can be used
18 in the mining industry. Now, I'm not well versed in
19 how this process is and I'm glad that I got to hear
20 more about how it works and see some graphics here on
21 the screen, but there are thousands -- tens of
22 thousands of chemicals used in commerce today.
23 Literally thousands in the mining industry alone. What
24 are these polymers that they propose to use in the
25 water to clean the sand?

1 And it's not just chemicals that concerns me or
2 pollution, but, also, the fact with the 2014 budget,
3 there were massive cuts for the EPA or the
4 Environmental Protection Agency. One-third -- oh, I'm
5 sorry. There will be one-third fewer inspections this
6 year than last year. The EPA, themselves, have
7 admitted this.

8 Now, I know there is a great deal of political
9 activity in our country, turmoil, debate, budgeting is
10 important. We have to ask ourselves, now with a boom
11 in both fracking and as a consequence, silica sand,
12 what does that entail? What does it mean when we have
13 fewer inspections, and, also, fewer prosecutions, by
14 the way, because that is another area by the EPA that
15 has been slashed when it comes to funding.

16 These are what I would like to see High Country
17 Sand give us. Full disclosure of all chemicals
18 substances, if any, used in the mine. And anything
19 they happen to know about chemicals as far as -- as far
20 as long-term effects on the human body, cognitive
21 development overall in the living person or any living
22 thing in the biosphere. Because if these things are
23 unknown, ladies and gentlemen, this is something that
24 is very dangerous.

25 Now, there's a connection between, as I mentioned,

1 silica sand and the fracking industry. With this boom
2 comes the next boom. Now, easy money, we're all
3 familiar with what it is, what it means. I'm not
4 saying that energy independence isn't important in the
5 world today and that all the fuels are in danger, I
6 agree with that. And I'll fight my whole life long to
7 make sure that we embrace the future of energy that
8 doesn't involve risking our environment.

9 I would ask, also, that there will be commitment
10 from this and all of the other areas, mining companies,
11 to not sell their sand for fracking purposes. I invite
12 you all here on the board and everyone here that
13 attends today to look up on-line at home or at their
14 local library and learn more about the dangers of the
15 fracking industry.

16 Do you want our resources -- when I say that, I
17 mean the resources beneath our feet -- to be used in
18 the pollution of other people's water? And I refer, of
19 course, to the Eastern Seaboard of the United States,
20 that they're already seeing the toll that's being taken
21 from the fracking industry. They're making cuts to the
22 EPA to go after the biggest problems or the biggest
23 polluters. But this is rural America, rural America.
24 The big polluters may be missed here more than anywhere
25 else.

1 The comparable thing for us to do, now, is to pick
2 up where the government left off and keep a close eye
3 on any pollutant prone businesses that might risk the
4 quality of our land and water or someone else's in
5 pursuit of profit.

6 This is not the only way. This is not the only
7 way to provide energy for our people of our nation.
8 The clean energy industry is booming also and has a
9 great deal of potential. Why? The country of Denmark
10 last year, of around 10 million inhabitants, provided
11 one-third of its energy last year from wind power
12 alone. That's wind power alone. Germany has much less
13 sunshine on average -- you can look at research of the
14 sunshine on-line -- than in every state of our union,
15 except for Alaska. Yet they produce more renewable
16 power than any nation in the world. Do we fancy
17 ourselves as being technologically advanced in the
18 world? Now, Denmark, I mentioned that, and Germany,
19 who, by the way, by 2050 propose they have plans to be
20 100 percent fueled by renewable energy, that means not
21 fossil fuels or coal. Finally, Ontario is the first
22 territory in North America to formulate a real plan
23 that they're putting into practice as we speak and
24 getting off of coal energy, all coal energy. Again,
25 the first in North America to do this.

1 I hope that you all find inspiration in this
2 information that I share with you today, if you didn't
3 already know. Thank you for hearing me out. Take
4 care.

5 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Christopher. Joanne
6 Vest?

7 MS. VEST: I'm also opposed. I'm going to decline
8 because I'm not going to repeat.

9 MR. MCCURDY: Okay. Thank you very much, Joanne.
10 That is the last individual who signed up to speak this
11 evening. Is there anybody else who wanted to speak,
12 want to fill out a form and speak? There were some 23
13 or 24 -- excuse me?

14 MS. WOODWARD: Excuse me. I would like to say
15 something. I came up here from Florida because of the
16 traffic and the people. It's terrible down there in
17 Florida. I came up here for this land of freedom and
18 fresh air. And I go up on the hill and see a thousand
19 of cattle that all belong to the Lord. And I says,
20 you're taking that away from us for these darn sand
21 mines. It stings. And it's just awful. I might even
22 go back to Florida.

23 MR. MCCURDY: Excuse me. Excuse me. Excuse me.
24 Can I have your name, please?

25 MS. WOODWARD: Pardon?

1 MR. MCCURDY: Ma'am, what is your name, please?

2 MS. WOODWARD: Phyllis Woodward.

3 MR. MCCURDY: Cathy TePaske?

4 MS. TEPASKE: I guess one thing that I didn't hear
5 people ask about is training. And when we bought the
6 root beer stand, nobody gave us a packet on what we
7 needed to open a business. We both had a lot of
8 experience. My question is, is what experiences do
9 these folks have? How do we know that they're not
10 going to make mistakes? I don't know that you can go
11 to like a frac seminar and, you know, how to put up a
12 wet sand mine. So I guess I would like to know what
13 they've done in preparation for this. That's all.

14 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Cathy. Josiah Will?

15 MR. WILL: So I'm only 20 years old. And I
16 thought of myself as very well-spoken and very well
17 educated in what I thought I know, just like every
18 typical young punk, I guess, you know. But I found out
19 today that I am so wonderfully and beautifully stupid,
20 you know, and ignorant to what's going on. Now, I went
21 to high school here. I graduated from here. I got my
22 diploma from here, and I'm very proud and very lucky
23 that I came from here. Because the education from here
24 works, you know. I mean it has a little bugs in it,
25 just like anything. But if you ask me it's better than

1 Fall Creek. You know, that's my own personal opinion.
2 You know, hit me later. But I really do love it here.
3 And my concern is just a personal one, is that if
4 this mine gets this close to the community, am I going
5 to stay here? And I would -- I would like to stay in
6 the area. I love it. I'm one of those kids that runs
7 around in the woods -- and, you know. And I just love
8 the environment here. But I got to ask myself, too, if
9 I choose to stay here, am I going to be able to see my
10 kids off to school here? Is there going to be a school
11 here? Am I going to live long enough, you know? Are
12 my kids going to be able to play football here, you
13 know, and play basketball here, do all kinds of things?
14 You know, if I have a son or if I have daughter, you
15 know, is she going to be able to walk to her prom and
16 maybe intimidate that young boy, you know, put the fear
17 of God in him and everything? But, you know, it's just
18 those simple personal matters. Because if I try to
19 bring any other kinds of points, they've already been
20 -- it would just be me reiterating stuff.

21 So that's my only questions to you, High Country,
22 is we just want more information. And for the public,
23 I want more education for, you know, our young
24 students, those in the high school, those with their
25 minds still fresh. So I want them to one day be -- get

1 20 years old and not like me who is ignorant and has
2 all these questions and all of this information in
3 front of me, but no real -- or didn't have, you know,
4 any kind of ambition to learn because I didn't think it
5 would affect me this much, you know. So that's really
6 all I have to say. Thank you.

7 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Josiah. Dave Stevens?

8 MR. STEELE: Steele.

9 MR. MCCURDY: Sorry.

10 MR. STEELE: I'm not going to speak for or against
11 the mining because I thought I'd like to tell you what
12 it's like --

13 MR. MCCURDY: Dave, could you come to the
14 microphone so we can all hear you?

15 MR. STEELE: I thought I'd like to tell you what
16 it's like to lose your breath. I was a swimmer. I was
17 a lifeguard for ten years, spent five years in the
18 service, and I had a pretty good life. I'm 79 years
19 old now. A year ago I suddenly noticed that I was not
20 able to do things that I had no problem doing.
21 Usually, I'd walk a mile in the morning. And I began
22 to find that it wasn't too much trouble to walk that
23 mile. The hard part was the first 30 feet to the
24 house, to the garage, to the road, which was an incline
25 that I -- I couldn't negotiate without stopping and

1 without breathing because it was difficult.

2 I have a 30 percent loss of lung capacity. I was
3 an actor. I have been in about ten plays. I will
4 never be able to do that again because I can't carry a
5 sentence or a paragraph without stopping. I was not a
6 very good singer. But I can't -- I can't do that. As
7 I get stressed it becomes more and more difficult to --
8 to breathe. And two weeks ago my family was home and
9 we usually go out on the land cross-country skiing or
10 snowshoeing. I got to stay home.

11 The doctors say it won't get better. They'll give
12 me an inhaler or -- which I don't have in my pocket
13 now -- but it doesn't do any good. I think you
14 probably seen the commercial for Advair. Advair costs
15 \$250. And I use one of those a month. It will get
16 worse. Eventually, I'll get -- probably have to carry
17 an oxygen tank. And I'll have to worry about that. I
18 wouldn't wish it on anybody. And I sure as hell would
19 not voluntarily submit anyone to it, and I know that
20 there is isn't -- or it's hard to believe there would
21 be a mining company that would do that, either,
22 intentionally.

23 And I'm in the Lion's Club, and we've toured the
24 mine out on the south end of town and met some of these
25 guys, and they're wonderful people. I don't know if

1 they know what it's like to be like me. Sand didn't
2 cause my loss. In fact, I'm not even sure what did.
3 Anybody that would like it, it would be fun to give it
4 to you right now. And I would just say you're
5 subjecting yourself or your family or your kids to it,
6 even if there's a remote possibility, just remember
7 what I told you.

8 And the other thing that concerns me, I'm a
9 retired attorney and professor. And I'm just abhorred
10 by the treatment the legislator -- legislation is
11 giving to these guys and your ability to run Bridge
12 Creek. Don't kid yourself. They stop the mines, the
13 legislature will stop them. I don't know if there's a
14 legislature in the crowd. Is there one? Is there
15 anybody that cares enough to be here to listen to you?
16 Anybody running for office? You're on your own, folks.

17 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you, Mr. Steele. There are no
18 other residents or citizens who have signed up to speak
19 this evening. And I do see a wave somewhere.

20 MS. WISE: Karen Wise. I just have one quick
21 question. I would -- I would just like to see a list
22 of how we benefit. I just don't get it. It just
23 doesn't make any sense to me. Why would we want to do
24 anything like this and subject our community, our
25 people, our environment, our future? We're taking --

1 we're stealing so much from our grandchildren. We're
2 stealing stuff that won't be there. They'll never see
3 hills. I just don't get it. What we, in the town of
4 Lincoln and Eau Claire County, what are we going to
5 gain? I would like to know, so if -- if a mine comes
6 in, oh, yeah, we've got all these great things. A big
7 something that -- that's going to produce green energy,
8 a bunch of solar panels and wind -- and wind
9 generators. Okay. Now, we're having some power that's
10 going to be green. It's going to be good stuff. But I
11 don't go get it.

12 And I guess I'm thinking as somebody who lives in
13 the community, I need to know what it is we're gaining.
14 I know what some few people are gaining. And why we
15 just can't say no to them? I mean why do we have to
16 live with it? So if that could be given to us, I
17 appreciate it. Thank you.

18 MR. MCCURDY: Thank you. Last speaker.

19 THE WITNESS: My name is Laurie Silicon (sp.).
20 I'm a landowner in Augusta. And on the way out here on
21 the radio on Democracy Now which comes out of Eau
22 Claire, I heard an announcement that the Chevron or
23 Chevron, I don't know which, in Pennsylvania had an
24 explosion in the fracking operations. And it's all
25 part of these big machines that we don't have a handle

1 on. And I just think we need to think twice and not
2 look at dollar signs only.

3 MR. MCCURDY: That closes the public comment
4 portion of the this evening's meeting. Just so you're
5 aware, I think we had something on the order of 25 to
6 26 speakers. I don't have an accurate tally because of
7 the few that were added on the end, none of them for.
8 And there's also some 20 that registered but did not
9 wish to speak that also registered against. So they
10 all -- and we have a transcriptionist here. All of the
11 record is public record. It will be transcribed and
12 provided back to the county or to the town board, here,
13 in an appropriate time when she can get it transcribed.
14 And I know that can take some time. So -- Mr. Chair?

15 MR. GERIKE: At this time I'm going to call for a
16 motion to close the hearing.

17 MR. NORHEIM: I motion.

18 MR. WEISS: Second.

19 MR. GERIKE: Motion by Lynn. Second by Steve.

20 All in favor, say aye.

21 TOWN BOARD: Aye.

22 MR. GERIKE: Opposed? Motion carries. Thank you
23 for coming.

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(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned
at 9:05 p.m.)

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