



Bryan Zednik

6222 NW Puckett Rd, Prineville OR 97754

Subject: Vanier/Knife River record number 217-21-000436-PLNG

CROOK COUNTY
NOV 09 2021
PLANNING DEPT

To whom it concerns,

I would like to thank the committee in advance for hearing my testimony and ask that you seriously consider opposing the proposed mining operation.

My name is Bryan Zednik. My wife Brenda and I live at 6222 NW Puckett Rd, Prineville OR. My home is about 1,500 feet north of the existing Woodward mining operation. I am a local full-time farmer and have several long-term lease agreements on area farm ground. One of which is the "Davis property" that is adjacent to the north boundary of the proposed "Vanier" mine. At the risk of sounding redundant and repeating testimony, I will only point out some key issues from other testimony in opposition to this proposed mine that I agree with as well as some of my own concerns.

- The creation of earth dams after reclamation. The projected mining depth is 35' with a 50' aquifer running to the Northwest. Below is 180' of clay which water will not permeate through. If you remove the filter, AKA the sand and gravel from the top 35' and reclaim the pit with clay and dirt while compacting it, you lose your permeability and create an earth dam diverting the aquifer another direction. Knife Rivers own people acknowledge this in testimony (Exhibit 26, paragraph 2, section D). In the former cut you will end up with a shallow water table hindering the farmability of that piece of ground by creating a "bog" and rendering it too expensive to restore to its former condition leaving room for noxious weed growth and an eyesore on our community. After attending the site tour, we've learned the reclaimed ground will be in the form of a bowl allowing rainwater no exit from the property. We have springs on the Davis property that contribute to our stock and irrigation water. I fear this will be permanently lost.
- Considering all the additional ground that will be opened up in order to build haul roads and deflective berms coupled with 10 acres of open and reclaimed mining, I am not convinced Knife River can or will keep up with the dust mitigation based on their previous poor performance. With prior drought years as well as potential future drought years, it's possible they won't have access to irrigation water to do so even if they wanted. This false commitment of having 5 acres open while reclaiming another 5 acres is deceiving. Referring to (Knife River exhibit 45, map #2) which states 37 acres will be replanted by the first week of November 2021. After 6 years operating, they still cannot get the reclamation right. 37 acres yet to be reclaimed...really?
- As we all know, 90% of the mined material will be trucked to Deschutes County for use in Deschutes County, contradicting the statement in the staff report (page 11) suggesting "Negative energy impacts may occur only if aggregate is mined from the area for transport out of the county, which is unlikely because of the distances involved."
- Excessive noise reflecting off south berms along Stahancyk Rd resonate to the north echoing radio traffic and machinery noise towards hundreds of residential owners, regardless of the 500' impact area.
- Negative economic consequences could occur for residential property owners due to a drop in property values due to the location of the mining operation.
- Negative social impact includes a reduction in the rural quality of life for the adjacent residents.

- Excess water from opened cut may be pumped into the nearby drainage thereby contaminating the water.
- Adjacent property owners are concerned about the impacts of dust on their crops causing reduced yields and reduction in quality and income (Goal 3, page 13 Knife River Comp Plan Burden of Proof).
- The landowner will benefit from the mining of aggregate resources sure, but Crook County and residents near the mine will not. **Reminder: current property owner Vanier lives in Grant County. His livability will not be affected.**
- I certainly recognize the need for aggregate, but this isn't the right location for a mine. The small size and proximity to neighbors along with potential long term irreversible effects on soil and water quality in my opinion are negatives. These negatives far outweigh the benefit of the product. During the site tour of the Butler pit, it was obvious a location like that was much more suitable. Although I do question the soil quality post mining. On the trip I heard comments like "wow, I would have never guessed there was a mine here." That's the reaction you would want from the community. Never knowing it's there. Finding that perfect location is easier said than done I know, but I feel Knife River is trying to push the "easy button" here. At the very least, this site if allowed needs to remain in a 3B status.

Regardless of the Knife River testimony stating water, air, noise pollution, and all-around livability will be minimally affected, this is not for them or their hired analysts to decide. They all get to go back to their homes in another city, in another county and in some cases another state not having to live next to a mine or be at risk of future mines popping up all around them. This is our community and our local government. I'm here to tell you after living within 1,500' of an open pit mine for the past 6 years, livability and all the above are certainly negatively affected. Again, it doesn't stop at the 500' impact area.

Thank you again for this opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Bryan Zednik