

Hannah Elliott

From: Monique Davis <ochocofarms@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 3:30 PM
To: Plan
Subject: Knife river mine
Attachments: Draft letter to Planning commission.docx



CROOK COUNTY
MAR 02 2022
PLANNING DEPT

Attached is our letter concerning the mine.

Thank you,

Monnique

Crook County Planning Commission

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Thank you for reopening the comments. Since the previous hearing we have received much more information.

Our property borders the proposed mining operation in its entirety to the north. We also have a residence about 245 ft from the proposed mine.

There is and always has been springs, pond and creek on our property that extends $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance of the property east to west just north of the mine.

Our original concern was the loss of the springs and the ability to water livestock and less water for irrigation. That is still a concern as when Knife River dewateres the pit and puts the water into the recharge ditch, where is it going to go? Will it return to our property or be rerouted past our boundaries? We don't know. We don't believe Knife River knows. Knife River Exhibit 26 states "There may be local changes in flow path" and "groundwater flow direction may change". How can they "guarantee" that the quality and quantity will be the same as prior to mining? How does the county write a CUP to guarantee us that we will have the ground water as we have historically had it?

Knife River is using "earthen dams" around the mining cells to divert the water so as to not flood the cell. Where is it being diverted too? The Vanier's purchased the property from us several years ago. Prior to that, the Davis Family farmed it for many years. For many of those years the ground was in Mint. We didn't have problems with the ground water levels raising peppermint and we watered a month and a half to two months longer than Mr. Zimmerlee watered his Triticale last year. We never had issues with getting our equipment stuck due to soggy ground. Now Mr. Zimmerlee is having issues getting stuck farming Triticale. This would indicate that the soggy ground is not due to irrigation practices and it certainly can't be said that we have been having above normal precipitation for the last couple of years. Could the earthen dams be diverting and slowing down the flow of water and causing the water table to rise? The only thing that has changed is the mining.

Also of a concern with the higher water table is the drain field at the residence on our property. With the earthen dam proposed on the north and east side for the Area 1 mining cell, to help curtain the inflow of water into the cell, what happens if the water table continues to rise and the drain field becomes saturated? Not only will the groundwater become contaminated but we would not have the ability to put in a new system as the high-water table would not allow a new drain field. Rendering the residence un-livable. The burden of proof is on us and how does the County write a CUP to address this or even worse the possible contamination of the ground water that Knife River can't fix?

Knife River applied for and received the permits to drill four new wells with the permit allowing them to draw up to approximately 500 gal/min per day, 52 weeks a year. That's enough water to irrigate an 80 acre field for an entire season with 3 acre ft of water. That's a lot of water. Knife River, by this permit could use up to 390,000,000 gal of water in the next five years. We find it hard to imagine that this draw down of the aquifer is not going to affect the surrounding wells. Our neighbors rely on wells for

their livelihood and homes. KRC offers a “ground water guarantee” but if wells go dry or need to be deepened the burden of proof will be on us, the Crook County Citizen.

Too much water and losing our water seem like conflicting scenarios but we don't know which way this could go, and we believe Knife River doesn't know either. There are a lot of unanswerable questions. They are a multibillion-dollar company, we don't believe they actually care about the damages other than how much money it will cost them.

Dean and Monique Davis