

Would you enjoy being awakened six days a week by a gravel truck flying down the road, and the machinery working all day long? I sure wouldn't. My name is [REDACTED], a 14 year old Metamora resident. I have lived here all of my life, and that is why I am determined to prevent the previous scenario I mentioned earlier from happening. A new gravel pit is planning on locating at the D-Bar-A Boy Scout Camp on Sutton Road. There are many economic, biological, and health reasons why we as a community need to stand up and fight against this gravel pit.

The addition of this aggregate pit is destined to be an economic disaster for the residents and businesses of Metamora. More traffic, heavy trucks, and rapidly worsening roads will be a direct impact of this gravel pit. Property values will also have the potential to plummet. The noise, health risks, and traffic alone are enough to drive people out; let alone the loss of land and aesthetic values. By decreasing property values, fewer residents, and more vacancy will be created. Businesses could also be affected negatively due to the depopulation, potential influx of heavy machinery traffic, and air pollution.

Adding this gravel pit will create a loss of existing wildlife and biodiversity. The constant noise and commotion will cause animals to have to relocate. The deforestation will create a loss of habitat. This could mean the loss of habitat for endangered or threatened animals. In Lapeer county the three animals that could be affected are: the Indiana bat, endangered; the Northern long-eared bat, threatened; and the Eastern massasagua, proposed as threatened. The pollution could also cause diseases in animals due to contamination of food or water sources.

There are many health risks that can be caused by the addition of an aggregate pit. These health risks are caused by particle pollution exposure and include: decreased lung function, development of chronic bronchitis, increased respiratory symptoms, heartbeat irregularities and heart attacks. Another huge risk is the possibility of water impairment to nearby residential wells. This includes an increase in turbidity from sediments and could have other contaminants such as oil spills or any leaks from the vehicles. Not to mention the already existing superfund that is located less than 4.6 miles away with documented groundwater contamination. The location of the gravel pit is close enough to the homes of Metamora residents that it will affect many people. Particle pollution cannot be fixed or eliminated until the gravel pit is no longer operational.

Some people might say that the addition of this pit could help the environment by creating wetland habitats once it is out of use, but it will cause more destruction than it can create. This gravel pit will be in use for many years and by the time it is retired, the entire area will be too far gone to come back to its full potential in a reasonable amount of time.

By adding this gravel pit many problems are being caused, such as the economic, biological, and overall health issues. So, I urge you to join me at the Metamora Township Board Meeting at the township hall on ~~January 14, 2016~~ to help fight against gravel pits in the town that so many call home.

TBD

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature and address]

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"Dangers of Gravel Pit Dust Explored - Homeopathy." - *Castanet.net*. Web. 7 Dec. 2015. <<http://www.castanet.net/news/Homeopathy/37167/Dangers-of-gravel-pit-dust-explored>>.

"1. Impacts of Sand Mining." Web. 7 Dec. 2015. <http://threeissues.sdsu.edu/three_issues_sandminingfacts01.html>.