



Public Open House  
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Washington County Public Works  
11660 Myron Road North  
Stillwater, MN 55082



# Public Open House

## Open House Details

### Event Information

**When:** Thursday, January 9  
5:00—6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Washington County  
Public Works  
11660 Myron Road N  
Stillwater, MN 55082

In January 2020, Miller Excavating, Operator, along with property owners Michael and John Raleigh, will submit a 5-year conditional use permit application to Stillwater Township and Washington County, for the continuation of mining at the Miller Pit M-5 located at 15250 100th Street North – Stillwater, MN 55082.

Prior to the submission of this permit application, the County and Township are hosting an open house to provide the public with information on proposed mining operations, including hours of operation and planned truck haul routes. Community input will be used to guide the issuance of this permit. Representatives from the County, Township and Miller Excavating will be on hand to answer questions and receive feedback. If you are unable to attend the open house and have any questions or concerns, please email Washington County at [publicworks@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:publicworks@co.washington.mn.us).



# Fact Sheet

## M5 PIT and M4 PIT (Formally Raleigh Trucking INC)

- Miller Excavating has a legal right to operate the mine under the terms of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) -The property is owned by Michael S. and John T. Raleigh and MSR Land Co. LLC. Permits for this operation have been issued since 1992 - The CUP runs with the land
- Mining (extraction of sand and gravel) has been conducted on this property for approximately 65 years
- Mineral resources are an important resource - The Washington County Comprehensive Plan 2040 acknowledges that mining is an important industry - Washington County regulates nine mining operations
- Material from this operation contributes to the economic viability of development in the region
- Stillwater Township issues an Annual Operating Permit (AOP)
- Every 5 years, and **THIS YEAR - IN 2020**, Stillwater Township and Washington County will evaluate the operation, truck routes and public input as part of the permitting process
- For this operation, permits are issued by both Stillwater Township and Washington County - The schedule for township and county review of an application will be this winter once completed applications have been submitted
- All County roads are designated truck routes and are capable of carrying legal weights of the truck traffic
- Recycling (bituminous and concrete) is allowed on this property - no hazardous waste is allowed to be brought to the site

# Comments from the Open House

## Comment 1

Lots of increased truck noise over past year or so - banging of tailgates especially.

## Comment 2

Hello,

I am unable to attend tonight's open house meeting regarding Miller Excavating. I am very affected by this operation as I live on 97th street and the activity is right behind my house.

Is there a way someone can inform me about the meeting. I would appreciate it. As my previous commitment couldn't be cancelled.

Thank You

## Comment 3

Traffic needs to be addressed, as I see a lot of runners, bikers, etc. on shoulder & trail of truck routes and never see enforcement of speed limits, truck noise or stop signs.

## Comment 4

The west side of the pit runs right up against a community w/ well water. If mining expands, all residents should have access to ground water impact study first. Operation noise for residents w/ adjacent lots is high, what noise restrictions & ordinances does WA County have in place?

## Comment 5

Main concern is on truck noises from Fairy Falls Rd and Highway 95. Trucks use their engine breaks to slow coming down the hill and as they come into the city of Stillwater. We have seen increase in truck traffic since we moved here in 2015. Thanks for having open house for the public.

## Comment 6

Boom Road curve

# Comments from the Open House

## Comment 7

We reside on County road 11 and the trucks that run through here are dangerous and I can't see how it is safe for anyone, including car traffic to be safe, when those big trucks loaded, come down fairy falls hill and way cross over the center line. It has happened many many times and we have called the sheriff. The road has no shoulder on it in front of our home and I have seen bicyclists actually go off the road and into the ditch because of truck traffic. It is a steep ditch, maybe 4' down. I'm waiting for a car to actually roll over. Several have gone straight in and up through the neighbors yard. Many many people use the hills to ride bikes for interval training. It is my opinion that it's just a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt on this section of road and I'll be one of the first in line to blame the county for permitting such a dangerous practice. There are days when the trucks go by every minute, not kidding about that number, and it runs like that all day. The delivery guy was actually scared to be pulling out of the driveway and one day when it was happening the sheriff actually went to see what was up. I vote NO to this mining because they aren't supposed to use fairy falls road and they do...so they kinda ruined it for themselves. It's a lot of independent drivers or trucks, its not all Miller trucks, and they just aren't at all considerate and its DANGEROUS!!

We will not be able to make the meeting and for that I am sorry.

My next reason for a NO vote is that they run on Stonebridge Trail and many times when you try to pull out of the Otto Berg park those trucks are roaring up to the stop sign so fast that again its just dangerous. Children coming on the bike path to play at the fields and playground are in peril. It's not just an occasional truck...its constant all day long. Stuff going in and out of the gravel yard up there. It is just becoming too residential and the roads aren't made for this level of commercial use. Have them make a cut through Raleigh's and down onto 95.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

# Comments from the Open House

## Comment 8

As a neighbor to Miller's pit I have 3 questions/concerns

- 1) signage ,sign on corner of 100th st and otchipwe directions to pit
- 2) with increased truck traffic stonebridge and otchipwe need NO J BRAKE signage something all truck driver could figure out
- 3) do they monitor the water table below the pit at different locations, because of the extreme amount of traffic and all the soils deposited in pit coming from all over the state ,we have no idea what is deposited there, and all the truck traffic and heavy equipment the last time I questioned this to a former co. Commissioner she told me not to worry because it dosen't affect my water table but it does affect the st Croix .

## Comment 9

The noise level at the pit has become excessive. This really takes away from the "area's bucolic lifestyle" which the township advertises on its website.

## Comment 10

Noise - banging dump box, every week day

## Comment 11

AOP #'s should be at AOP 2015 level (not those allowed in 2019). Hours of operation should be 7am - 5pm. What about using 120th St between Otchipwe to Norell for trucks going from pit to Public Works - Pave 120th Street. Limit trucks to those only owned by Miller & County , not outside contractors if #'s can't be limited. No commercial operation / trucks on Saturdays. Have Miller adhere to Town Board Vision Statement - support rural residential character! Provide haul #'s before AOP & CUP are decided, not at meeting. Need to process in advance & need to review application. Post what process will be for township and county approval. Use Pawnee as much as possible, using interior road between pits.

# Comments from the Open House

## Comment 12

Why should the Raleigh/Miller pit be allowed to remain open 3 hours longer than nearby pits? There should be uniformity of hours throughout the County, otherwise traffic increases at the Raleigh/Miller pit. Why can't you use MN95 to Pawnee and into the pit - exit Pawnee and eliminate traffic on the other routes.

Observations:

1. There are many times when there is only 1 minute between trucks passing my house. WAY too many loads, too much truck traffic.
2. Loads should be covered. The dirt and dust are ubiquitous.
3. Trucks are too large for the roads - they are consistently over the middle line of the road.
4. Trucks speed - not all of them but those that do are dangerous.
5. Trucks are disturbing the peace - I can't even hear the birds sing!!

## Comment 13

Trucks run stop signs & cut sharp corner @ Stonebridge & Otchipwe

## Comment 14

Please limit routes to approved routes. No using of east exit out of M5 pit. No using 100th St. for either coming or going.

## Comment 15

Thank you for Open House.

## Comment 16

Noise & vibration

## Comment 17

Truck volume, speeding, dirt coming out back of truck, noise

# Comments from the Open House

## Comment 18

Thank you very much for hosting the Open House on Thursday. Even though we plan on attending we wanted you to have our questions and concerns in advance so they can be addressed during the meeting. We live at 9633 Pawnee Avenue and abut the M-5 Pit. We have lived here since 1995. We knew we were living next to a pit and for the next 23 years co-existed quite well. This changed when Miller Excavating took over. Noise, air pollution and truck traffic increased exponentially. Hours and days of operation were greatly expanded.

Our concerns and questions are as follows:

Why did the permit automatically transfer? When Miller took over operation of the pit their permit seemed to transfer with them without public input. It seems to us that they should have been bound by the Raleigh Permit that was in effect which was greatly more restrictive regarding number of trucks, hours of operation and days of operation.

How often and what type of ground water testing takes place? We believe there should be frequent testing of the ground water for all hazardous materials and the results should be openly shared with all Stillwater Township residents.

What testing for hazardous material is conducted before material is trucked in?

Why is work in the M-5 Pit allowed to be conducted outside of their approved hours? Most days work commences prior to 7 o'clock. It has started as early as 5:30 am (We did write to Miller concerning this issue and received no response).

What ramifications are there when work is conducted outside of hours? It is meaningless to set hours of operation if Miller Excavating can disregard them without impact.

What are the property tax implications for those of us impacted by the Pit? At the same time as we experienced the explosion of activity in the pit our property taxes were significantly increased. There is no doubt in our minds that the value of our property has declined due to the increased noise and dust with the significant expansion in activity since Miller Excavating took over.

# Comments from the Open House

## Comment 18 (continued)

What future plans are there for expansion? Are the lots adjacent to ours going to be mined at some point in time? What are the long range plans for the M-5 Pit.

Would it be possible to develop some type of buffer zone between the Pit and adjacent property owners to lessen noise, dust pollution?

We have only one access to our property. There are times three or four trucks are blocking Pawnee Avenue waiting to gain access to the Pit. We are concerned emergency vehicles may be delayed as a result.

## Comment 19

We live 2840 ft. ESE of the pit. Over the last year or so, the noise level has increased 2 + or higher. Tail gates slamming repeatedly, box shakers, etc. We can hear it inside the house with the windows closed. Virtually continuous weekdays. Activity is at least double of pre-Miller. PLEASE HELP! We are also worried about our wells! Seems deep enough to damage aquifers.

## Comment 20

Info on springs & water quality impact? Any temporary wells for water quality monitoring (leaking of earth moving equipment, etc.). Sand concern on roads down driveway. Storm drains on road have a lot of sand around them that washes into river. Thanks for reducing the routes after 5pm.

## Comment 21

I have lived on Stonebridge Tr for 28 yrs. The increase in truck traffic on a small rural road with hills & twists & turns with a low speed limit is beyond words. I feel it is not safe. Destroys our rural atmosphere and is something that needs to be limited & regulated. The trucks do not follow the posted speed limits & there seems to be very little enforcement of noise, speed & weight restrictions. Thanks!



# Comments from the Open House

## Comment 22

1. Trucks going too fast on Stonebridge. So many more Trucks than the past. How about patrols? 2. Noise too loud. 3. 96 & Stonebridge intersection dangerous - roundabout 4. Recycling has made it noisier

## Comment 23

I have resided in the township since 2002. It seems to me, the rural atmosphere of Stillwater Township is slowly being eroded. The increase in dump truck traffic on Stonebridge is exponentially greater since Miller took over the pit. The pit activity noise is equally greater and it is beginning to seem to me that i now reside in an industrial zone. I also feel that with the pit loads coming out year round now, that a major traffic fatality is likely to happen, expecially in winter conditions.

## Comment 24

I live on the Knoll on Stonebridge. My house sits approx. 100 ft. from road. The truck traffic on Stonebridge is awful all summer long. Trucks are speeding, dirt comes out as they pass and there is continuous noise all day. We are 31 year residents and would appreciate some relief. Trucks need more monitoring for speed & volume & more route division.

## Comment 25

1. We complained & went to the board meeting every month 2014-15-16 giving input. We expected a decrease in volume & an ongoing gap.
2. Volume has just kept going up.
3. Other routes aren't being maximized
4. Frustrating, doesn't seem like it makes any difference if we say something or not.
5. Volumes in 2015 were too high & they've gone up since
6. Winter traffic has also been very busy this year

# Comments from the Open House

## Comment 25 (continued)

7. We're at the bottom of the hill & still see trucks speeding as they gain momentum.
8. Why are we bothering filling out these sheets? The pits just keeps increasing volume.
9. Concerned about quality of life, excessive ongoing noise, too much traffic
10. Not as desirable to live in township
11. Can you provide 5 year analysis on change per year by route?
12. Please communicate proposed plan prior to meeting on 5 year plan
13. Please provide timeline & next steps for reviewing & approving a 5 year plan & the permits

## Comment 26

Public Health requirements for bituminous.

## Comment 27

1. Have no problem with truck noise. I live close to Hwy 5 & County Road 11.
2. I would rather have road repaired than shut down pit.
3. I am sure they pay taxes that support Twsp & Co.

Thank you. Please renew permit.