

Exhibit C-49 S-10: Letter re school buses from public testimony 8/26/22

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8/26/2022

Thank you for this time allowing me to speak today. I live on a route that trucks from the proposed mine would regularly take, on the corner of Prairie Road and Highway 99. As a community member I have serious concerns about the safety of this proposed operation. I also have serious concerns about the Mine Developer's application documents, in particular their Traffic Impact Analysis, their Geo-Tech report, and their Critical Areas Evaluations.

Let me start with those documents. To make a long story short, the local community has banded together and employed technical experts to review those documents – and, it turns out, those documents have a wide range of clear inaccuracies as well as many important omissions. Do not take my word for this. Instead, please see the documents submitted by Ross Tilghman, Dan McSchane, and Matt Mahaffie. Those documents bring out the Mine Developer's errors and omissions in scientific and technical detail.

Now to road safety. I proudly raised my daughter in this community. She took the bus to Burlington Edison High School from 2016 to 2020. In those years, she told me several times about near-accidents between school buses and rock trucks. She explained a particularly harrowing one of those near misses in her comments to the county early on, shortly after it happened. Here is what she wrote:

I am a student at Burlington Edison High. Every day I take the bus to and from school. On the way home, the bus goes down Prairie Road, along the section where it intersects with Grip Road. Last week, the bus was on that curve on Prairie, near the Grip intersection. A gravel truck was coming down the road in the opposite direction. This truck was a bit over the line, into our lane, and it nearly hit the school bus. The bus driver had to swerve and go as far out on to the shoulder as she could. If the gravel truck had been even a little bit further over the line, the bus driver would have had nowhere to go, and the bus would have been hit. I am concerned about the safety of children on school buses, if the gravel pit permit is accepted.

That comment was received and recorded by the county in May of 2017, five years ago, and has been publicly available ever since. Nonetheless, and amazingly, no mention of school buses appears in the traffic analysis on offer from the Mine developer. This glaring omission, like many others, is outlined in the technical letters submitted by the scientific experts representing the community.

I believe that those letters show that the Mine developer has not met the criteria for a special use permit under SCC 14.16.900, especially sections E and G. Those sections require that the proposed mine not adversely affect public safety. But it will most certainly will do that. I encourage you to deny the mining special use permit on that account.

Again, thanks for allowing me to speak here today.

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