

Clark Soil & Water Conservation District

Conserving the Natural Resources of Clark County **SINCE 1942.**

3130 East Main St. • Springfield, Ohio 45505
Phone (937) 521-3880 • www.clarkswcd.com

Clark County Commissioners
50 East Columbia Street
P.O. Box 2639
Springfield, Ohio 45501

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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July 28, 2017

Subject: *Enon Sand and Gravel Mining Permit-Phase I (76 acres) & Phase II (123 acres)*

Location: *Clark County, Ohio - Mad River Township – Section(s) 23,24,29*

The mission of the Clark Soil and Water Conservation District (Clark SWCD) is to protect, enhance, and promote the wise use of the natural resources in Clark County. We work with landowners on a voluntary basis to implement best management practices and recognize the importance of private landowner rights. With the soil and water resources of Clark County being a valuable asset to our community, we do have concerns regarding the potential long term impact this mineral extraction may cause.

PHASE I – 100% of the soil types in the proposed 76 acre land area are designated as “prime farmland” by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)- Soil Survey of Clark County. The area is adjacent to an unnamed stream of Mud Run which is a tributary of the Mad River watershed. Attention to the review of how this area will be graded during and after the mining process is critical so not to affect neighboring properties. In its current condition, this parcel of land has surface drainage patterns that run off site.

PHASE II – 45% of the soil types in the proposed 123 site are designated as “prime farmland” by the USDA - Soil Survey of Clark County. This area is located adjacent to the main stem of Mud Run which is a tributary to the Mad River watershed. The southern portion of PHASE II is located in the FEMA flood zone. This area does not have surface run off immediately draining to adjacent properties.

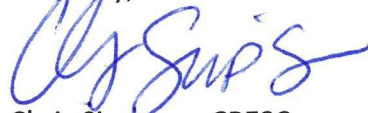
According to documents submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), there will be sump areas installed to facilitate dewatering of both proposed mining areas. Concerns with this activity are the amount of water being discharged to the tributaries, which

are waters of the State of Ohio. Clark SWCD has historical documentation of drainage issues and stream bank erosion along this channel downstream in urbanized areas of Enon. Additional groundwater being discharged into Mud Run and its tributaries could increase further drainage/erosion issues as the channel capacity will be reduced by carrying excess discharge and degrade water quality.

Mining activities and removing groundwater by pumping may have a negative impact on private home water systems in both the quantity and quality of water. Dewatering activities may cause water levels in private home water systems to decrease. By modifying the current landscape and opening up the ground for mineral extraction, there will be more interaction with surface water and ground water.

On behalf of the Clark SWCD Board of Supervisors, we recognize the need for aggregate production as it is a necessity to our society. We encourage planning so there can be a balance when utilizing our soil and water resources without negatively impacting surrounding properties. Clark SWCD would like to ensure, as stated in our mission, that current and future generations will continue to have access to our quality soil and water resources.

Sincerely,



Chris Simpson, CPESC
District Administrator
Clark SWCD