

Response to Proposed alternative.

First a couple of general comment -

All of the positive statements in the bulleted list that I received at the meeting the other night are of proposals are subjective and compare the "new proposal" with the original proposal. Note that they do not compare the current situation with the new proposal.

CSP has not released to us or DEC any written detailed description of this proposal.

This "new proposal" appears to be essentially the same as the revision that CSP submitted in March to DEC. I am basing this on the acreage (42 acres now compared to 49 acres in March).

- 42 acres increases the current mine by 50%. This is a larger absolute increase than the 1994 expansion.
- Yes this is a reduction in the expansion from 69 acres but this is still a major expansion.
- Relocating Rickard Hill Road. This is not a plus for the town. Rickard Hill Road does not need replacing, replacing it will add a few more minutes to the travel time (and emergency response time) from town up the hill. Relocating the road will subject the residents to two years of increased truck traffic, heavy machinery, increased blasting, and dust. If CSP is interested in helping the town maintaining the roads for free, they should replace Eastern Ave., the lower end of Rickard Hill, and Mix Lane, which they have basically destroyed with their truck traffic.
- The mine will actually be closer to populated areas. The mine will be approximately 1800 feet closer to Warner Hill Road and the County Court House than the present operation. In addition the forest which currently occupies this area and helps to screen out noise and dust will disappear.
- CSP considers that idea that if you can't see directly into the pit then the area is "screened." The DEIS calls for constructing a 35 foot high pile of rocks for a berm to "screen" the mine from the village.
- The wooded ridge along the west side of the mine does not currently screen the mine from Terrace Mtn. and nothing in this proposal will cause it to do so.
- As anyone in town can attest, the wooded ridge does not effectively screen out noise from the mine.
- The noise assessment was poorly done, with inadequate data collection. The assessment depends extensively on the proposed berms to completely control noise from the mine. As we know from the current operation, they don't work.
- This fact that CSP won't need to cross Rickard Hill road to move stone within the quarry, does not make up for the noise etc. that moving the road will have.
- CSP claims that they will move the crusher and use conveyors to reduce noise and dust if the town and DEC approve the expansion. It has not been shown if this will work, and CSP is only willing to do this mitigation action if the town and DEC approve the expansion. It is not clear if this will only move the problem to another location. If they want to prove this works CSP should implement these actions now.