

12-9-24

Questions for Attorney Heller from Commissioner Harwood

[1] Was a traffic study ever done to determine the impact to traffic on Rt 117 of southbound Rt 12 traffic traveling east on Rt 214 and then south on Rt 117 to avoid traffic congestion on Rt 12 past the excavation/quarrying area?

[2] What are the peak times of day for truck traffic entering and leaving the site and how does this timing relate to school bus traffic and commuting traffic?

[3] What are the realistic potentials for closure of Rt 12 during blasting events and what effects will this have on Fire Department availability for town emergencies, school bus traffic, and commuting traffic? What will be the duration of potential Rt 12 closures during blasting events?

[4] The modeling for noise, vibration, and dust all show levels below the State and Federal limits. However, modeling was conducted at ground level, but the initial phases of blasting will be 150 feet higher at the top of the hill. What is the confidence that modeling at five feet (bottom of the hill) will adequately reflect air emissions, noise, and vibration from blasting at 150 feet (top of the hill)?

[5] In the event that the modeling grossly underestimates actual air emissions, noise, and vibration at different phases of the excavation/quarrying efforts such that operations are required to cease permanently, is there a contingency plan for reintroducing overburden and topsoil to the remaining, partially excavated and quarried hill, and is there a bond/escrow account specifically identified as for use for this purpose in the event that the proposed plans can not be completed for these reasons?

[6] How much slag will there be in the water runoff that enters the Thames River on a daily basis and what is the sum total of slag that will enter the Thames River during the entire 10-year project? What impact will this slag burden have on the shipping channel at the proposed excavation site and down river?

[7] If the noise decibel limit is 61 dB, how can the blasting threshold limit be 130 dB? Why the exemption for blasting? Granted it is an impulse noise, but it still exceeds the 61 dB limit, does it not?

[8] Was a study ever done to model the impact of using public water from the aquifer for road, blast site, and equipment spraying to minimize dust production under typical conditions versus under drought conditions? Was there any consideration made to using water from the Thames River for spraying efforts rather than from the aquifer?

[9] The amount of acreage donated to the Historical Preservation Society for preservation of the site of Fort Decatur (~ 3.5 acres) seems quite low relative to the amount of acreage dedicated to the preservation of other sites of similar historical importance, Fort Griswold for example. Is there a possibility of increasing the donated acreage without adversely the excavation/quarrying operations.