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September 21, 2015

RE: Proposed Bylaw 2015-29 Resource Extraction, to amend Land Use Bylaw 20-2009

Please accept the following as expressions of concern with regard to the proposed Land use Bylaw 2015-29.

I live in very close proximity to a large gravel operation – it has been in my back yard for 10 years and will be there for approximately 70 years altogether.

I, as a resident directly affected by a large gravel pit excavation and processing operation, have been working with Alberta Environment, Parkland County and the gravel operator for over 10 years. I am knowledgeable and educated about the topic.

Please consider the following while discussing this proposed legislation:

- 1) We, as a resident collective, have worked long and hard to achieve some small concessions from County, Alberta Environment, and the gravel company operating in my area. These concessions allow both parties to operate with some degree of respect – and do not take away the entire quality of life we envisioned when we purchased our property long before the pits came along.
- 2) Alberta Environment permits public consultation, input, and appeal. It seems unreasonable to suggest that one governing body should be responsible for each and every aspect of gravel operations. Alberta Environment has its own mandate and structure, and it does not include all aspects of care for residents and property. Each level of government has a level of care and due process it must adhere to, it is not reasonable to suggest that an individual County be allowed to abrogate their responsibility to residents.
- 3) Other Counties, in an effort to permit the necessary gravel extraction and processing while limiting the impact on residents, have created an Area Structure Plan to designate gravel areas – new residential housing is not permitted to build in a gravel pit area. Parkland County seems to be operating in a more backward fashion, in suggesting that existing residential areas should be treated the same as wide-open gravel designation areas. It is not the case – residents MUST be protected from the effects of gravel operations. Health, noise, quality of life, and property values (or, as they prefer to say, length of resale value) are important to residents, and must be safeguarded.
- 4) My health has deteriorated since the arrival of the pit operations close to my home. I have developed asthma, worsening with each year, to the point where I am now under the care of a specialist and taking continual medications. Of course, it is impossible to actually draw the straight line, but both my General Practitioner and my Specialist find it

necessary to point out that gravel operations so close to my home will have a deleterious impact and is likely causal to the asthma condition. That is why we ask for concessions that are perhaps not necessary in an open area not close to residential properties.


- 5) Parkland County does receive large sums of money from gravel operations; that should not mean that the residential tax base has no rights, and no responsibilities, to speak to issues that will have negative impact on their lives.
- 6) Gravel operations run for many decades. Much can change in a single decade, as we have seen ourselves during the 10 years of the current operation. New development, weather pattern changes, cumulative impacts from same or different activities, health trends, all can vary radically from year to year. Over a 70 year course of operation, Parkland County suggests the same rules should apply? I know of no governing body that would suggest no rules of operation should be changed over a 70 year time frame.
- 7) Cumulative impacts are often mentioned in relation to pit operations. They are a valid consideration, again, most particularly with respect to residential areas, and should be considered with each individual application. Rubber-stamping and blanket conditions do not fit the regulatory and protective mandate of a well-run County.
- 8) Not all gravel operators have the same level of respect and responsibility, which we have also seen over the years. Without conditions suitable to the area, and without the ability to monitor and uphold, we will be working toward the lowest common denominator. That is not acceptable to Parkland County residents.

We have spent many years working toward having input and agreements coming from a point of knowledge. We don't argue for the sake of argument, or appeal for the sake of appealing. We have busy lives, and it is hard work for us to keep up with all that goes on with relation to these applications. We make the time, and take the time, because it is tremendously important to us both as individuals and as the community as a whole. It is most unfortunate that I must be at work, so my voice is silent during this hearing, but I do hope my words are not.

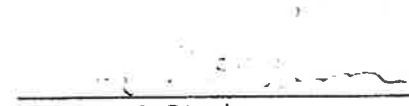
My husband echoes all my sentiments, and will attach his name to this document as well.

Please consider the whole, before passing this flawed legislation.

Thank you, and regards,



Paula McGinnis



George McGinnis