

This is the classical environmental noise problem. I have no doubt that at least for this person the noise level due to operations at Sargent Sand is unacceptable. The issue is how does one quantify the annoyance and then effectively use this in connection with established environmental noise ordinances to make a case for abatement. I think an initial approach might be:

1. Determine if there is agreement among property owners that a problem exists.
2. Approach Sargent sand and hope for an amicable solution. This is typically not particularly successful.
3. Determine if the local governing body has meaningful and enforceable noise ordinances based on criteria that are quantifiable. Make measurements if appropriate.
4. Look for local precedents. There was much discussion relative to noise levels of the wind turbine farm that could be relevant to this case. Check to see if there were any quantifiable environmental noise limits on siting of the wind turbines.
5. If there is applicable environmental law and/or local ordinances, initiate action. This would require an acoustical consultant and legal counsel.

There are some ISO standards on environmental noise, but they have no enforcement associated with them. They serve primarily to assist local governmental bodies to write ordinances. Local bodies are notorious for not trying to use the large scientific base on the effect of noise on people to develop appropriate rules. It is certain they will not do it without community reaction to an identifiable problem. There is no simple solution because of competing economic and environmental issues.

Hope this puts the problem in perspective.

Walt Eversman

I'm sure we can all empathize with the disappointment and frustration that the Dauls must feel. This operation has been a sore spot for many in the area for some time. It appears bigger and more intrusive than ever. And I have some concerns about the very long-term effects on Hamlin Lake.

While I would be willing to talk with Ms. Daul, I suspect she would not be pleased with the result. That is, Sargent Sand is running a legal mining operation and is probably in accordance with all permit regulations. The township has made inquiries on behalf of other residents with little success. Our current state representative and Congressmen support this "job creating" activity. Current DNR leadership, while open to purchasing the site, has been unable to complete a deal and has no basis for restricting the current operation. HLPS as a 501(c) 3 organization would have a difficult time taking a position other than informing our members of the situation. Perhaps Ms. Daul would choose to write an editorial for The Currents and or the LDN. That is probably a less robust response than she is hoping for.

Kent Gage