

PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY**PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING
SUPERIOR SILICA SANDS
February 5, 2025**

Ken Schmitt, 4988 120th Avenue, Colfax, WI 54730

Hello. Ken Schmitt, Town of Howard, Chippewa County. Fifteen years ago when I brought the issue of arsenic and lead up, DNR told us it didn't exist in this part of the state, wasn't an issue. Eastern part of the state down to the southeast corner it could be or would be. I guess we didn't know what we didn't know, did we.

And here we are today, we are going to cap this with onsite soils. My question is, I did some very quick rough math, I think I'm right on this, looking at about 30,000 yards of material to cover this site for a cap. Do you have 30,000 yards out there that hasn't been disturbed or mixed to create a reasonably safe cap? Has this been done anywhere else in the state? Do we know what the ramifications are of leaving it in place? I'm not saying it shouldn't be left in place...or, it's better than putting it in the mine site as reclamation. What I'm asking is, do we have that information?

I would suggest for the next 25 years after reclamation is complete or the....after the reclamation is complete after the ponds are capped, that the monitoring wells be kept in place and monitored to make sure what wasn't supposed to be here isn't mitigating off the site and into other people's aquifers and wells. That would be my request.

Kevin Ludwigson, 23534 County Hwy DD, New Auburn, WI 54757

Kevin Ludwigson. I'm the Town Chairman for the Town of Auburn. Just had a couple of questions.

One on the 14:1 slope, why wouldn't you make that flatter so that it would join like the rest of the fields on that property? I know you have the banks there and stuff. To me, that would just create a funnel of water to come in and push the stuff down through.

My other question is related to what Ken had said, are the wells still going to be monitored so that we know if nitrate levels go up or anything? I know there are a couple of people in the town that said their nitrate levels were up. I also know that in the beginning, Superior offered anyone in that area, within a half mile of the area, to sample their water so there was a baseline and I...the owners of the property are the ones that would have a copy of that.....I'm not privy to who sampled or who did not. But, I would think they would still continue to be monitored for a certain amount of time.

My curiosity was the slope on that, as to why it would not be a lesser slope than what it is.

That's all I got.