**Draft response to RVC request for comments on Lehigh Hanson’s application:**

Send emails to – Andrea Bryden, RVC Planning & Development Services

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Comments due by November 1, 2020

**Subject**: Application #: PL20200093/0094 (File #s: 06605001, 06605002, 06605003, 06605004, 066-5005

Ms. Bryden:

I am responding to the County’s request for comments on Lehigh Hanson’s application to redesignate the 600 acres at the north-east corner of Burma Road and Range Road 25 to accommodate an open pit gravel mine on what is referred to as the Scott Property and their application for the accompanying Master Site Development Plan.

I am opposed to this application. The proposed open pit gravel mine is a completely incompatible land use because of the existing adjacent country residential communities. The County turned down Lehigh Hanson’s earlier applications twice for this reason – heavy industry is incompatible with residential developments.

Since those earlier refusals, the County has approved many new country residential communities in the immediate vicinity of Lehigh Hanson’s proposed open pit mine. These approvals signalled that the County is committed to the land use strategy in the Bearspaw Area Structure Plan which identifies this land as the location for future country residential development. As a result, the County has no social license to now impose open pit mining in this location.

Open pit gravel mines impose dramatic negative impacts on everyone who lives anywhere close to the gravel pits. These negative impacts include unavoidable costs to residents’ health, safety, and quality of life, as well as serious environmental costs.

I am also disturbed that the County is permitting Lehigh Hanson to proceed with its application given the complete inadequacy of the public engagement they are required to do in advance of submitting their application. The County should not permit Lehigh Hanson, or any other applicant, to dispense with its consultation obligations simply because of the current pandemic.

In closing, this application should not be approved for a multitude of reasons including the ones I have listed above.