

GREEN MOUNTAIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANDOVER | BALTIMORE | CAVENDISH | CHESTER

March 11, 2020

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Cavendish, VT

District 2 Environmental Commission
100 Mineral Street
Springfield, VT 05156-3168

RE: Town of Chester Sand and Gravel Pit Act 250 Application #2S0214-9

Dear Commissioners:

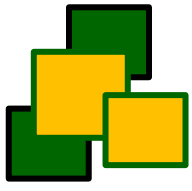
The School Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Town of Chester's proposed sand and gravel pit located on property adjacent to the Green Mountain Union High School in Chester. As you are aware, our Board is responsible for oversight of the High School and is charged with ensuring that the public's investment in the High School is maintained so that the educational experience of our young people is enhanced.

Town officials have been in touch with School officials from the early stages of this project and have met with School Board members to discuss potential concerns and areas of common interest moving forward. This was particularly in light of concerns which the Board and School officials had regarding previously proposed, high intensity commercial sand and gravel extraction and stone quarrying operations on other areas of this site closer to the High School than that proposed by the Town. This exchange of information has been cordial, productive and informative regarding the significant differences between the small-scale operation proposed by the Town and the large-scale commercial sand and gravel extraction operations previously proposed on the site. The Board is also cognizant regarding the significant benefit to the public from the Town's proposed project, not to mention the overall environmental benefits from having a locally available sand and gravel source.

The Town of Chester has consulted with officials at the High School and members of the Green Mountain Unified School District Board and have indicated that the concerns regarding prior operations on this site will not be present with the operation proposed by the Town. This includes, but is not limited to, noise concerns regarding the prior operations which resulted in the "barely audible" standard. The scale of the proposed project is significantly less than the prior application and does not include blasting.

In light of all of the foregoing, the School Board has no objection to the Town's project as proposed provided that the Commission imposes the following permit condition in the Act 250 Permit for the project, which the Town has already stipulated to:

Crushing at the Project shall only occur during times during the months of June, July, August and September when school is not in regular session.



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Other than the foregoing, the School Board has no concerns regarding this Project and specifically consents to the elimination of the “barely audible” condition with respect to noise from the Town’s proposal.

Please contact us should you have further questions.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Parties on the Certificate of Service