

## **VILLAGE COUNCIL OPPOSES ANDERSON TOWNSHIP MINE PROPOSAL**

Village Council has passed a resolution expressing opposition to a proposal to allow a deep limestone mine operation in Anderson Township. Council decided to express this opposition after reviewing the detailed plans for the facility and deciding that the proposal could negatively impact homes which overlook the Little Miami River valley in the southeast end of the Village.

The Village is especially concerned about four major potential impacts. First, the noise study which accompanies the Martin Marietta Materials, Inc. application indicates that ambient noise levels will be approximately 65 dBA at the property line, which is about the same volume as a vacuum cleaner or medium level vehicular traffic. However, this measurement estimate does not appear to consider that the principle noise generators, the conveyors and secondary stone crushing operation will be elevated above ground level, and this could impact homes on the hillside approximately 3,000 feet away from the mine. Second, the site plan included in the application indicates that the entire secondary crushing and processing operation will be lighted with a series of 1,000 watt floodlights. This lighting plan represents a light pollution concern for homes in southeast Indian Hill. Third, even though the main mining operation will take place 400-800 feet underground, the use of explosives, the above ground processing, and the material conveying system will generate dust which could, under certain wind conditions, impact homes in nearby Indian Hill. Finally, the traffic study submitted as part of the application by Martin Marietta Materials is nearly useless because it only presents peak hour traffic data, not 24 hour volume increases. The only useable information which can be derived from the study is that truck traffic will increase by 150 trips during the morning peak hour and 75 trips during the evening peak hour. One can only surmise from this data that the total new trips per day will total less than 3,600 vehicles per day (24 hours X 150). While an accurate projection is probably substantially lower than this "worst case scenario", it is clear that heavy truck traffic in the general vicinity of the mine site will increase dramatically. Very little or none of this traffic will find its way to Indian Hill streets, due to legal prohibitions, but nearby major thoroughfares and primary roads will be negatively impacted by the increased truck traffic.

The deep mine project involves a 480 acre former gravel mine site. The site is located approximately ½ to 1 mile due south of the South Drake, Willow Run, Willow Hills, Councilrock, Indian Ridge, and Noel Lane neighborhoods in the Village. The proposed project involves a deep mine for the purpose of quarrying limestone. The mine would involve two descending shafts to mine the limestone at an elevation of 400-800 feet below ground. The mining operation involves underground blasting and the storage of blasting materials on the site. The site is zoned for industrial use and a mining operation is a permitted "Conditional Use" in such a district. The Anderson Township Board of Zoning Appeals (ATBZA) has jurisdiction over the approval process. Their responsibilities include determining whether conditions should be placed on the operation in order to minimize or eliminate impacts on neighbors. There are also several companion requests for variances to the zoning ordinance which require ATBZA approval in order to permit the proposed operation.

There remains substantial opposition to the proposal from nearby residents in Anderson Township, Newtown, and Terrace Park. The concerns expressed by this opposition mainly involve noise; the negative impacts from blasting, including dust; heavy truck traffic; and

potential negative impacts on the Little Miami River and the adjacent aquifer. Many of the opponents are represented by Tim Mara, who is a Cincinnati area land use and environment issues attorney. The organized opposition also maintains an informational website: [www.saveourmiami.com](http://www.saveourmiami.com).

Village Council has authorized the City Manager and the Village's legal counsel to attend an October 2, 2008 ATBZA hearing on the proposed mine and to voice the concerns outlined above. Village officials will continue to monitor the review process and take appropriate steps as may be deemed necessary to represent the interests of Indian Hill residents. We will also continue to advise residents of the status of the case and any related Village actions in direct mailings to south Indian Hill neighborhoods, future Bulletin articles, and on the Village webpage: [www.ihill.org](http://www.ihill.org).