Ms. Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Ms. Hedman:

On December 4, 2012 and 30 days later, your office disallowed the construction of County Road 595 in Marquette County, Michigan stating "County Road 595 would have significant direct and indirect impacts on high quality wetland and stream resources as well as on wildlife". The Clean Water Act Section 404 (b) (1) was stated as the reason for the objection.

The above ruling resulted in forcing the Eagle Mine into using roadways going through the middle of Marquette County's high traffic and population areas. NOTE: Proposed CR 595 would not have gone through any populated areas.

I would like to point out the EPA's decision held higher wildlife protection over human protection.

I am enclosing a news clipping detailing how a passenger vehicle rear ended a mine hauling truck in near whiteout conditions. An accident like this is nearly unavoidable considering the varying weather conditions in Marquette County. A 13-year-old girl was critically injured and and airlifted to the pediatric neurosurgery department at the U of M hospital in Ann Arbor Michigan.

The Eagle Mine has only been shipping ore for five (5) months, this is the first of probably many resulting in injury to our neighbors. The EPA forced mine haul route will be used for a minimum 96 months.

In closing, I encourage the EPA consider human impacts as well as wildlife impacts, etc. when ruling on future wetland modifications-mitigation requests.

Sincerely,
Larry Argall

cc: Congressman Dan Benishek
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Gary Peters

EPA-R5-2015-0061720000017

Etcetera

Four taken to hospital in Powell Township crash involving mine truck

One victim taken to U of M medical facility in Ann Arbor

By JOHN PEPIN
Journal Staff Writer

MARQUETTE – Four Big Bay residents were injured, including one critically, Thursday night after the vehicle they were traveling in crashed into the back of an Eagle Mine ore truck in whiteout conditions on Marquette County Road 550.

The Marquette County Sheriff's Office reports the crash occurred at about 9:45 p.m. near County Road KCE, which is located a few miles south of Big Bay.

Police said Donald Fortin, 36, of Big Bay was driving north on County Road 550 in a 2012 Lincoln MKH in whiteout conditions when the accident occurred. Passengers in the vehicle included Fortin's wife, Danielle, 33, and two daughters – ages 5 and 13 – whom police declined to name.

Deputies said the Lincoln struck the back of a M.J. VanDamme Trucking of Cornell semi-tractor trailer, which was also heading north to the Eagle Mine, driving slow in the poor weather conditions.

The driver of the mine truck was Steven Zarkowski, 58, of Marquette. Police said he was not hurt in the accident.

The Fortins were taken to UP Health System - Marquette where three of the family members were treated for cuts and other minor injuries and later released, according to police.

The 13-year-old Fortin daughter was initially listed in critical condition at the hospital.

Police said she was later discharged and airlifted to the pediatric neurosurgery department at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. No updated condition information was available before press time today.

Capt. Dave Lemire said no tickets had been issued in the crash, however, Fortin was at fault because he was driving too fast for conditions.

Police said the 13-year-old was not wearing a safety belt.

The sheriff's office was assisted at the scene by Powell Township Fire Department and EMS personnel, the Marquette Township Fire Department and Marquette General Hospital EMS.

The incident marks the second crash on County Road 550 in less than a month involving an ore truck from the Eagle Mine.

On Dec. 13, Shawn Mocker, 30, of Marquette was driving south when he made an evasive move to avoid a deer in the roadway, overturning the ore truck into a ditch along the road, Michigan State Police said.

Mocker was not hurt in the crash.

John Pepin can be reached at 906-228-2500, ext. 206. His email address is jpepin@miningjournal.net.

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