



## Norvell Township Supervisor

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### Press Release

#### Township Update: Proposed Gravel Mine Review

This update summarizes the actions taken to date regarding the application for a Conditional Use Permit submitted by American Aggregates of Michigan (AAOM) for a proposed aggregate mine in Norvell Township.

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#### GEI

- GEI has provided an addendum to their original review notes, which will be posted separately.
- Three additional items have been identified that require clarification from the applicant.

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#### EGLE – Air Quality Division

- A meeting was held on **2/3/2026**
- Norvell Township consulted with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Air Quality Division, to discuss air-quality considerations related to the proposed AAOM sand and gravel mining operation. The conversation focused on potential dust impacts, including silica dust, and the regulatory requirements that apply to different types of mining activities.

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#### EGLE – NPDES Compliance (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)

- A meeting with the NPDES section is being scheduled.

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## **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

A phone meeting was held with **Taylor Ridderbusch, Chief of Staff, Executive Division**, on 2/23/2026 which resulted in the following statement from the DNR:

“Gravel mining on private land in the state of Michigan is regulated by local zoning and land use regulations. The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (Act 110 of 2006), particularly MCL 125.3201, expressly mandates that local units of government have the general right to manage natural resources and industry within their respective zoning jurisdiction. Unlike metallic mining and oil/gas drilling, which are industries specifically regulated under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) and therefore overseen by the DNR under parts 632 and 615, the legislature has not granted the DNR the authority to review or otherwise intervene as it relates to aggregate (gravel) mines.

Additionally, as it relates to the protection of endangered or threatened species, under Part 365 of NREPA, the DNR's authority is as an enforcement role only (MCL 324.36505). By statute, the only mechanism the DNR has to preemptively review a proposed mining operation which may impact threatened or endangered species is if the operation itself concludes that a "taking" of a state-listed threatened or endangered species is possible and applies for a Threatened and Endangered Species Taking Permit (T&E Permit) through the DNR (MCL 324.36505(4)).

In this case, the operation, having created a comprehensive site plan application, and having engaged with consultants, has concluded that its operation will not result in the "taking" of a state-listed threatened or endangered species. Thus, applying for a T&E permit through our department was not required by law. The DNR has no authority to require that an entity apply for such permits, nor any authority to otherwise intervene and require an independent, DNR conducted, T&E taking assessment outside of the permitting process as outlined in statute.”

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## **Jackson County Department of Transportation**

- A meeting was held on **January 27, 2026**.
- The department is developing requirements for the applicant regarding the proposed haul route(s).

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## **Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)**

- A meeting was held on **February 3, 2026**.
- MDOT is preparing responses to questions related to the proposed haul route on **M-124**.

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**Irish Hills Concerned Citizens (IHCC)**

- A meeting was held on 2/26/2026.
- Their concerns were discussed and being considered for incorporation as part of the response being prepared to the applicant, AAOM

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**American Aggregates of Michigan (AAOM)**

- A request for additional information related to their application is being prepared.
  - Once reviewed by Township legal counsel, it will be submitted to the applicant for their response.
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We will continue to issue Press Releases as we have more information.

Bill Sutherland  
Supervisor, Norvell Township