

RESOLUTION NO. 26-17

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FINDINGS AND PETITION FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET FOR THE PROPOSED BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS SAND MINE

WHEREAS, a petition for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) has been submitted for the proposed project in accordance with Minn Rule, Chapter 4410; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has designated Houston County as the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the proposed Olson Sand Mine in Yucatan Township, Houston County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Houston County received notice of the petition from the EQB on May 18, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a notice of the petition was published in the EQB Monitor on May 26, 2026; and

WHEREAS, based upon evidence presented by the petitioners, proposers, and other persons or otherwise known to the RGU, findings have been prepared; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houston County Board of Commissioners makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

1. The above recitals are incorporated as if set forth herein.
2. The Project is a proposed sand mine as described in the Houston County Conditional Use Permit application and supplementary materials submitted on February 25, 2026 and later resubmitted on April 10, 2026.
3. Petitioners have filed a request for discretionary environmental review pursuant to the Administrative Rules promulgated under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act. Petitioners suggest that an EAW is necessary because the Project demonstrates the potential for significant environmental effects.
4. The Project does not meet mandatory thresholds listed under Minn. Rule 4410.4300, subp. 12.
5. The Project is not exempt under Minn. Rule 4410.4600.
6. Minn. Rule 4410.1000 subp. 3B identifies that the governmental unit need only find that the project may have the potential for significant environmental effects.
7. The criteria established in Minn. Rule 4410.1700 shall be used in deciding whether a project has the potential for significant environmental effects.
 - a. Type, extent, and reversibility of environmental effects;
 - b. Cumulative potential effects. The RGU shall consider the following factors: whether the cumulative potential effect is significant; whether the contribution from the project is significant when viewed in connection with other contributions to the cumulative potential effect; the degree to which the project complies with approved mitigation measures specifically designed to address the cumulative potential effect; and the efforts of the proposer to minimize the contributions from the project;

- c. The extent to which the environmental effects are subject to mitigation by ongoing public regulatory authority. The RGU may rely only on mitigation measures that are specific and that can be reasonably expected to effectively mitigate the identified environmental impacts of the project; and
 - d. The extent to which environmental effects can be anticipated and controlled as a result of other available environmental studies undertaken by public agencies or the project proposer, including other EISs.
8. The Petitioners identify the following as reasons for potentially significant environmental impacts:
- a. Highly sensitive bluff land and karst topography
 - b. Vulnerable groundwater area
 - c. Proximity to the Root River, associated wetlands, and a highly erodible section of riverbank
 - d. Proximity to a trout stream and trout hatchery
 - e. Proximity to the Erickson Mine
 - f. Presence of outstanding biodiversity and rare, threatened, and endangered species in the area

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed project does have the potential for significant environmental impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a positive declaration be made concerning the need for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Bruening Rock Products project in response to the petition.

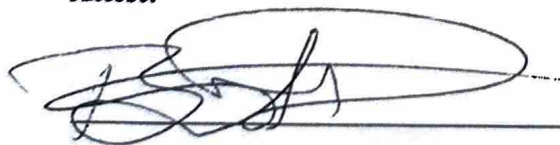
Adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Houston County on this 23rd day of June 2026.

**HOUSTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**



Greg Myhre, Board Chairperson

Attest:



Brent Parker, County Coordinator

