
Hearing scheduled on owners' appeal of state ruling to stop Hamptons sand mine expansion

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The owners of a Bridgehampton sand mine are appealing state officials' decision to deny a planned expansion of the mine, continuing a nearly two-year debate over environmental concerns.

State Department of Environmental Conservation officials have scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday on the appeal by the owners of Sand Land, a 50-acre mine where the presence of yard waste and construction debris has drawn harsh criticism from Long Island environmental groups.

Sand Land's owners requested the hearing after DEC officials denied an application to expand the mine in April.

The DEC's decision cited Sand Land's side business of processing waste and debris at the mine, which sits within one of Long Island's nine state-designated Special Groundwater Protection Areas.

Sand Land officials had requested permission in January 2014 to enlarge the operation by five acres and dig 40 feet deeper, allowing the mine to continue operating for an estimated 25 years.

Tuesday's hearing comes after environmental activists issued an Oct. 12 news release saying test results show surface water contamination at the mine.

Representatives of Citizens Campaign for the Environment and Group for the East End said Suffolk County health department samples have revealed the presence of heavy metals, radioactivity and the carcinogenic insecticide chlordane. Some of the contaminants exceed drinking-water standards, they said.

David Eagan, a Wainscott attorney representing Sand Land, could not be reached for comment.

Adrienne Esposito, director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, called the findings "serious and of grave concern" because "if it's in the surface water, it is seeping down into the groundwater." The hearing is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday at the Bridgehampton Community House on Montauk Highway.

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