

TOWN OF OSCEOLA

Polk County, Wisconsin

To: Plan Commission

From: Steve Stroshane, Chairman

Date: February 3, 2009 (*revised*)

Re: Traffic Summary

County F

The report submitted by Kraemer Mining and Materials along with their application stated 200 trucks per day would be hauling material from the proposed quarry. Since each truck needs to get to the quarry, the actual impact to the roadways will be 400 trips per day (one loaded/one unloaded). It is assumed that the majority of the truck traffic will use the County Road F through Dresser to Highway 35. The route through the Village of Dresser, as shown below is through an area zoned residential.



The traffic count in the north lane of County F as it intersects State Highway 35 shows that 35 of the vehicles were either trucks or semi-trailers. Assuming this would be the route used by the trucks leaving the Kramer quarry, the proposed increase in truck traffic would be 571% (235 proposed/35 existing). While as the report correctly states, the total vehicle traffic and resulting level of service would be minimally impacted by an increase of 6.5% (3,277 proposed/3,077 existing), the amount of increase in the truck component is substantial.

Traffic Counter Results (8/23/04 - 8/26/04)				
Counter Location	Lane	Passenger/ Small Trucks	Truck	% Trucks
Cnty F/STH 35	north	3,114	35	1.1%
Cnty F/STH 35	south	3,063	43	1.4%
Cnty F/Trollhaugen	north	2,524	98	3.9%
Cnty F/Trollhaugen	south	1,690	62	3.6%

County MM

While the most likely route is through the Village of Dresser, an alternate route is south along County MM and west into the Village of Osceola along County M. Both roads are owned and maintained by Polk County. The following table illustrates the most recent traffic counts.

Traffic Counter Results (9/25/01 – 9/28/01)				
Counter Location	Lane	Passenger/ Small Trucks	Truck	% Trucks
County MM/90th Ave.	north	1,070	43	4.0%
County MM/90th Ave.	south	1,171	22	1.9%

Similar to the County F data, an increase in 200 trucks/day would result in a 17% increase in total traffic and 909% increase in truck traffic traveling south, along County M. The area west of Lotus Lake has primarily residential land use and could be impacted by the increased truck traffic. Upon entering the Village of Osceola, the land use is a mix of industrial and residential.

Comments from Other Entities

Village of Dresser

The Village of Dresser Board has not taken an official position on the proposed increase in truck traffic. Residents from Dresser with homes along County F have spoken against the increased traffic at the public meetings.

Village of Osceola

The Village of Osceola submitted comments indicating a concern for increased truck traffic through its downtown area. The 2004 truck bypass study indicated 180 “through” trucks. Depending upon the destination of the vehicle traffic, it would be possible for the amount of truck traffic to increase by 200 trucks per day or 111% if quarry production increases to 1 million tons/year and all trucks used the route through Osceola. Presently, a bypass study to select an alternate route around the downtown district and a Hwy 243/Hwy 35/County M intersection realignment study is being performed reduce congestion at the intersection. Implementation of any recommendation for either study is funding dependent and likely many years into the future.

Polk County

The Polk County Highway Department has been contacted and has not indicated significant concern over the increased truck traffic on any of the County highways. County F was constructed with 3" of E-10 asphalt to accommodate truck traffic from the existing quarry north of County F. The County stated acceleration lanes are possible but are waiting for an access request to comment further.

WI DOT

The WI DOT was contacted about the possible increase in truck traffic due to the proposed quarry. The representative indicated that consideration would be given during the study presently being completed for an Osceola/Dresser Bypass and that the Highway 243 bridge would not be impacted as long as the truck weight requirements were followed.

Emergency Response

The Dresser-Osceola-Garfield Fire Department was contacted regarding any concerns over increased response time. It was stated that while the additional vehicle and train traffic could reduce response time, the likelihood of a significant impact was minimal.

Town of Osceola Position

The Town of Osceola does not own any of the primary roadways that are expected to be used by trucks leaving the proposed quarry facility. However, it is likely that any truck attempting travel north, up to Highway 8 would use County Road F to 210th Street following 210th Street up to Highway 8. Therefore, it is likely that the proposed quarry could impact 210th Street which was recently resurfaced in 2007.

While the Town does not have decision making authority on county roadways, the Town does believe that additional bypass and acceleration lanes will be needed on County Road MM to insure traffic safety. With traffic traveling at 45 mph around the curves south of the quarry access, it appears that safety could be improved by requiring a truck acceleration lane from the quarry entrance up to the stop sign near County F/County MM intersection.

Summary

The traffic and roadway issues associated with the proposed quarry primarily affect the Village of Dresser. The expected truck traffic on County F will increase by 571% through a residentially zoned area. An alternative route with less residential impacts is not available.

Safety concerns over existing traffic encountering a high number of slow moving, large trucks leaving the quarry entrance could be mitigated by bypass and acceleration lanes on County MM.

Summary of Roadways Impacted		
Impacted Roads	Impact	Comment
County F (west into Dresser)	High	Residential area. No alternative truck route
County MM – North	High	Require acceleration/bypass lanes
County MM – South	Low	Alternate route, residential area
County M	Low	Alternate route
Highway 35	Low	State highway is already designed for heavy use
210 th Street	Low	Used to travel north and east from site