

Talking points: Estero Group Mine Final Hearing

Estero Group Mine seeks zoning approval for a 318 acre mining operation on Corkscrew Road. This operation is opposed by residents and environmental groups for many reasons, including:

- The cumulative impacts of additional mining operations on Corkscrew Road are unknown, and are not addressed in county regulations. These potential impacts include alteration of historic groundwater levels, impacts to threatened and endangered species, impacts to the quality and viability of environmentally sensitive lands and wildlife habitat.
- Residents would not be protected by adverse impacts to their quality of life due to noise, dust, lights, dangerous truck traffic.
- The rural character of the Corkscrew Community would be adversely and irrevocably altered by the industrial nature of the proposed mining activities.
- The community character of Estero would be adversely affected by the concentration of truck traffic required to distribute the material from the proposed mine.
- The specter of new mining operations along Corkscrew Road has already adversely impacted real estate values and has negatively impacted real estate transactions in the area.
- The potential impacts of mining to groundwater quality and quantity in proximity to public wellfields and private wells has not been independently evaluated in the subject area.
- Increased truck traffic would be concentrated on a rural two-lane road which represents the only means of access for residents of the area.
- “Domino effect”: Approval of this zoning request would predispose the area to a development pattern that would be inconsistent and incompatible with the intent of the DR/GR by setting a precedent whereby the County would be obligated to approval of similar uses on Corkscrew Road.