



Marlin Schmidt, MLA  
Edmonton-Gold Bar

Feb 17, 2021

To the Rocky View County Council:

RE: Bylaw C-8051-2020 (Mountain Ash Application PL 20200031)

In my capacity as Environment and Parks critic for the official opposition in Alberta, I have heard recently from many residents of Rocky View County with concerns related to the development application before you and the potential impacts of the referenced proposed gravel development adjacent to Big Hill Springs Provincial Park.

It is my understanding that the proposed gravel mine would be located within the channel that provides the source water for the springs in the park. This type of development will remove vegetation, top soil and up to twenty meters of the protective over burden. This could leave the aquifer vulnerable to potential degradation of the water quality entering the park, impacting the whole park ecosystem.

I recognize that it is not the role of the county to regulate the environmental impact of proposed developments such as this gravel pit. However, it is my opinion that the current provincial system for regulating the development of these pits is insufficient for protecting Big Hill Springs Provincial Park against the potential impacts the pits may cause. This is why I'm asking the County Council to consider this in weighing the decision – the Province will not be able to fulfill its usual role in this case.

Big Hill Springs Provincial Park is an area of value to all Albertans. I urge you to carefully consider the potential impacts on the park when evaluating whether this application should go forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Marlin Schmidt'.

Marlin Schmidt, MLA  
Edmonton-Gold Bar