

March 28, 2022

Effingham Planning Board

regarding April 7 site plan review of gas station proposal

Dear Planning Board Members,

We were disturbed to hear recently of plans to permit construction of a gas station off of Route 25 on the site of a former gravel pit within Effingham's Groundwater Protection District. Spills at gas stations are not uncommon and any spill at this proposed gas station would drain almost directly into the Ossipee Aquifer. This would contaminate drinking water not only for hundreds of nearby residents, but also for anyone who relies on the Ossipee Aquifer for drinking water.

Roughly a third of Eaton is in the Ossipee watershed. Residents and businesses in that part of Eaton rely on the Ossipee Aquifer for their water. Hence any potential contamination is of concern to us. We are further concerned by the request for a waiver of the requirement of a stormwater management plan in the site plan review application and the lack of clear credentials for the preparers of the plan. We strongly urge you to require evaluation by an appropriate New Hampshire licensed professional before considering approval of this site plan. Please make sure there are adequate protections for the Ossipee Aquifer in any plan that is approved.

Thank you for considering our concerns,

Joyce Blue
Dick Fortin
Edward Reilly
Eaton Select Board

Dennis Sullivan
Chair, Eaton Planning Board

Marnie Cobbs
Chair, Eaton Conservaiton Commission