

Mary Repar
P.O. Box 103
Stevenson, WA 98648
cell: (360) [REDACTED]
e-mail: repar@saw.net

12 July 2026

To: Columbia River Gorge Commission and Staff

From: Mary Repar

Subj: DEIS for the J.L. Storedahl and Sons Skamania Quarry Project; comments due by July 30, 2026

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

I urge the Gorge Commission and Staff to prioritize their agency comments for this quarry proposal for western Skamania County. The proposal states that 250 trucks will travel twice a day, for a total of 500 truck trips, from this proposed quarry, on WA State Highway 14 in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. This is unacceptable traffic, noise, and resource use (water!), and other environmental issues, in the NSA.

The water problem on the west end of Skamania County is already a issue for people who live there; some have seen their wells decreasing in depth and have had to drill deeper for water. As more development takes place, the water issues become more evident and critical. Water Resource Inventory Areas have not been studied sufficiently by Skamania County or the USGS, as was supposed to happen so we really don't know what the actual water situation is in this specific area. We are in a drought and washing gravel with precious water is not a smart idea. See Reference 1, below.

The Capehorn bridge and the Slough bridge, in Washougal, need maintenance if not replacement, and the WA Department of Transportation has not said that replacement, or even maintenance will happen any time soon. Bridges collapse when they are not properly maintained. Highway 14 in Skamania county is more patches than pavement and needs to be resurfaced.

The Gorge Commission should make agency comments on the DEIS from the NSA perspective. Comments are due July 30th.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/e-signature/Mary Repar

Reference 1: I asked AI a question about water use for gravel mining and this is the answer I got:

Yes, gravel quarries and aggregate pits consume substantial volumes of water. Water is heavily utilized for **washing and screening gravel** to remove dirt and clay, and for **dust suppression**—spraying haul roads, stockpiles, and processing equipment. [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#)

Because gravel extraction frequently occurs below the local water table, active pits must actively manage large volumes of groundwater. While specific practices vary depending on the geology of the local Stevenson area, the broader aggregate industry operates under specific water guidelines: [\[1\]](#)

- **Closed-Loop Systems:** Most wash plants rely on recirculating rinse water. Turbid water is directed into settling ponds to allow dirt and silt to sink, and the clarified water is pumped back into the wash plant. [\[1\]](#)
- **Dewatering:** Since digging deeper hits groundwater, operators use heavy-duty pumps to remove the water and keep the pit floor dry enough to operate heavy machinery. [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#)
- **Makeup Water:** Facilities must constantly draw "makeup water" (from local wells or streams) to replace the volume lost to evaporation or carried away as moisture on the final gravel products. [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#)

Would you like to know more about the **environmental regulations** regarding water discharge from quarries, or are you looking for details on how the industry manages **dust control**?