



Falkirk seeks road setback approvals, temporary closures for future mining activities

Public hearings scheduled before Longfellow Township, McLean County Commission

BY KELLI AMELING

Associate Publisher

Three public notices published in the Sept. 10 edition of the Central McLean News-Journal outline requests by The Falkirk Mining Co. related to future surface coal mining operations in western McLean County.

The requests involve approvals to mine within 100 feet of certain public road rights-of-way and temporary closures of section line roads needed for mining and reclamation activities.

Two separate hearings are scheduled before the Longfellow Township Board of Supervisors on Sept. 29 at Underwood City Hall, while a third hearing was scheduled before the McLean County Commission on Sept. 15 at the McLean County Courthouse in Washburn.

Mining setback request affects multiple roads

One petition filed with Longfellow Township seeks permission for Falkirk Mining to conduct surface coal mining operations within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way lines of several public roads in Township 146 North, Range 83 West.

According to the notice, the company is asking township officials to approve mining activities adjacent to portions of section line roads and trails located in and around Sections 23 through 36.

The petition states Falkirk believes the interests of the public and affected landowners will be protected during the proposed operations.

Longfellow Township supervisors are scheduled to hold a public hearing on the request at 6:10 p.m. Sept. 29 at Underwood City Hall. Interested residents will have an opportunity to present testimony or submit written comments. Copies

of the petition are available for review through the McLean County Auditor's Office.

Temporary township road closure requested

A second petition before Longfellow Township seeks temporary closure of a section line trail located between the

east half of Section 26 and the west half of Section 25, Township 146 North, Range 83 West.

Falkirk stated the closure is needed to facilitate surface coal mining and reclamation operations in the area.

Under the proposal, the company would be required to restore the section line trail to a condition comparable to its pre-closure state following completion of mining and reclamation work, subject to township requirements.

A public hearing on the request is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. Sept. 29, immediately following the setback hearing.

County road closure also proposed

In a separate filing with the McLean County Commission, Falkirk requested temporary closure of a county road located in the west half of Section 32 and the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 145 North, Range 83 West.

As with the township request, the company said the



temporary closure would allow mining and reclamation activities to proceed. Falkirk pledged to restore the roadway following completion of operations to the extent required by county officials.

The McLean County Commission scheduled a public hearing on the petition for 9 a.m. Sept. 15 at the McLean County Courthouse in Washburn.

County officials indicated the petition and accompanying maps showing the affected road

segments are available for public inspection at the McLean County Auditor's Office during regular business hours.

The notices were issued by order of the Longfellow Township Board of Supervisors and the McLean County Commission. Public officials will determine whether the requests satisfy legal requirements and adequately protect public interests before taking action on the petitions.