

Section 27.3 – Mineral Extraction Definitions

- a. Add definition of construction minerals as follows: The term “construction minerals” includes natural common rock, stone, aggregate, gravel and sand that is produced and used for local construction purposes, including road pavement, unpaved road gravel or cover, concrete, asphalt, building and dimension stone, railroad ballast, decorative stone, retaining walls, revetment stone, riprap, mortar sand, construction lime, agricultural lime and bedding for livestock operations, sewer and septic systems, landfills, and sand blasting. The term “construction minerals” does not include “industrial minerals” as defined below.
- b. Add definition of industrial minerals as follows: The term “industrial minerals” includes naturally existing high quartz level stone, silica sand, quartz, graphite, diamonds, gemstones, kaolin, and other similar minerals used in industrial applications, but excluding construction minerals as defined above. Silica sand is categorized as an industrial mineral by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the North American Industry Classification System under classification no. 212322. “Silica sand” has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, Section 116C.99, subd. 1 (d): “‘Silica sand’ means well-rounded, sand-sized grains of quartz (silicon dioxide), with very little impurities in terms of other minerals. Specifically, the silica sand for the purposes of this section is commercially valuable for use in the hydraulic fracturing of shale to obtain oil and natural gas. Silica sand does not include common rock, stone, aggregate, gravel, sand with low quartz level, or silica compounds recovered as a by-product of metallic mining.” Minn. State Section 116C.99, subd. 1 (d) “Silica sand project” has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, Section 116C.99, subd. 1 (e): “‘Silica Sand project’ means the excavation and mining and processing of silica sand; the washing, cleaning, screening, crushing, filtering, drying, sorting, stockpiling, and storing of silica sand, either at the mining site or at any other site; hauling and transporting of silica sand; or a facility for transporting silica sand to destinations by rail, barge, truck, or other means of transportation.” Minn. State. Section 116C.99, subd. 1 (e).
- c. General formatting

Section 27.8 Subd. 1 (5) – Mine Density Standards

- d. Modify language as follows: New ~~sand~~ industrial mineral mining permits shall be limited to sites located no closer than ½ mile from all existing permitted or legal non-conforming ~~sand~~ industrial mineral mines. Measurements shall be taken from the proposed boundary of the new site to the approved boundary of the existing site.