



## APA'S LATEST PERMIT - ANOTHER RUBBER STAMP!



Local resident points to the proposed granite quarry above White Lake close to dozens of family camps. Photo by Megan Plete Postol

APA has just rubber-stamped an applicant's controversial permit to open a granite quarry above White Lake.

### What's at issue?

The APA accepted and did not test the applicant's assertions about no environmental or community impacts, for example:

- Extraction, drilling, blasting, crushing and transportation of mineral resources in a heavily settled residential area above spring-fed White Lake drew unprecedented levels of public concern, yet APA held no public hearing;
- APA stated that numerous impact studies required by the agency in 2000 for a mining proposal at the same location (that proposal was withdrawn) were irrelevant to the current application;
- APA's permit relies on after-the-fact testing of the distance between the mine floor and the groundwater table. This testing should have been done before the application was deemed complete by the APA.

### What has happened to the APA?

Once a leading guardian and proactive planning agency for the Park, APA has become a politically compliant permitting agency for applicants.

### What should be done?

The State Legislature should hold hearings this year to investigate whether the APA is still fulfilling its mandated legislated mission and, if not, how the legislature, governor and the public can strengthen the agency and help it regain its vision and sense of mission.

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