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**(Neb.) - Temporary injunction issued in Neb. mining dispute**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 05/02/2012 04:28 PM

SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb. (AP) - A Scotts Bluff County judge has issued a temporary injunction barring a company from mining sand and gravel near the North Platte River in Scottsbluff.

The county sought the injunction against Western Engineering, claiming the mining damaged a county road, resulted in a breach in the river and threatened adjacent private property.

Judge Randy Lippstreu has granted the county's request.

The county says Western Engineering is illegally mining because a conditional use permit for the mining expired in 1993. The company says the mining is legal and cites a letter from a former public works director who said he had no objections.

The county's outside counsel, John Sorensen, says a county employee can't usurp the commissioners' authority to have a final say on the permits.

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