A request was made to find out how much water is anticipated for usage in Chippewa Falls for the processing plant (2.6 million tons of silica per year can be processed!). Continual monitoring and assessment of usage will be very important as the number of mines increase and the production increases. A closed loop system will be used. How efficient and effective will it be? This is the response from Rick Rubenzer, City Engineer in Chippewa Falls in terms of the usage.

Pat: The “Steady” water demand for sand processing at the EOG plant is 250 gallons per minute. If this is drawn 24 hours per day and 365 days per year, this would be 131 million gallons annually or about one fourth of what the city previously sold and supplied to its largest consumer on an annual basis. We used to estimate that largest consumption to be about equal to one of the city's municipal wells (800 - 1000 gpm) typical output. Out of the above amount, 5% of the water is estimated to be lost to evaporation in the sand process.

In addition, EOG will use water for their plumbing fixtures and for filling their approximately 575,000 gallon clarifier from time to time. They are not sure of the frequency to fill the clarifier but estimate once per month. In layperson terms, when they are filling the clarifier it amounts to about half a water towers worth of water. They will also use additional water for dust control and outside hydrant use.

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