

May 5, 2015

Councillor Robert Pasuta
City of Hamilton
71 Main St. West
Hamilton ON
L8P 4Y5

Acton
Georgetown
Esquesing



Town of Halton Hills
Office of the Mayor
Rick Bonnette

Dear Councillor Pasuta:

For the past two years the Town of Halton Hills has been carefully monitoring the activities of James Dick Construction Limited in their efforts to establish a proposed new quarry. This has been referred to as the "Hidden Quarry", located on lands near Rockwood in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa, County of Wellington on the north side of Highway 7, just outside of Halton Hills.

I am writing to you on behalf of Council at the Town of Halton Hills to express serious concerns residents have over this proposed site as well as our concern over the minimal authority municipalities have to question where aggregate proponents propose to establish their pits and quarries. I am sure many of you are experiencing similar situations with new quarry proposals within your communities. As a result of these concerns, at the April 13, 2015 Council meeting, we adopted the enclosed resolution requesting that the Ontario Government amend the Provincial Policy Statement and the Aggregate Resources Act to require aggregate extraction proponents to clearly demonstrate the need for the particular supply of resource proposed for extraction.

Municipalities have limited ability to protect the interests of its citizens from the negative impacts associated with aggregate operations and little authority to question why a proposed aggregate operation is necessary. The recently reviewed Provincial Policy Statement and the currently under review Aggregate Resources Act provide no basis for municipalities to question whether the aggregates from a proposed site are even needed. In 2005, the Provincial Policy Statement was amended to explicitly indicate that proponents are not required to demonstrate that there is a need for the particular aggregate they propose to extract from the site.

Although the current Aggregate Resources Act allows for the Minister to assess the overall provincial demand for aggregate, it does not require consideration of how a particular proposed extraction site may or may not contribute to meeting demand.

It is our position that no justification has been provided that proves that the proposed extraction site is even needed. Current provincial rules are weighted in favour of siting of aggregate extraction sites at the expense of other provincial interests such as protecting groundwater and natural heritage and building healthy, safe communities.

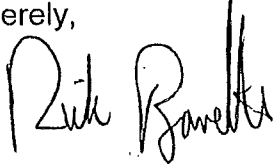
The Town of Halton Hills urges the Province to level the playing field and require more comprehensive planning for new individual extraction sites that is transparent, shows



The Town of Halton Hills urges the Province to level the playing field and require more comprehensive planning for new individual extraction sites that is transparent, shows justification and need that is balanced against other provincial interests, which will ultimately result in more sustainable use of aggregate resources.

I am hoping that your council can support the enclosed resolution or a similar resolution tailored to your municipality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Bonnette". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Mayor Rick Bonnette

Encl.

Moved by: Mayor R. Bonnette
Seconded by: Councillor J. Hurst

WHEREAS a license application under the Aggregate Resources Act and a Zoning By-law Amendment application under the Planning Act has been submitted by James Dick Construction Limited for the proposed Hidden Quarry located on the north side of Highway 7, in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa;

AND WHEREAS a primary concern for Town of Halton Hills Council is an increase in truck traffic through the Town of Halton Hills, as it is anticipated, but not demonstrated, that the Greater Toronto Area will be the principal market for materials extracted from the proposed quarry;

AND WHEREAS it is widely acknowledged that extracting aggregates from the landscape is an intrusive activity that has the potential to cause long-term impacts on publicly important environmental resources and farmland; increases in traffic congestion, road damage, and greenhouse gas emissions; and degrade the quality of life of local communities;

AND WHEREAS in 2005 the Provincial Policy Statement was amended to allow aggregate producers to propose extraction sites without having to demonstrate the need for the additional supply of aggregate resources, thereby creating a barrier to comprehensive planning and favouring the protection of aggregate extraction at the expense of other provincial interests, and as a result encouraging the rapid and non-sustainable use of the resource;

AND WHEREAS applications for licences under the current Aggregate Resources Act do not require proponents to demonstrate need to extract aggregate resources in a particular area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Halton Hills Council request that the Ontario Government amend the Provincial Policy Statement and the Aggregate Resources Act to require aggregate extraction proponents to demonstrate need for the particular supply of resource proposed for extraction;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Provincial Opposition Party leaders, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Halton Region, the Town of Oakville, the City of Burlington, the Town of Milton, Michael Chong - Wellington-Halton Hills MP, Ted Arnott - Wellington Halton Hills MPP, FCM, AMO, GET, and the Township of Guelph Eramosa.

CARRIED