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October 14, 2013

Kirstin Maxwell
Policy & Program Specialist
City of Hamilton
350 King St East St, Unit 110
Hamilton, ON
L8N 3Y3

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

RE: Rural Hamilton Official Plan Amendment (OPA)

As you are well aware, Holcim (Canada) Inc. (herein referred to as 'Holcim') employs approximately 3,500 Canadians across Canada. Our Ontario business units: Dufferin Aggregates, Dufferin Concrete, Dufferin Construction and Holcim are leading producers and suppliers of products and services for the construction industry in the Greater Toronto Area and adjacent municipalities. More specifically, the City of Hamilton is extremely important to Holcim as Dufferin Aggregates and Dufferin Concrete are both active members within the community operating a limestone quarry and a ready-mix concrete plant. Holcim has reviewed the proposed amendment to the City of Hamilton's Rural Official Plan and provides the following comments pertaining to the policies and schedules outlined below:

Transportation Policies

- The road network functional classification note in Section 4.5.2 should confirm that Provincial, Arterial and Collector Roads permit truck traffic and local roads permit truck traffic for local deliveries and an Official Plan Amendment should be required if a road is proposed to be downgraded (Section 4.5.4 ii)).
- Furthermore, Section 4.6.2 makes reference to Appendix B (which identifies truck routes) and we note that this was not included as part of the amendment materials. We kindly request a copy of Appendix B. In addition, we believe that Appendix B should be a schedule that forms part of the Official Plan.

Applicability of Chapter B

- Could the City please clarify that the policies in Chapter B only apply to rural settlement areas? Additional comments will be provided in the event that the policies do apply to mineral aggregate uses or consideration of new or expanded mineral aggregate operations.



New Cultural Heritage Resource Policies for Aggregate Section

- We would appreciate an opportunity to discuss policies D.6.30 and D.6.31 with City staff in order to better understand their nature and intent. For example, aggregate extraction below the water table often results in the creation of a lake as the final end use, thereby making it difficult to conserve/reflect/represent the pre-extraction character of the lands that have been altered as a result of extraction and rehabilitation.

Definition of Compatibility

- We suggest that the words "in harmony" be deleted that this policy is restructured to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (i.e. include the concept that uses are appropriately designed, buffered and/or separated from each other to prevent adverse effects).

Study Requirements

- Section 1.9.7 – potential study requirements, including "aggregate resource assessment" or "aggregate/mineral resource analysis" are listed in this section. It is our understanding that these represent studies required for proposed development applications in proximity to identified aggregate areas in order to confirm that these applications would not preclude or hinder existing operations or access to new resource areas. We request that City staff please clarify these studies are not required for new or expanded mineral aggregate operations.

Linkage Policies

- Section 3.2.2 – we request clarification in this policy to indicate that natural heritage system linkages policies do not apply to new or expanded mineral aggregate applications, in accordance with Section 2.2.11 of the Official Plan.

Mapping (Revised Schedule B (Core Areas) – Addition of Linkages)

- Revised Schedule B (Core Areas) – Addition of Linkages – We would request that the City please clarify the addition of a "Linkage" to Schedule B (Core Areas) on the lands to the west of our existing Flamboro Quarry, despite that the linkages policies do not apply to mineral aggregate operations.

Thank you for consideration of the above noted comments and we would be please to meet with City staff to discuss these items. Holcim reserves the right to provide additional comments should subsequent issues be identified during the review of the Official Plan Amendment and discussions with City staff.

Thank you,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Ferri'.

Jessica Ferri, MCIP, RPP
Planning Specialist
Planning & Regulatory Affairs
Holcim (Canada) Inc.

cc. Brian Zeman, MHBC Planning