



March 11, 2021

Dorothy Moszynski
Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

(Submitted electronically to the Environmental Registry of Ontario)

**RE: Environmental Registry of Ontario Proposal #019-2876
Project-specific proposal to designate and exempt the proposed Reid Road Reservoir Quarry in Milton under the Environmental Assessment Act
Joint Submission from the Town of Milton, Regional Municipality of Halton, and Conservation Halton**

Dear Ms. Moszynski:

We are writing on behalf of Halton Region, the Town of Milton and the Halton Region Conservation Authority (“the Agencies”) in response to ERO posting No. 019-2876: Project-specific proposal to designate and exempt the proposed Reid Road Reservoir Quarry (“the Quarry”) in Milton under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, posted January 29, 2021 (“the Proposal”).

We note that Halton Region and the Town of Milton have previously requested an environmental assessment for the Quarry: Town of Milton Council on August 12, 2019, and Halton Regional Council on September 11, 2019. Both motions were unanimously carried, and are attached for reference. The additional study and public consultation that would be mandated through an environmental assessment is warranted for this proposal.

An application for a licence under the *Aggregate Resources Act* to permit the Quarry was filed in June 2018. The Agencies have been reviewing the application through a Joint Agency Review Team (“JART”) framework since August 2018. The concept of a JART within Halton Region was first established by Regional Council’s approval of the “Halton Consolidated – Streamlined Mineral Aggregate Review Protocol,” most recently updated in February 2020. JART involves establishing a review team and workflow that facilitates

sharing of information and expertise among review agencies. Staff involved on these applications provide a critical, independent evaluation of proposals to inform decision-making made by the respective councils, boards, and agencies participating. Staff work with applicants to understand and evaluate the technical submissions and obtain more information where necessary, with the intent of improving overall efficiency and knowledge associated with the processing of aggregate applications.

ERO Proposal, Terms of Reference and Prescribed Content

The Proposal refers to “exempting the proposal from certain environmental assessment requirements”. Specific details have not yet been provided. Given this, we are not able to comment on specific exemptions that the Ministry may be contemplating but have identified some areas where the posted Proposal necessitates amendments.

We note that the Proposal contemplates exempting the Quarry from the requirement to prepare and obtain approval of terms of reference, along with other provisions of the *Act* that refer to terms of reference. The Proposal contemplates exempting the Quarry from “some prescribed content requirements” which are not specified.

The Agencies believe that these exemptions are only appropriate if the proposed regulation clearly specifies the terms of reference and content requirements for the required environmental assessment.

Specific Content Requirements

The Agencies support the specific content requirements listed in the Proposal. In addition, we recommend the following issues be studied and addressed through mandatory content requirements.

The first group of issues are those that have been studied through the *Aggregate Resources Act* application process:

1. A study of blasting impacts, including the potential for flyrock.
2. A fugitive dust study, including an assessment of potential impacts on human health and the natural environment.
3. An assessment of impacts on groundwater and surface water resources.
4. An assessment of impacts on natural heritage.

5. Detailed conditions governing the use and maintenance of the proposed haul route.
6. Detailed conditions for the monitoring and mitigation of impacts to groundwater, surface water resources and impacts to the natural environment. These conditions should implement all of the recommendations made by the Agencies through the JART process.

If the Province decides to proceed with the Proposal, the issues listed above are of great interest to the public and should be included as mandatory content requirements in any environmental assessment. With appropriate refinements by the proponent, we anticipate that a significant portion of these content requirements could be met by work that has already been completed.

The Agencies have asked the applicant, through the JART process, to undertake a thorough land use planning analysis in support of the Quarry. This is consistent with Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry guidance documents, which indicate that conformity with Provincial policies and plans must be considered in reviewing the *Aggregate Resources Act* application. To date, the applicant has not provided this analysis, relying instead on the pre-existing zoning to justify the development of the Quarry in this location.

The Agencies believe that the environmental assessment process proposes an opportunity to step back and ask some larger questions concerning the proposed Quarry that have not been assessed as part of the *Aggregate Resources Act* application process:

1. A comprehensive study of the use of underwater blasting in Ontario and elsewhere including the identification of conditions under which the use of this technique is appropriate and conditions under which it is inappropriate.
2. A door to door well survey program within 1500 metres of the quarry boundary.
3. A detailed study of land use planning considerations relating to the proposed quarry, including an assessment of:
 - a. impacts on the agricultural system;
 - b. social impacts on the residents of the Hamlet of Campbellville;
 - c. impacts on surrounding businesses;
 - d. an assessment of the long-term impacts to Reid Side Road from the use of the road by trucks hauling mineral aggregates;

- e. an assessment of conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement, the Greenbelt Plan, the Halton Region Official Plan and the Town of Milton Official Plan; and
- f. the applicability of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and other Provincial legislation (e.g., *Clean Water Act*, *Endangered Species Act*).

Public Consultation

The Agencies recommend that there should be ongoing public consultation on the Quarry application through the environmental assessment process. The Proposal should not exempt the Quarry from any of the provisions of the *Act* that ensure transparency and public participation, including the right for members of the public to request a hearing under s. 7.2(3) of the *Act*.

Conclusion

Given the level of public interest and concern around the proposed Quarry, the Agencies believe that the additional study and public consultation involved in the Environmental Assessment process is warranted and welcomed.

If there are further questions, please contact Halton Region's project lead, Joe Nethery (joe.nethery@halton.ca, 905-825-6000, ext.3035).

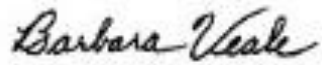
Sincerely,



Curt Benson, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning Services and Chief Planning Official
Halton Region



Barb Koopmans, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner, Development Services
Town of Milton



Barb Veale, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Watershed Management
Conservation Halton

cc: James Parkin, MHBC (by email)
Greg Sweetnam, James Dick Construction Limited (by email)
Katie O'Connell, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (by email)

Encl.



HALTON REGION

NOTICE OF MOTION

DATE: September 11, 2019

ITEM: Support for Environmental Assessment – Reid Reservoir Quarry

DATE OF MEETING
NOTICE OF MOTION
TO BE CONSIDERED: Council Meeting – September 11, 2019

MOVED BY: Councillor C. Best
SECONDED BY: Mayor G. Krantz

WHEREAS a Class A Category 1 & 2 License Application has been made under the *Aggregate Resources Act* by James Dick Construction Limited to extract aggregate from the property locally known as the former Reid Reservoir Quarry in the Village of Campbellville in the Town of Milton (“the License”);

AND WHEREAS citizens, elected representatives and technical experts have voiced concerns with respect to the granting of the License due to the proposed quarry’s proximity to residential homes, school, and local and regional roads and provincial highway 401, as well as technical concerns;

AND WHEREAS the Member of Provincial Parliament for Milton, Mr. Parm Gill, has rightfully recognized the concerns of residents affected by the proposed License;

AND WHEREAS MPP Gill has announced that he will request an immediate Environmental Assessment of the proposed quarry from the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, prior to the License being considered;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Regional Municipality of Halton declare its support for MPP Gill’s request of the immediate Environmental Assessment of the proposed Reid Reservoir Quarry by the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council and staff continue to work with our elected representatives at all levels of government to facilitate the Environmental Assessment, if it is granted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Town of Milton, Provincial MPP for Milton Parm Gill, Federal MP for Milton Lisa Raitt, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Provincial Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Conservation Halton, Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, and the Provincial Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

INTRODUCTION DATE: August 12, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for Environmental Assessment – Reid Reservoir Quarry

CONSIDERATION DATE: August 12, 2019

REQUESTED BY: Councillor Tesser Derksen

SECONDED BY: Councillor Best

WHEREAS a Class A Category 1 & 2 License Application has been made under the *Aggregate Resources Act* by James Dick Construction Limited to extract aggregate from the property locally known as the former Reid Reservoir Quarry in the Village of Campbellville in the Town of Milton (“the License”);

AND WHEREAS both citizens, elected representatives, and geological and environmental experts have voiced opposition to the granting of the License due to the proposed quarry’s proximity to residential homes, school, and local and regional roads and provincial highway 401;

AND WHEREAS the Member of Provincial Parliament for Milton, Mr. Parm Gill, has rightfully recognized the concerns of residents affected by the proposed License;

AND WHEREAS MPP Gill has announced that he will request an immediate Environmental Assessment of the proposed quarry location from the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, prior to the License being considered;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Milton declare its support for MPP Gill's request of the immediate Environmental Assessment of the proposed Reid Reservoir Quarry site by the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council and staff continue to work with our elected representatives at all levels of government to facilitate the Environmental Assessment, if it is granted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to The Region of Halton, Provincial MPP for Milton Parm Gill, Federal MP for Milton Lisa Raitt, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Provincial Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Conservation Halton, Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, and the Federal Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.