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Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Avenue West,
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(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 (the “Proposal”)– Submission of Association of Citizens Together in our Nassagaweya (ACTION) (“ACTION Milton”, “we”, “We”).

ACTION Milton is a non-profit/non-share capital corporation which represents many residents and community members in Milton/Campbellville who oppose proposed Reid Road Reservoir Quarry (the “proposed Quarry”).

We are not against aggregate extraction, however the application (the “ARA Application”) by James Dick Construction Ltd. (“JDCL”) under the Aggregate Resources Act (Ontario) (the “ARA”) is vastly different from the sand and gravel pit which operated on the property in the 1970’s, ceased operations over 20 years ago and had its ARA licence revoked many years ago. A sand and gravel pit verses an underwater quarry with a recycling facility, are different operations, with different risks. The community has changed dramatically in the last 50 years, and it was never the intention for the extraction of aggregate to continue on the lands located at 9210 Twiss Road on which the proposed Quarry would be operated (the “Subject Lands”). In particular, the Town of Milton and the Region of Halton were working on OPA 31 and ROPA 38 for many years prior to JDCL acquiring Subject Lands, and were making land planning decisions (all of which were available to the public, including JDCL) to ensure the Subject Lands would never be used for aggregate extraction.

A quarrying operation, such as the proposed Quarry, should not be permitted to operate in such proximity to the residents and businesses of the community of Campbellville, or the Hwy 401. The proximity of the proposed Quarry to Campbellville will cause material adverse harm to, and have a material negative impact on residents and visitors of and to Campbellville and the surrounding area. Some of the impacts would not be felt for years – for example, illness and fatalities due to the added PM2.5 in the air; deterioration of the quality/quantity of our well water. Some impacts would be felt immediately – large gravel trucks diverting from a backed-up

400 series highway and travelling alongside pedestrians and cyclists in the village and on the surrounding rural roads; the incessant noise and dust from blasting and aggregate processing.

Given our concerns with respect to the impact of the proposed Quarry on the health and safety of the community, it is imperative that the regulation designating the proposed Quarry as being subject to the Environmental Assessment Act (the “Act”) and the environmental assessment (the “EA”), and the resulting Terms of Reference be comprehensive. They all must require a very fulsome analysis of all the potential environmental risks associated with the proposed Quarry. The development of the Terms of Reference must be open, transparent, and allow the full participation of the public, as well as key stakeholders, including ACTION Milton. The review to date in connection with the ARA Application has been not be thorough enough, subject to adequate scrutiny and independent review, nor has it involved the participation of the public. There are environmental issues that have not been studied, and other issues where the scope was not adequately inclusive. In addition, we are concerned about the quality and accuracy of many of the technical reports provided by JDCL in connection with the ARA Application, as most of the experts used by JDCL work exclusively for the aggregate industry.

Even though the Joint Agency Review Team from Halton Conservation, the Town of Milton and the Region of Halton (JART) has raised many issues with JDCL, we are not satisfied that the JART review and the proponent’s supporting information adequately address all the risks to the community. We believe this has been exacerbated by the lack of public involvement with the JART process and the fact that the JART is merely a commenting, not decision making body. Below, are some areas that need further in depth review.

- Underwater blasting
 - The blasts detonated adjacent to and below the bottom of the pond, could cause irrecoverable damage to the groundwater supplying private and municipal wells. The groundwater flows slowly, meaning that we might not see the impact of the blasting on our wells for several years making it easier for the proponent to deny liability for any future reduction in the quality and/or quantity of water supplying both private and municipal wells.
- Flyrock
 - The potential for flyrock on the adjacent 401 does not seem to have been studied adequately. Our understanding is that because the blast takes place adjacent to a pond, risk of flyrock is deemed to be inconsequential. This does not make sense. There are vertical forces as seen when blast mats lift on detonation of a charge; these forces are not 100% controllable and flyrock can be the result. As well, there is exposed vertical rock above the pond water level which is not at all mitigated by the presence of the water.
 - The proponent stated that flyrock will not occur because it is not allowed. This is condescending at best and reinforces the need for additional study.

- We also question whether recommended setbacks for blasting are adequate to prevent accidents and injuries occurring along highway 401 and to local residents and businesses. Modelling as used in Australia or the United States should be reviewed and applied. Incidents of property damage and personal injury from Ontario and elsewhere should be studied pursuant to adopting a safety standard for setbacks from blasting.
- Disaster modelling should be undertaken in the event of a flyrock blast impacting traffic on highway 401.
- Disaster modelling should also be undertaken with respect to the CN rail line running parallel to the Subject Property in the event blasting results in a train derailment.
- Traffic/Road Safety
 - The impact on 401 traffic was not part of the scope of studies done to-date. This is unacceptable. Gravel trucks entering and leaving the 401 will disrupt traffic flow on the 401. A full highway corridor management study needs to be conducted.
 - During times of highway congestion, it seems obvious that the gravel trucks will travel on municipal roads. The impact of these trucks travelling through the community has not been adequately studied.
 - There has been no consideration as to the impact to residents on Reid Sideroad, Stokes Trail and Crawford Crescent.
 - There has been no consideration as to how the traffic on Reid Sideroad will impact the emergency services. The truck volume can be as high as one every two minutes.
 - Many residents use Reid Sideroad for their leisure, running, walking and cycling. The proposed hours of operation of the proposed Quarry will be 6:00am to 7:00pm Monday to Saturday. The risk to community members using these roads must be quantified and assessed against acceptable risk.
- Air Quality
 - Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) is a known human health hazard and greater exposure increases risk of illness and mortality. This risk to public health of the additive impact of this invisible dust, a known carcinogen, has not been quantified or studied adequately.
- Natural Environment
 - There has not been adequate consideration of how the Provincially Significant Wetlands are going to be protected. Simply managing water level (if indeed that

is achievable) will not protect against the incessant dust, blasting, noise and truck traffic on this important ecosystem.

- The Province states that the value of wetlands includes:
 - groundwater storage and release
 - provision of habitat for wildlife species, including species at risk
 - ecosystem productivity and biological diversity
 - flood damage prevention
 - harvestable product provision
 - improved water quality
 - recreational opportunities
- A study needs to be undertaken to determine whether the licensing of this quarry would be consistent with the stated value of these important wetlands which are rated as being Provincially Significant.
- We do not feel that there has been adequate study pertaining to the presence of protected species on the property. We understand, for example, that a study was completed for Jefferson Salamanders but we do not believe it was comprehensive; nor are details of review by government officials available for public review.
- Noise
 - Along with the blasting vibration, noise would be incessant from the extraction and crushing of rock and the acceleration/deceleration of gravel trucks 6 days per week. Unlike “traditional” quarries, all the noise (and dust) from crushing and processing of rock will occur at ground level.
 - No impact studies have been conducted with respect to the blasting vibration and the incessant noise on the hundreds of residents and businesses surrounding the proposed Quarry, including the potential damage to the foundations of buildings, homes and wells. Full studies must be conducted to analyze the impact of blasting vibration, noise, shock waves and dust on local residential and business receptors.
 - ACTION Milton understands that the Dufferin quarry on Dublin line acquires local residents’ homes that have been impacted by their blasting, noise and dust. The entire village of Campbellville and surrounding area can not be purchased by JDCL.
- Recycling/Reprocessing Asphalt & Concrete
 - Permitting the stockpiling of used asphalt and concrete on the site and the reprocessing of them is a source of potential contamination which we understand has not been adequately studied.

- Definition of Environment
 - Additional areas of concern which were not raised as part of the study include the “social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community”. By way of example:
 - There is a Church on Main Street, a cemetery directly behind it. Assessment of the societal impact is needed on visitors and residents who would lose their current privacy.
 - There is also a baseball diamond with a second entrance on Reid Sideroad, where teams played before the pandemic. The impact of dust, traffic and noise needs to be analyzed for children and adults in this ballpark.
 - An overall analysis of how residents will be protected from the noise, dust, a potential rail disaster, loss of or contamination of their water, road safety, etc. is needed.
 - As noted in the ERO posting, over 1000 letters of objection were received by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in response to the Application. When the EA is conducted, each of these letters needs to be reviewed by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (“MECP”) to gain further insight into and to address both the technical and overall societal concerns of the community.
 - Campbellville is an important destination for outdoor activities. We have hikers, cyclists and many others who enjoy the local roads and conservation areas. Their enjoyment of the area would be negatively impacted by the presence of large gravel trucks on the roads and the dust and noise from the quarry.
 - The Premier asserted he does not want this quarry. The Town and Region have also stated they are not in favour of licensing the quarry. The Town and Regional Official Plans do not permit aggregate extraction on the Subject Lands. Because of delays with finalizing the Town official plan, the zoning had not yet been changed.
 - A Minister’s Zoning Order (“MZO”) could be used to reduce the societal impact of this quarry on the community; however it appears to only be used to promote development; not to protect the environment.
 - Residents are concerned about the financial impact on their homes. For many, as is the case in much of Canada, their home is a major component of their retirement plans. It is also a concern that a Minister’s Zoning Order is only used for development. Whereas, the risks to local businesses are significant, an MZO should be used to protect their continued economic development.
 - The provincial government should not allow any one Person (JDCL) to move into a community, begin operations and put at significant risk the health and safety of a community and the surrounding environment.

In formulating the regulation which would designate the proposed Quarry as being subject to the Act, and an EA, the regulation and the resulting Terms of Reference must be as broad as is conceivably possible. While we appreciate the work that has been done to-date by the local governments, we remain concerned that there are gaps in the studies. It would not be appropriate to rely solely, or even substantially, just on the reports provided by JDCL in connection with the ARA Application, or the analysis carried out by JART, given the significant environmental risks which will result from the operation of the proposed Quarry so close to the community of Campbellville, adjacent to Provincially Significant Wetlands and beside a 400-series highway. We have read the letter dated March 11, 2021 submitted by JART to the ERO and also require clarification with respect to the following:

- The Proposal refers to “exempting the proposal from certain environmental assessment requirements”. There are no details provided, and we can not comment until the MECP provides same;
- The Proposal contemplates exempting the proposed Quarry from the requirement to prepare and obtain approval of the Terms of Reference, along with provisions of the Act that refer to the Terms of Reference. It also contemplates exempting the proposed Quarry from “some prescribed content requirements”. Again, there are no details provided, and we can not comment until the MECP provides same.

We implore the MECP to include the public in defining a broad Terms of Reference to review the potential impact of this proposed Quarry. We are very confident that there are many significant environmental issues which should lead the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks to exercise the right to refuse to permit the proposed Quarry to proceed. In other words, support the Premier in his assertion that this quarry will be stopped “one way or another”.

Sincerely,

Association of Citizens together in our Nassagaweya (ACTION)



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