

Laurentian Hills hears plans for concrete plant to serve CNL

BY VANCE GUTZMAN

Laurentian Hills council heard at its last meeting about plans for construction of a concrete plant in the municipality.

The plant would be aimed at supporting construction of the Advanced Nuclear Materials Research Centre (ANMRC) at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). The ANMRC will be a 10,000 square metre research complex accommodating 240 employees.

It will feature 12 new shielded cells which will enable post-irradiation examination of both small modular reactor and next-generation fuels, along with glovebox facilities to support the development of advanced fuel fabrication concepts.

Bird Construction is spearheading construction of the ANMRC, and has plans to place a concrete batch plant on land owned by Tracy Lance, located off Plant Road. Anthony Homnick and Steve Webster, of Jp2g Consultants, appeared before council to explain both the logistics of the concrete plant and the planning process entailed in its construction.

Traditionally, Webster said, concrete for construction of the ANMRC would be brought in by truck from Pembroke or Petawawa, but that can lead to potential delays.

“They want to have a site close to CNL so they can make sure the trucks do arrive in a timely manner,” he said of the rationale behind Bird Construction’s plans. Webster also took pains in his presentation to allevi-

ate any concerns from local residents with regards to increased truck traffic resulting from the concrete plant.

“In this case, the same number of trucks would still be going towards CNL,” Webster said.

“But instead of coming down the highway they would be coming from this site instead. It shouldn’t increase the traffic on the neighbouring roads.”

Homnick explained to council the concrete plant would sit on about 3.5 acres of the 120 acres of land owned by Lance, with access off Plant Road.

The property, Homnick noted, is designated as Village Community Exception 4 in the town’s Official Plan, allowing for mixed commercial and industrial usage with low water usage, and that works fine for the batch plant, he said, as water for it will be trucked in from off-site.

Additionally, he said, every effort has been made to exceed the minimum separation distance of the proposed concrete plant from any residentially zoned proper-

ties in the area.

A site plan control application has already been filed to permit the concrete plant’s location on the property, and its construction also hinges on securing an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) from the Ministry of Environment.

“It’s a robust process,” Homnick said of the ECA, adding a traffic study has been prepared to support the ECA application.

“It’s nice to know what’s going in there,” Mayor Anne Giardini told the Jp2g delegation.

“It’s also good to know all the studies and requirements are being done and it is an acceptable use of the property.”

