

Peer reviews not favourable to St Mary's haul route study

By DON REDMOND

Three separate peer review companies have handed Hamilton their assessment of the proposed St Mary's quarry haul routes and the verdict was: "not enough information."

"Obviously, when we read these, city staff have some pretty major concerns," said Flamborough Councillor Margaret McCarthy, who's leading the battle against the proposed quarry on the Campbellville-Flamborough border.

"We're getting back peer reviews that in one case had 14 pages of concerns," she marvelled, "and this is just their haul routes."

She noted that if the proposed haul routes were causing this much concern, "what about the even bigger issues, such as water quality?"

The Ministry of the Environment itself has asked that the Ministry of Natural Resources turn down the application until the company supplies them with more definitive water recirculation results.

McCarthy told the Compass that among the peer reviews, the prevailing concerns were over the "lack of completeness" in the information being supplied by the aggregate company.

To that end, Michelle Sergi, a senior planner in Hamilton's Planning and Economic Development department, sent St Mary's a tersely-worded letter on July 7, asking the company to provide all of the city's peer review team more information on their proposed haul routes from the site at 10th Concession East and Milburough Townline.

Based on peer reviews prepared for CART and city staff's review, it is noted that additional information is required to ensure that all the requirements of the Haul Route Study's Terms of Reference are met.

She went to say there was a "lack of clarity" in the St Mary's haul route study, as well as "question surrounding the

methodology employed in (their haul route) study."

Her letter goes on to question "information gaps" in the study, data that is out-of-date because the study was conducted so long ago and problems with "policy analysis and interpretation" by St Mary's.

She concluded that the city agreed with the finding from the three separate companies - IBI Group, Dougan & Associates and Valcoustics - and then added that the proposed haul route through Campbellville would need an Official Plan Amendment from the Town of Milton.

Given that Milton (as well as Halton) has already passed a motion, asking the Province to turn down the application, it is

unlikely they would adjust the Official Plan to help out the quarry applicant.

"Anyone can apply for anything," said Milton Councillor Cindy Lunau, "but given the concerns and missing information, I suspect this would be fought every inch of the way. You owe it to the process to review the documentation but without the documentation, no."

"I'm not the least bit surprised by the findings of these peer review companies," noted McCarthy. "We've know all along with St Mary's had been less-than-extensive in their studies.

Starr has been expressed the exact same concerns (as the peer review companies) for a long time now."