

Part 1

My question is to the Minister of the Environment

- The McGuinty government is well aware of St Marys proposal to develop a massive new Greenfield quarry in the Flamborough area of the City of Hamilton.
- The proposal is for an open pit mine in the middle of the Natural Heritage System of the Greenbelt where groundwater is crucial to the provision of clean, safe drinking water to more than 3,000 residents of Carlisle.
- Two thousand people from the area sent postcards asking the McGuinty government once and for all to stop this quarry – which is a serious threat to residents' water safety.
- Will the Minister say today when the government is going to step in and stop the quarry?

Part 2

- The availability of safe drinking water is at stake here.
- I remember when the first water restrictions and bans hit the Carlisle community when I was a Hamilton City councillor.
- Advisors to the government have called quarries a man-made threat of provincial concern because they create a direct pathway to the aquifer [plainer language – not sure what this means].
- They recommended that new quarries should not be situated so close to a municipal well head protection area.
- The Environment Commissioner has clearly told the government to screen out development proposals, like this one, which put the interests and profits of the aggregate mining industry ahead of the public's water supply and environmental protection.
- When will the government protect residents, farmers, businesses and schools near Carlisle by heeding the independent advice of the Environment Commissioner and stopping this quarry development?