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Date: Fri, 23 Jan 2009 10:46:22 -0500
Subject: Update - Proposed Quarry in Flamborough

Dear Flamborough and Halton Residents:

Last night I was notified by journalist Eric McGuinness with the Hamilton Spectator, that St. Marys (the company trying to establish a quarry on the 11th Concession) has submitted its Aggregate Resources Act application to the Minister of Natural Resources. In addition, they are refusing to repeat the water pumping test required by the Ministry Of Environment.

Bill Bardswick the Director of the West Central Region in the Ministry of the Environment has confirmed that in an e-mail to me. He further stated that the MOE has no authority to force St. Marys to carry out the pumping tests in the Permit To Take Water they recently issued them, but, Bardswick states, "we will not entertain a PTTW application for the quarry itself until the necessary studies (which includes the pump tests) are carried out which demonstrate that the quarry will not impact quality and quantity of ground and surface water".

At this point, some will be questioning what is going on now? Allow me to provide my most recent experiences as the representative on Source Water Protection (the committee that was formed after the Walkerton Inquiry). On December 15th of last year I attended a work shop put on by the Ministry of Environment. During the course of the information session it became apparent that the regulations set down in the Director's Rules would make the St. Marys water recirculation theory impossible for them to prove. Big words I realize, however, that really was the opinion of a number of experts in the room. More on that to come, but for now, it establishes perhaps why St. Marys has shifted in their strategy from pursuing the Water Taking Permit Application tests and forging ahead with their request for a Aggregate Resource application instead.

So what now? Well, we know that St. Marys will still have to do those tests, at some point, according to the Director with the Ministry of Environment. However, what I believe they are hoping for is that the aggregate license will pave the way towards some approvals before they undergo the scrutiny of scientific studies. Studies which they now know will be even more onerous on them to prove. No doubt we have science on our side, which is the good news. The bad news is we still have a fight on our hands. This is nothing new for us, we have successfully managed to expose the game playing to date, and that won't change now.

I say onward and upward, bring it on; we'll handle whatever they want to throw our way.

Stay tuned...

OUR NUMBER, OUR VOICES = OUR POWER!

More updates to come...

To view the letter that St. Marys submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, please see the link below:
<http://www.flamboroughquarry.ca/index.php>

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