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Subject: Community Process for Objections to St. Marys Aggregate Resources Act Application

As per last Friday's update regarding the proposed quarry and St. Marys recent Aggregate Resources Act application, the process for the community to voice their concern is outlined below.

Also attached is today's Spectator article by Eric McGuinness on this subject, for your viewing.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has confirmed that St. Marys submitted an Aggregate Resources Act application on January 22, 2009. The MNR has 20 days to review the application at which point they will inform the applicant that either additional information is required, or that the application is complete. IF THIS APPLICATION IS CONSIDERED COMPLETE :

The applicant (St. Marys) must provide public notice of the application by placing an ad in the newspaper and providing circulation. However, there is no time limit imposed on when St. Marys would have to provide this public notice. Theoretically, St. Marys does not immediately have to move forward with the public notice; however the application is only good for two years (i.e. St. Marys must attempt to address issues and get back to the MNR on the matter within the two years or the application will be considered withdrawn).

Once the notice is published in the paper by the applicant a notice/comment period of 45 days begins. At this point the community has 45 days to respond to the MNR on their concerns with a quarry being established on the 11th Concession. Once this stage is reached, appropriate contact information will be provided.

During this 45 day period, the applicant is required to consult with the public by hosting a presentation (information session/open house). This event will need to be well attended. I will contact you at that time asking you to join me so that once again our voices will be heard.

During and following the notice/comment period the applicant must attempt to resolve any and all objections. There does not appear to be a time limit associated with the requirement to attempt to resolve the issues though.

If the issues are not resolved, the applicant then submits documentation to MNR regarding the remaining objections and any attempts to resolve them as well as written notice to any objectors. At this point, the objector has 20 days to submit to MNR recommendations that may resolve the issues. (As noted above, the applicant has two years from the date the application is considered complete to submit this material to MNR or the application is considered withdrawn)

Once the Ministry has received the applicant's recommendations and documentation, Ministry staff will make a recommendation to the Minister and the Minister can either approve the license, refuse the license or refer the application and any objections to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Further updates will follow as we work through this next process together.