



Concerned Residents Coalition

Media Release

JDCL to take Hidden Quarry Application to OMB

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rockwood May 24, 2015...In a delegation to Guelph Eramosa Township (GET) Council on Tuesday May 19, Greg Sweetnam, VP and spokesperson for James Dick Construction Limited (JDCL), applicant for the Hidden Quarry aggregate licence, announced "We believe further delays would not benefit either the Township or us, and we have applied to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to have this application brought before it." He further cautioned GET Council, saying "We believe it would be very difficult and expensive for the town to mount credible opposition to the application at this point given the high degree of professional consensus from all corners."

The JDCL decision to refer the re-zoning decision to the OMB has been made despite the fact that GET Council is still in the process of its full review of the application for re-zoning of the proposed site from Agricultural to Industrial (Extractive) and that there is still outstanding professional disagreement on many issues. Key among outstanding studies is the Council-commissioned Economic Impact Study by Altus Group and the review of the Haul Route Study (prepared by JDCL consultant, Cole Engineering) by a Technical Assessment Committee including GET, the Region of Halton and the Towns of Halton Hills and Milton. Finally, Township Consultant Liz Howson of MHS is in the process of preparing a full report assessing the issues for Council's consideration, a report which is dependent, at a minimum, on all studies being completed. Township Council is, therefore, not yet in a position to make a decision.

Likewise, the Towns of Halton Hills and Milton, and Halton Region, are still on record as objecting to the application, and are completing their own professional assessments.

The Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC), representing about 900 area residents, is also continuing to present reports and reviews to GET Council to assist in making a fair and thorough assessment of the application. The CRC has raised funds and hired several qualified professional consultants over the past two years. For example, GET just received a full hydrogeological peer review from CRC's consultant, Hunter and Associates. In fact, CRC presented a summary of some of the Hunter findings to GET Council at the Tuesday meeting, demonstrating serious flaws in the JDCL hydrogeological studies and site plans. Professional analyses of fish habitat and air



Concerned Residents Coalition

quality have also been provided by CRC to GET, as well as to agencies such as Ontario's Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources and Forests, the GRCA and neighbouring municipalities.

Surrounded by an attentive and overflowing crowd of about 100 concerned residents, Greg Sweetnam read from his prepared text: "Unfortunately, despite council's patience, diligence and our efforts, there seems to be no satisfying the core members of the CRC...We believe council would best represent the public interests and the largely silent majority of GET by supporting the application."

CRC's significant and wide-ranging membership continues to have legitimate concerns about the potential risks involved in a deep mining operation in the middle of a community, in an environmentally sensitive area and agricultural region, which demand in-depth assessment.

Mr. Sweetnam conceded that "Where the public concerns have prompted council to request additional review for conservatism we (JDCL) have accommodated this." Nevertheless he also made a point of questioning the credibility of CRC's work, concluding "Undoubtedly there are people opposing the project for the wrong reasons."

He focussed his criticism on a recent CRC delegation at which CRC President Doug Tripp encouraged GET Council to undertake a professional peer review of the JDCL Haul Route Study. The CRC review questioned the methodology and statistics used in determining the number and frequency of trucks the quarry operation would add to the roads in the region. Mr. Sweetnam argued that the data was inaccurate and misleading. In fact, however, Mr. Tripp's references came from professional sources, including GET's technical consultants R.J. Burnside and Associates. Moreover, his review was not meant to replace a professional peer review.

In Mr. Sweetnam's closing remarks, and in an undisguised effort to discourage GET Council from opposing the application, he reminded Council that if it "were to oppose the project, we (JDCL) would have to cease paying for any outstanding peer review costs and any professional services going forward. Council would have to find new professionals that would have contrary evidence and arguments. We would likely call the Township Peer Review team as witnesses at the hearing where they have been supportive of the Application."



Concerned Residents Coalition

CRC has many more questions to raise regarding the Hidden Quarry application and JDCL studies, and will continue to encourage and pursue full professional assessment from GET Council and other relevant agencies and municipalities.

CRC will be making its next delegation to GET Council at its meeting on Monday, June 1 (location tbd) in which it will review the many outstanding questions left with Council from previous delegations, and at which time it will also question some of the assumptions about process in Greg Sweetnam's JDCL presentation to GET Council.

Notes:

As of Friday, May 22, GET Council's website notice indicates that "...at this time, no formal communication has been received by the Township from the Board or the applicant."

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Full JDCL Statement attached.