

Hon. Michael Chong, M.P.
Wellington-Halton Hills



CANADA

L'hon. Michael Chong, député
Wellington-Halton Hills

April 20, 2015

Mr. Dale Nicholson
Regional Director, Ecosystems Management
Fisheries Protection Program
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
876 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, ON L7S 1A1

Dear Mr. Nicholson,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the application submitted by James Dick Construction Limited for a Category 2 Class "A" quarry license, to establish a new quarry in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa. The development of this quarry may cause serious harm to cold-water Brook trout populations in Brydson Creek and the Grand River watershed. I therefore recommend that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) request the applicant supply DFO with a detailed project review to ensure that the project complies with Section 35 of the *Fisheries Act*.

James Dick Construction Limited has proposed a quarry (with extraction below the water table) at the northeast corner of Highway 7 and Sixth Line in the geographic Township of Eramosa. The proposed quarry, known as the "Hidden Quarry", would extract up to 700,000 tonnes of aggregate material over fifteen to twenty years.

The proposed quarry will displace the intermittent northwest portion of Brydson Creek, a headwater tributary that feeds into Blue Springs Creek, which eventually supplies water to the Eramosa River and the Grand River. An analysis of fish habitat conducted by Dr. Karl Schiefer, Ph.D., Aquatic Ecologist, for the Concerned Residents Coalition shows that Brydson Creek provides a stable and high quality cold-water habitat for Brook trout. During the study, Brydson Creek was found to have a higher frequency of trout spawning activity than previously observed in fisheries surveys carried out over the past 24 years on downstream Blue Springs Creek or the Eramosa River.

The proposed quarry will delve thirty metres below the water table and use a subaqueous extraction method to extract aggregate without dewatering. Both the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Township of Guelph/Eramosa have raised concerns regarding the possible effects of the proposed quarry and its subaqueous extraction method on groundwater recharge, discharge and surface water flow.

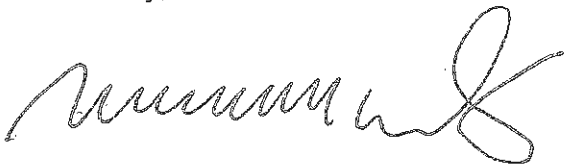
These concerns regarding groundwater and surface water raise further concerns about the potential adverse impact on the Brook trout population in Brydson Creek.

James Dick Construction Limited has not provided sufficient hydrogeological and soil evidence to conclude that the proposed quarry will not adversely impact important groundwater and surface water in the headwaters of Brydson Creek, thereby negatively affecting the Brook trout habitat downstream.

Under the *Fisheries Act*, it is the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to ensure that the proposed quarry will not cause harm to the existing Brook trout population and its habitat. I urge the Department to use its regulatory authority to ensure that James Dick Construction Limited provides DFO with a detailed review of the application in respect of the existing fish habitat in Brydson Creek.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Chong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Chong

cc: Mr. Ted Arnott, Member of Provincial Parliament, Wellington-Halton Hills
Mayor Chris White and Council, Township of Guelph/Eramosa
Mayor Rick Bonnette and Council, Town of Halton Hills
Ms. Kristy Sutherland, Aggregate Technical Specialist (Guelph District), Ministry of
Natural Resources
Ms. Stephanie De Grandis, Concerned Residents Coalition
Ms. Linda Sword, Concerned Residents Coalition
Mr. Doug Tripp, Concerned Residents Coalition