



Concerned Residents Coalition

Media Release

Ontario Municipal Board Hearing on Hidden Quarry application begins Tuesday, September 27

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The **Ontario Municipal Board Hearing on the Hidden Quarry** proposal by **James Dick Construction Limited (JDCL)** will begin on **Tuesday, September 27, at 10:30** in the **Council Chambers of Guelph Eramosa Township** at 8348 Wellington Road 124, Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0. The Hearing may last from 5 - 7 weeks.

The OMB Case number is: **PL150494**. Official information regarding the case can be found at <https://www.omb.gov.on.ca/english/eStatus/eStatus.html>.

The Parties at the Hearing who object to the proposal are Concerned Residents Coalition, the Town of Halton Hills and the Regional Municipality of Halton. Guelph Eramosa Township and the Town of Milton also object to the proposal, but will not be Parties. Halton Region will represent the interest of Milton at the Hearing.

The Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC), a non-profit organization founded in 2013, is a citizens group of more than 1150 from all three affected municipalities - Guelph Eramosa Township (GET), Milton and Halton Hills. CRC has studied the proposal in detail and will bring 5 expert witnesses to the Hearing addressing blasting, hydrology, hydrogeology, aquatic habitat and planning.

The proposed quarry site is at Hwy. 7 and 6th Line Eramosa, just east of the town of Rockwood and west of the town of Halton Hills/Acton. Hwy. 7 marks the boundary between Guelph Eramosa Township and the Town of Milton, in the Regional Municipality of Halton. This area of Milton, known by its former township name, Nassagaweya, is in the Green Belt.

The proposal requires both re-zoning from agricultural to industrial/extractive by Guelph Eramosa Township and an aggregate licence from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

JDCL proposes to mine 700,000 tonnes/year of dolomite rock over a projected 17 years. The open-pit mine will be blasted underwater up to 23 metres below the water table. To the best of CRC's knowledge, below water blasting for aggregate extraction has not been successfully carried out in Ontario, and quite possibly anywhere else in Canada. The site geology is dolomite characterized by karst weathering.

...more on page 2



Concerned Residents Coalition

The quarry location is within 1000 metres of Rockwood, more than 250 residents, hundreds of private wells and one municipal well. It is immediately adjacent to Hwy. 7, in an agricultural area with horse, cattle, sheep and cash crop farms. There are also several 18th century heritage buildings in dangerous proximity to the site.

The quarry is also located in close proximity to sensitive environmental features, and upstream from the trout spawning grounds in Brydson Creek and the cold water Blue Springs corridor. A tributary of Brydson Creek crosses the quarry site between the two projected pits.



Brydson Creek downstream from proposed quarry site

Haul routes carrying up to 38 trucks an hour are destined for downtown Acton, Georgetown and Norval, Guelph Line and Brookville.

CRC has been unable to conceive of conditions that would adequately mitigate negative impacts from the proposed operation.

JDCL appealed the case to the OMB in June 2015 citing the large number of objectors. Although legal by regulations governing the number of days allotted for municipal study, this appeal pre-empted deliberations and studies underway by GET Township pending its taking a position on the application.

Media contact: Linda Sword 519-853-1896 lsword@crockwood.org

CRC website: www.hiddenquarry.ca

Attachments:

Photo Brydson Creek south (downstream) of proposed site

Map of Hidden Quarry location