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## SMC re-evaluates permit position

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A spokesperson for St. Marys Cement (SMC) has explained the aggregate company's reason for withdrawing its appeal of the Ministry of Environment's (MOE's) decision on its permit to take water (PTTW) application for the proposed quarry in northeast Flamborough.

"We have taken this action to provide time to re-evaluate our position," said Melanie Horton.

"Nothing should be read into this nor have we altered our position that the Flamborough Quarry – assessed on its merits – would receive all necessary approvals while bringing substantial value to the community, the region and the province."

Horton provided no further details for the company's action. "We do not intend to elaborate on this statement until, together with our advisors and stakeholders, we establish the best way forward," she said.

The MOE refused the PTTW application four months ago, effectively stopping the company from proceeding with plans to do further water pump tests on the proposed quarry site at 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Line. The ministry's decision was made in light of a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) that froze zoning on the quarry lands in April.

SMC has appealed the decision on the zoning freeze and asked Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to turn the matter over to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for a decision.

As yet, no date for the hearing has been announced.