

Ministry deems St. Marys applicaton incomplete

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On Monday, just two days before the MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources) was scheduled to end its 20-day review period of a quarry licence application by St. Marys Cement (SMC), the ministry informed the aggregate company that its application is incomplete.

“I’ve asked St. Marys to provide clarification on some points and make minor revisions to the site plan,” said Diane Schwier, aggregate technical specialist with the district MNR office in Guelph.

Asked for details about the changes required, Schwier said she couldn’t provide specific details because “the application is not considered public.”

She added that it will be under review by the ministry for another 20 days when St. Marys returns the application with the requested changes.

While the MNR official said there is no specific timeframe that the company has to abide by in returning the application, a St. Marys spokesperson said Tuesday, “We’re hoping to send it back within the next week or two weeks.”

Melanie Horton, director of land and resources for SMC, said the company wasn’t surprised with the results of Schwier’s review as “she is known to be very thorough.” She said Schwier made suggestions on how some of the wording in the application could be changed and what notes should be added to the site plan.

“There were no substantive changes, mainly minor revisions,” she said.

Once the application is deemed complete, St. Marys must notify the public of a meeting to allow area residents to comment on the application.

Horton said although the company isn't obligated to advertise in more than one newspaper, it plans to run ads in all three local papers (*Flamborough Review*, *Milton Canadian Champion* and the *Hamilton Spectator*) to ensure that all area residents are informed. She also said the company will supply the MNR with a list of commenting agencies that will be given a chance to have input into the proposal during the consultation period.

As the company began taking steps to comply with the MNR's request, Flamborough councillor Margaret McCarthy began drafting a notice of motion for Hamilton city council's consideration asking that the application be rejected because it is premature and the aggregate company has failed to allay residents' concerns about current outstanding issues, including protection of groundwater sources on the proposed quarry site.

St. Marys has proposed a 67-hectare quarry on a 158-hectare site on 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Line. The proposal requires an Official Plan Amendment (OPA) and rezoning from the City of Hamilton, which is currently reviewing the plan.

McCarthy's motion will be circulated to the Town of Milton and Region of Halton in hopes that they will approve a similar resolution.

St. Marys submitted its application for an aggregate licence for the proposed Flamborough Quarry on January 22.



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