



St Marys applies for permit

Dianne Cornish • Review Staff

Published on Jun 03, 2010

Just two weeks after applying for revocation of a zoning freeze on the proposed Flamborough Quarry property in northeast Flamborough, St Marys Cement has applied for a permit to take water (PTTW) from the quarry property on 11th Concession Road East and Milborough Line.

The application, submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) last Wednesday, requests a maximum of 70 days of round-the-clock pumping from three on-site wells at a maximum rate of 5,184,000 litres of water per day. It indicates the estimated start date of the pump testing as August 2 of this year.

The application comes as no surprise to Graham Flint, chair of Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE), which has been fighting the quarry proposal for the past six years.

“Again, I would say that we’re disappointed but not surprised,” he said, echoing comments he made early last month when he learned that the aggregate company applied to revoke a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) by the Ontario government ensuring that the current zoning on the Flamborough site is maintained and effectively blocking it from being used as a quarry.

St Marys has also requested that the zoning freeze be referred to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for a hearing and decision.

Before the MZO announcement on April 13, a group of stakeholders, including representatives of the MOE, FORCE, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Halton Conservation, had been meeting with St Marys officials to discuss the proposed testing program. But, according to Flint, the discussions ceased after the Ministerial Order.

St Marys attempted to continue the discussions even after an e-mail was sent to stakeholders by Carl Slater, the technical support manager at MOE’s West Central Region office in Hamilton, stating that ministry staff has no interest in continuing the discussions about further testing because the MZO prohibits the operation of a quarry at the site.

On May 14, the aggregate company contacted stakeholders about their testing proposal, giving them until May 20 to respond before the company filed the PTTW application, Flint said.

“We see this as incremental exploratory work that doesn’t satisfy the commitment by the company to the community to demonstrate management of negative impacts to water (from the quarry operation) before going forward (with the proposal),” Flint said Monday.

St Marys spokesperson Melanie Horton said the proposed testing program was developed “in consultation” with the stakeholders.

“Previous testing on our Flamborough site has shown no adverse impacts to the quality or quantity of local water resources,” said John Moroz, vice-president and general manager of St Marys Cement, CBM.

“Further testing will allow us to present the OMB with an in-depth assessment of the site’s hydrogeologic setting and the potential impacts of a quarry – allowing the OMB to evaluate our proposal based on its technical merits,” he said.

Decision

It is uncertain when a decision on the PTTW application will be announced. A formal decision on the application will be made, Slater confirmed this week, but when asked about a timeline for a response, he said, "There is no deadline by when a decision must be made."

St Marys conducted pump tests on the proposed quarry site in the summer of 2008, but the three-phase testing plan never got beyond the first phase.

The MOE rejected the results of the first eight-day stage because heavy rainfall was said to have skewed the results. The company was asked to redo the testing but balked at the suggestion and the time period for the PTTW elapsed in June 2009 without further testing being done.

The company's 2008 water-testing proposal was posted online on the Environmental Registry (ebr) for public input. When asked whether the MOE will post the current application on the website, Slater said, "It is premature to think about public comment since a decision has not been made on the application."

"A short-term pumping test is not normally posted," he added.

"However, for the previous application, we did seek input through a number of means including a registry posting."



<http://www.flamboroughreview.com/news/article/294265>



© Copyright 2010 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from this Metroland West Media Group website is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

