



Hamilton-Wentworth Federation of Agriculture  
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E M A I L - H W F A @ H O T M A I L . C O M

May 11, 2009

MNR Guelph District Office  
1 Stone Road West  
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

St Marys Cement Inc. (Canada)  
55 Industrial Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4G 3W9

Email: [MNRFQA@ontario.ca](mailto:MNRFQA@ontario.ca)

Email: [communityinfo@stmaryscbm.com](mailto:communityinfo@stmaryscbm.com)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: St Marys Cement aggregate license (ARA) application for the  
proposed Flamborough quarry

Please accept this letter of objection from the HWFA, on behalf of our membership, to the St Marys Cement aggregate license (ARA) application for the proposed Flamborough quarry. Our local members are opposed to the ARA application and the proposed aggregate quarry because of its potential impacts on their operations and on their community.

The lands under consideration fall within the Rural Area, for the former Town of Flamborough, and are zoned Agriculture and Conservation Management. These original purposes - farming and land stewardship for the protection of agriculture and environmentally significant features - have been reaffirmed by the Ontario Government through the *Greenbelt Act*. The lands fall within the Protected Countryside and its Natural Heritage System. Approval of this development would result in the loss of several hundred acres of viable farmland and interconnected conservation lands.

Agriculture is one, if not the largest, private land use in the area, making our farmers important land stewards for ecological and hydrological features, whether through individual practices, environmental farm plans, or participation in conservation authority stewardship programs. With neighboring conservation authority and management tract lands, among others, agricultural open spaces comprise a significant portion of the Greenbelt in this area, providing watershed protection and habitat for concentrations of birds, plants, and wildlife.

An estimated 50 to 60 farm operations exist, in the vicinity of the proposed quarry. Some of the potential negative impacts on these farms would be:

- Water quantity and quality for private wells and the Carlisle community system. Our members have requirements for irrigation, livestock, and other farm related uses, currently met from wells, spring fed ponds, or ponds fed from streams and groundwater, all sensitive to quarry dewatering. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has challenged the company's baseline data and aquifer characterization. The GRS mitigation system is unproven, including on the site. The adaptive management plan is undefined. The risk to farming businesses, and the community, is significant and the damage could be irreversible.
- Truck traffic (1000+ trips/day) interference with farm vehicles moving implements, pesticides, harvested crops, livestock, and workers
- Livestock stress and reproductive loss in breeding operations due to percussion (transmitted ground vibration, tremors, etc.) and noise from blasting
- Airborne particulate matter (especially those known as PM<10, from truck diesel emissions, tires, and road re-suspension and operations dust) is a serious matter for farm workers, livestock, and crop quality
- Contribution to the loss of critical mass of farms needed to support farming infrastructure (veterinarians, equipment and feed suppliers, etc.)

These local farms contribute to our local and regional food supply. Beyond the direct value of their products, and the infrastructure required to produce them, the farms also contribute every year to the local economy and to the municipal tax base.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, and more broadly the Government of Ontario, needs to seriously consider the negative impact of this proposed development on existing, and future, agricultural operations in the area. The Province has made the "rules" for the Greenbelt and for the *Clean Water Act* to preserve agricultural land and to ensure our water is protected, at the source. The Province needs to demonstrate to the farming community that it will "play" by the rules, as well. Ultimately, agriculture and our natural heritage and water features will only survive, and thrive, if we all actively support and protect them.

It is for the fundamental reasons noted above that the HWFA, on behalf of its membership, is objecting to the St Marys Cement application for an aggregate development in the Flamborough (Hamilton) area.

Yours sincerely,

Hamilton Wentworth Federation of Agriculture

Cc: All Members of Council – Hamilton City Hall  
 Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee – Susan Coverdale  
 Minister of Agriculture and Food - L. Dombrowski  
 Ontario Federation of Agriculture -  
 Ted McMeekin, MPP  
 Graham Flint, Chair - FORCE