

March 21, 2012

DELIVERED BY REGULAR MAIL

The Honourable Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

Dear Hon. Minister Bradley,

Re: North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce, Inc. (NDACT)
Highland Companies ARA application
Our File L1003

We represent NDACT on the Highland Companies (**Highland**) proposed mega quarry project in Melancthon Township, Ontario. In September 2011 cabinet designated the proposed mega quarry as an undertaking to which the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) applies. Notwithstanding the designation, Highland has continued working through the licensing process under the *Aggregate Resources Act* (ARA).

Further to our correspondence to you dated March 14, 2012 we write to advise you that Highland Companies has failed to respond to us with a commitment to proceed with the environmental assessment or to cease further approvals processes. Highland also did not commit to cease site alteration activities that are prohibited under the EAA. For your information, we enclose copies of recent correspondence with Highland.

We believe that it is Highland's intention to move forward with ARA application in lieu of taking positive steps towards initiating the environmental assessment process. We also believe that Highland plansto send responses to the more than 5,000 objections that were filed as part of Highland's ARA application, which initiates the final step in the ARA application process. This would cause significant confusion among the public who believe that the project is now subject to the EAA. As we discussed in our March 14, 2012 correspondence with your office, we are of the view that Highland's plan to continue with the ARA application is prohibited by the EAA.

Accordingly further action is needed from the Ministry of the Environment to ensure Highland will comply with the designation regulation for the project.

We would be pleased to discuss this with you at any time.

Yours truly,
ILER CAMPBELL LLP



Laura Bowman

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cc: The Honourable Michael Gravelle
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The Highland Companies
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North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Task Force
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Encl.

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