

**Ministry of Natural  
Resources**

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block  
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Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tel: 416-314-2301  
Fax: 416-314-2216**Ministère des Richesses  
naturelles**

Bureau du ministre

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99, rue Wellesley Ouest  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3  
Tél.: 416-314-2301  
Télééc.: 416-314-2216

MNR4046MC-2011-1023

**JUN 14 2011**Mr. Jeff Green  
170 Roxborough St E  
Coach House  
Toronto ON M4W 1W2

Dear Mr. Green:

Thank you for your letter regarding a quarry licence application submitted under the *Aggregate Resources Act* (ARA) by the Highland Companies in the Township of Melancthon. I am pleased to respond.

My colleagues and I believe that all Ontarians deserve to live and work in clean, safe communities – communities in which the environment contributes to our overall health and well-being. With respect to the proposed quarry, our government's goal is to ensure an open and transparent process for the application. We are still in the early stages of the licensing application process, and no approval has yet been given for a quarry to proceed in Melancthon Township.

You may be interested to know that the ARA provides for a full review of the potential impact of such a development on the local environment. The proposed quarry will also require approval under other legislation, including the *Planning Act*, the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act*.

As set out by the ARA, groups or individuals had 45 days – until April 26, 2011 – to register official objections to the proposed quarry. In response to the significant level of interest from the community, I have extended the comment period on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for this proposal until July 11, 2011. All comments received prior to July 11, 2011 will be considered as part of the decision-making process by the Ministry of Natural Resources, if they are submitted in writing or electronically through the registry's website at [www.ontario.ca/ebr](http://www.ontario.ca/ebr) using the form provided in this notice and reference EBR Registry number 011-2864.

If you have any questions, please e-mail [Midhurst.Aggregates@Ontario.ca](mailto:Midhurst.Aggregates@Ontario.ca).

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Jeffrey".

Linda Jeffrey  
Minister of Natural Resources



May 31, 2011

Jeff Green  
170 Roxborough St. E  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4W 1W2

Dear Jeff Green:

**Re: Aggregate Resources Act Application for a Proposed Quarry by  
3191574 Nova Scotia Company doing business as The Highland Companies**

Thank you for the letter you submitted during the legislated comment period expressing concern about our application to establish a quarry on a portion of our land in Melancthon Township.

Considering and responding to your letter is an important part of the application review process. We take this responsibility seriously, and we will proceed in accordance with the provisions of the *Aggregate Resources Act*.

This process begins by reviewing all letters with the Ministry of Natural Resources. During the subsequent months we will research, address, and post all of the relevant issues to our web site at [www.highlandcompanies.ca](http://www.highlandcompanies.ca).

Once we have completed our review of the concerns raised with the appropriate experts, we will send you responses and resolutions addressing your concerns. This is very much a two-way process in which you and we share the responsibility of trying to address your concerns.

In the meantime, we believe that many of the issues that have been raised are addressed in our application materials. These materials, together with news releases and other information we've issued regarding a number of concerns, are available on our web site.

Our application is undergoing an extensive review as part of the decision-making process. This review is guided by the Aggregate Resource Act, the Planning Act, and other proven provincial policies and legislation that provide strong protections for human health, safety and the natural resources we all value. Together they are designed to achieve a balance between meeting the province's need for aggregate while protecting our community and environment.

We hope that this information is of assistance to you as we work through the application review process.

Sincerely,

***The Highland Companies***

**Ministry of the Environment**Environmental Assessment and  
Approvals Branch2 St. Clair Avenue West  
Floor 12A  
Toronto ON M4V 1L5  
Tel.: 416 314-8001  
Fax: 416 314-8452**Ministère de l'Environnement**Direction des évaluations et des  
autorisations environnementales2, avenue St. Clair Ouest  
Étage 12A  
Toronto ON M4V 1L5  
Tél. : 416 314-8001  
Télec. : 416 314-8452

ENV1283MC-2011-1354

May 18, 2011

Mr. Jeff Green  
Coach House, 170 Roxborough Street East  
Toronto ON M4W 1W2

Dear Mr. Green:

Thank you for your letter dated April 13, 2011 to the Minister of the Environment requesting a review of the proposed Highland Companies' proposed quarry in Dufferin County under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister.

The Ministry of the Environment will review your request.

Regarding your objection to the Highland Companies' *Aggregate Resources Act* licence application, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is the lead approving authority for quarries under the province's *Aggregate Resources Act*. To submit formal comments to the MNR's posting on the Environmental Registry, please visit [www.ebr.gov.on.ca](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca) and search under posting #011-2864. I understand the comment period has been extended until July 11, 2011.

Should you have further questions please contact, Ms. Laura Games, Project Officer of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, at 416-314-3352 or by e-mail at [laura.games@ontario.ca](mailto:laura.games@ontario.ca)

Yours sincerely,

Agatha Garcia-Wright  
Director  
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch

The Premier  
of Ontario

Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre  
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative  
Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M7A 1A1



May 17, 2011

Ms. Katherine Green  
170 Roxborough Street East  
Coach House  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4W 1W2

Dear Ms. Green:

Thank you for your letter regarding an aggregate license application by The Highland Companies to develop a quarry in Melancthon Township. I have heard from many people about the proposed quarry, and I welcome the opportunity to respond to the concerns that have been raised.

My colleagues and I believe that all Ontarians deserve to live and work in clean, safe communities — communities in which the environment contributes to our overall health and well-being. With respect to the proposed quarry, our government's goal is to ensure an open and transparent process for the application. We are still in the early stages of the licensing application process, and no approval has yet been given for a quarry to proceed in Melancthon Township.

You may be interested to know that the *Aggregate Resources Act* provides for a full review of the potential impact of such a development on the local environment. The proposed quarry will also require approval under other legislation, including the *Planning Act*, the *Environmental Protection Act* and the *Ontario Water Resources Act*.

As set out by the *Aggregate Resources Act*, groups or individuals had 45 days — until April 26, 2011 — to register official objections to the proposed quarry. In response to the significant level of interest from the community, the Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources, extended the comment period on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for this proposal until July 11, 2011 — bringing the total comment period to 122 days. If you have not already done so, you can mail or fax your comments on the proposal to Mr. Craig Laing, Aggregate Inspector, Ministry of Natural Resources, Regional Operations Division Southern Region, Midhurst District, 2284 Nursery Road, Midhurst, Ontario, L0L 1X0; telephone: 705-725-7532 and fax: 705-725-7584.

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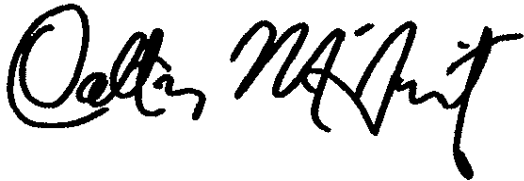
- 2 -

The company has up to two years to resolve the objections raised. If there are still unresolved objections to the license application, the Ministry of Natural Resources can refer the application to the Ontario Municipal Board for a hearing.

As you may know, Minister Jeffrey has posted a message addressing this issue on her ministry's website. I have enclosed a copy of the minister's message for your information.

Thank you again for writing and for bringing your concerns to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dalton McGuinty  
Premier

Enclosure

John Wilkinson, MPP  
Minister of the Environment  
135 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1P5

April 13, 2011

Re: **EBR Registry Number 011-2864**

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

I am writing this letter to object to the Highland Companies application for a massive 2,316 acre quarry in Melancthon Township.

I am also requesting an immediate review of this application under the Environmental Assessment Act.

As a resident of the area for the last 14 years, and I have watched the area boom where many city dwellers have used their life savings to move, build and live in this area for physical, spiritual, motional well being, creating new jobs in the area. My main concern and objection is regarding the abuse and lack of respect for the water and the unknown results of what could happen given what Highland wants to do.

#### Water

1. The proposed quarry will be situated on the headwaters of two major rivers, The Grand and Notawasaga – a water source for millions of Ontarians.
2. Highland plans to use 600 million litres of water a day to process the aggregate, clean trucks etc. This dirty water containing aggregate residue and blasting material contaminants will be put back into the water system of 2-3 million Ontarians.
3. I am told that the way the Ontario Government measures water usage that this amount of water i.e. 600 million litres a day would be used in normal practice by 2.7 million people in Ontario.
4. This operation per Highlands application would involve blasting 200 feet below the water table to retrieve the aggregate, in other words they will be blasting a hole of 2,300 acres below the water table and we have no idea of the consequences.
5. With respect I know that there is not a requirement for an environmental study when it comes to aggregate, however due to the sheer size of this development, it will be if developed the largest aggregate development in Ontario and maybe in North America. I implore you and your Ministry to put this project under the Environmental Assessment Act for the people of Ontario because if this water goes bad it will be a monumental man made disaster on the back of the people of Ontario.

Mr. John Wilkinson MPP  
April 13, 2011

Page 2

### Transportation

1. In the application Highland states that 7,000 trucks will be involved, 3,500 going north to Owen Sound, full at 50 tons, 3,500 trucks coming back empty, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, except for statutory holiday, one every 20 seconds.
2. Aside from destroying the highways, there are no safety provisions, no school bus precautions, disrupting local traffic, local business traffic and valuable tourist traffic.

### Farmland

This pit will mean the loss of more than 2000 acres of prime Ontario farmland. This area is home to Honywood Silt Loam. It is a soil that is found nowhere else in the world and is perfect for farming potatoes, broccoli, brussel sprouts and more. This area is prime farmland and I am confused when I visit the Ontario Province's website and could not help notice the story about how Premier McGuinty and our government is making efforts to protect Ontario's farmland.

### Your Website

I am pleased to note that your website proclaims that "the Ministry of the Environment is responsible for protecting clean and safe air, land and water to ensure healthy communities, ecological and sustainable development for present and future generations of Ontarians."

I ask that you respond to this letter by detailing how your Ministry plans to ensure that the interests of Ontarians are being protected given your mandate and not this billion dollar U.S. Hedge Fund that is financially backing Highland Companies.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



Jeff Green

Mulmar Address: 682047 and 682059 Prince of Wales Road,  
Shelburne, Ontario L0N 1S7

Mailing address: Coach House, 170 Roxborough Street East,  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 1W2

Dalton McGuinty, Premier  
Legislation Building  
Queens Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

April 13, 2011

Re: **EBR Registry Number 011-2864**

Dear Premier McGuinty:

I am writing to you as a very concerned Ontarian regarding the proposed massive scale quarry in Melancthon Township. In the last 15 years this area has had a tourist boom where many city dwellers have used their life savings to move, build and live in this area for physical, spiritual and emotional well being creating new jobs and new lives in this area.

This proposed project by the Highland Companies is massive and is financially backed by a U.S. Hedge Fund.

Highlands Proposal:

1. Have acquired 7,000 acres in Melancthon Township.
2. To blast a 2,316 acre quarry 200 feet below the water table.
3. The proposed quarry will be situated on the headwaters of two major rivers. The Grand and the Notawasaga, a water source for millions of Ontarians.
4. 2,316 acres is approximately one third of the size of Toronto.
5. The company is to use **600 million litres of water** a day to process the aggregate. The leftover water would contain aggregate residue and blasting material contaminants which would be pumped back into the ground and make its way into the drinking water of Ontarians. I am told that the way the Ontario Government measures water usage, that this amount of water i.e. **600 million litres** a day would be used in normal practice by 2.7 million people in Ontario.
6. 7,000 trucks will transport the aggregate to Owen Sound, and they are vague as to where it will go from there.
7. 3,500 trucks loaded, weighing 50 tons each, 3,500 will return empty. This operation will go on 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, except for statutory holidays, 1 truck every 20 seconds. What about local traffic, local business traffic, school buses, no provision has been made for them.

.../2



Premier Dalton McGuinty  
April 13, 2011

Page 2

8. Some of the best farmland in Ontario will be lost. This area is home to Honywood Silt Loam. It is soil that is found nowhere else in the world and is perfect for farming potatoes, broccoli, brussel sprouts and more

I have visited your website and noticed on how your government is making efforts to protect Ontario farmlands. I applaud that and it is working as more and more stores in the area are selling and promoting locally grown food.

I have been made aware that the law regarding quarry and aggregate development does not fall under the Environmental Assessment Act.

Premier McGuinty as Premier of Ontario I am appealing to you as I have done to John Wilkinson, Linda Jeffrey and Craig Laing to request that this massive project be put under the Environmental Assessment Act. If a proper assessment and safeguards are not provided for, given its size and most importantly if the water is not respected Ontarians could have a really big problem.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



Jeff Green

Mulmar Address: 682047 and 682059 Prince of Wales Road,  
Shelburne, Ontario L0N 1S7

Mailing address: Coach House, 170 Roxborough Street East,  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 1W2

Linda Jeffrey, MPP  
Minister of Natural Resources  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1W3

April 12, 2011

Re: **EBR Registry Number 011-2864**

Dear Ms. Jeffrey:

I am writing this letter for these reasons:

I would like to express my objection to the Highland Companies application for a massive 2,316 acre quarry, possibly growing to 7,000 acres in Melancthon Township.

My objections are about these issues:

1. Water

- a.) The proposed quarry will be situated on the headwaters of two major rivers, the Grand and the Natawasaga, part of the water system for one million Ontarians.
- b.) Highland Companies plan to use **six hundred million** litres a day to process the aggregate and clean the trucks used to transport the aggregate. That water will then be pumped back into the ground where it would make its way into the drinking water of the province. I am told that the way the Ontario Government measures water usage that this amount of water, i.e. 600 million litres per day would be used by 2.7 million people in Ontario. This is unbelievable, where this project and its size could put Ontarians at risk, for their water.
- c.) This operation would involve blasting 200 feet below the water table to retrieve the aggregate, in other words we are blasting a hole of **2300 acres below the water table and we have no idea of the consequences.**

2. Transportation

- a.) In the application Highland stated that they will be using 7,000 trucks to transport the aggregate to Owen Sound. 3,500 going north weighing 50 tons 3,500 coming back empty, one every 20 seconds, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, except statutory holidays. Aside from destroying the highway, in their application there are no safety provisions, no school bus precautions. Again the size of this proposal is destructive.

Ms. Linda Jeffrey  
April 12, 2011

Page 2

3. Agricultural

- a.) The area where this pit is proposed will mean the loss of over 2,000 acres of prime Ontario farmland. This area is home to Honeywood Silt Loam. It's a soil that found nowhere in the world and its perfect for farming potatoes, broccoli , brussel sprouts and more. This area is prime farmland and I am confused when I visit the provinces website and could not help but notice the story about how Premier McGuinty and our government is making efforts to protect Ontario's family farms.

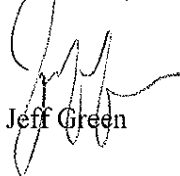
4. I am requesting an immediate review of this application under the **Environmental Assessment Act.**

5. I reserve the right to refine my objections as further information becomes available.

I ask that you respond to these objections by detailing how your Ministry plans to ensure that the best interest of Ontarians are being protected and not those of a multi billion US dollar hedge fund that is backing Highland Companies.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Jeff Green

Mailing address: Coach House, 170 Roxborough Street East,  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 1W2

Mulmar Address: 682047 and 682059 Prince of Wales Road,  
Mulmar, Ontario L0N 1S7

Craig Laing, Chair  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
2284 Nursery Road  
Midhurst, Ontario  
L0L 1X0

April 12, 2011

Re: **EBR Registry Number 011-2864**

Dear Mr. Laing:

I am writing this letter for these reasons:

I would like to express my objection to the Highland Companies application for a massive 2,316 acre quarry, possibly growing to 7,000 acres in Melancthon Township.

My objections are about these issues:

1. Water
  - a.) The proposed quarry will be situated on the headwaters of two major rivers, the Grand and the Nataswasaga, part of the water system for one million Ontarians.
  - b.) Highland Companies plan to use **six hundred million** litres a day to process the aggregate and clean the trucks used to transport the aggregate. That water will then be pumped back into the ground where it would make its way into the drinking water of the province. I am told that the way the Ontario Government measures water usage that this amount of water, i.e. 600 million litres per day would be used by 2.7 million people in Ontario. This is unbelievable, where this project and its size could put Ontarians at risk, for their water.
  - c.) This operation would involve blasting 200 feet below the water table to retrieve the aggregate, in other words we are blasting a hole of **2300 acres below the water table and we have no idea of the consequences.**
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  - a.) In the application Highland stated that they will be using 7,000 trucks to transport the aggregate to Owen Sound. 3,500 going north weighing 50 tons 3,500 coming back empty, one every 20 seconds, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, except statutory holidays. Aside from destroying the highway, in their application there are no safety provisions, no school bus precautions. Again the size of this proposal is destructive.

Mr. Craig Laing  
April 12, 2011

Page 2

3. Agricultural

- a.) The area where this pit is proposed will mean the loss of over 2,000 acres of prime Ontario farmland. This area is home to Honeywood Silt Loam. It's a soil that found nowhere in the world and its perfect for farming potatoes, broccoli , brussel sprouts and more. This area is prime farmland and I am confused when I visit the provinces website and could not help but notice the story about how Premier McGuinty and our government is making efforts to protect Ontario's family farms.

4. I am requesting an immediate review of this application under the **Environmental Assessment Act.**

5. I reserve the right to refine my objections as further information becomes available.

I ask that you respond to these objections by detailing how your Ministry plans to ensure that the best interest of Ontarians are being protected and not those of a multi billion US dollar hedge fund that is backing Highland Companies.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Jeff Green

Mailing address: Coach House, 170 Roxborough Street East,  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 1W2

Mulmar Address: 682047 and 682059 Prince of Wales Road,  
Mulmar, Ontario L0N 1S7