

CHRIS AND BRENDA MURDOCH
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Mono Centre Road
Orangeville, ON L9W 2H8

April 17, 2011

Delivered by Hand

Ministry of Natural Resources
2284 Nursery Road
Midhurst, ON L0L 1X0

Dear Sirs:

Re: Highland Companies and Melancthon – Quarry Proposal

This letter is being forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and to the Highland Companies on behalf of the Murdoch family – Chris, Brenda and two children. We have been residents in Dufferin County for many years and value the tranquility and lifestyle of this part of Ontario. This part of Ontario includes Mono, Amaranth, Mulmur and Melancthon – obviously as well as many other areas. The thought that there will be an open pit mining aggregates in Melancthon, such pit being approximately the size of 2,400 acres, and quarrying operations being conducted some 200 feet below the water table level, is frightening and in our opinion, unacceptable. We value the lifestyle in this part of Dufferin County. A number of years ago, there was a nasty "dispute" when a resident of Mono attempted to extract huge amounts of water for public sale. The outcry over such an attempted endeavour was immense and ultimately, after much public pressure and the commencement of legal action, not one drop of water was extracted. Water is an extremely valuable resource that is becoming more scarce all the time. As a very close friend of ours once said – "we can live without oil, but we can't live without water".

The water issue in relation to the proposed quarry by Melancthon is very troubling. We have heard many reports about studies that have been done, but we have not seen any positive information which we view as satisfactory showing that this quarry operation will not have a detrimental effect on the aquifers in Melancthon Township. As well, we are not aware of any reports that show that the huge quarry will not have a bearing on the headwaters of the Nottawasaga, Saugeen and Grand River watershed systems. Positive conclusive studies and information on this matter are requested. As well, there are sub-watersheds, notably the Pine, Boyne, Mad and Noisy Rivers, which are all in the way of potentially being impacted by the proposed quarry. What studies have been done in relation to these sub-water sheds? We are requesting conclusive information in relation to such watersheds. When one looks at what is being proposed by the Highland Companies in working with approximately 600 million litres of water a day, common sense tends to dictate that there will, out of necessity, be an impact on the entire water system impacting Melancthon Township and surrounding areas. Again, we are

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requesting positive information on such studies that have been done in relation to the entire question of the management of water in connection with the proposed quarry.

There is a further troubling aspect of what the Highland Companies are proposing – namely, traffic congestion. It has been publicly stated that there will be approximately 7,200 trucks arriving and departing the quarry every 24 hours. This means the movement of one truck approximately every 24 seconds. We have to assume that one of the highways being used for such transport purposes is Highway 10. Highway 10 at present is already severely congested. What are the proposals of the Highland Companies in relation to the movement of aggregates in a safe manner so as not to entirely congest all the highways and roads leading from the quarry to destinations most likely to be in the greater Toronto area. This is an extremely troubling matter as more traffic congestion will cause safety issues, will in all probability impact schools, and will also impact persons travelling to well known tourist areas of the province, such as Collingwood. We are requesting detailed information on all studies that have been done by the Highland Companies in relation to this matter. Also, have the knowledgeable people in the Ontario Provincial Police been made aware of what the Highland Companies are proposing? Information on this is requested.

Until we receive credible and substantive information on the matters raised above, we are strongly opposed to this massive quarry being operated by the Highland Companies in Melancthon Township.

Yours very truly,

Chris Murdoch

Brenda Murdoch

cc: Highland Companies
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