



**Unicamp of Ontario Incorporated**  
**638159 Prince of Wales Rd.**  
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April 9, 2011

Ministry of Natural Resources  
2284 Nursery Road  
Midhurst, ON L0L1X0

Attention: Craig Laing

Dear Sir:

Re: EBR Registry number 011-2864  
Melancthon Mega Quarry

Further to our letter of April 4<sup>th</sup>, we wish to add the following objections to the subject application.

1. We have researched the explosives Highland has proposed and found in an independent study by the Canadian military that in a wet environment like this one a large portion of the explosives often remains undetonated and enters the water table. The blasting will create effects from the ground and air vibrations, along with toxic explosive residue, and each year's blasting may well reach the explosive equivalent of half of the Hiroshima explosion. Explosives will need to be transported onto the site each day, causing risks to other road-users and workers transporting dangerous substances. The explosives proposed for use is Ammonium Nitrate Fuel-Oil or AFNO-based product. This type of explosive, like all explosives, contains toxic ammonia that has the potential to be released into the water table from contaminated rock, through spillage, incomplete detonation, through fissures created by the blast and through pit drainage/runoff. The toxicity of ammonia varies with pH and temperature, with lower temperature and pH causing an increase in the toxicity of free ammonia (and we know it's cold in Ontario at times).  
What studies have been done to show that this product is safe for use in this location.
2. 600 million litres of water will be pumped from the quarry back into the aquifer. We have seen no proof that this will not affect the water quality and flow for the Nottawasaga River (and the other rivers in this area. We require evidence that an independent study has been done that proves this will not pollute or otherwise adversely affect the water

supply downstream. Not just the water directly affected by the quarry but water downstream in cities like Guelph.

3. The applicant intends to operate 16 pumps seven days a week 24 hours a day in perpetuity to manage the 600 million litres of water required by this process. However, no analysis has been provided, nor any costs calculated to manage this system once the mine has been rehabilitated or abandoned. Nor is there any information about safeguards in the event the pumps stop due to weather, power failure, earthquake, etc. Given recent significant failures resulting from ineffective planning for these events (BP Oil Spill, Japan earthquake) proceeding with this project without addressing these areas would be tantamount to intentionally endangering all residents and wildlife within the area – not just Unicamp, and would be extremely reckless.

If necessary, I will define my objection further in the future.

Sincerely:  
Unicamp of Ontario Incorporated

Per: Neal denHollander, President.

c.c. The Highland companies  
PO Box 377  
Shelburne, ON L0N1S0



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April 4, 2011

Ministry of Natural Resources  
2284 Nursery Road  
Midhurst, ON L0L1X0

Attention: Craig Laing

Dear Sir:

Re: EBR Registry number 011-2864  
Melancthon Mega Quarry

Unicamp of Ontario Incorporated objects to the subject application.

Unicamp of Ontario Incorporated, located at 638159 Prince of Wales Rd., Honeywood, ON L0N 1H0 about 10 k from the site of this proposed mega quarry. Unicamp is a Unitarian Universalist camp and conference centre, existing since 1969 to provide a retreat for Unitarians from around the world, a place for peace and quiet and silence. We run several weeks of camps each year for children, for families and individuals.

This area is the headwaters for major rivers feeding the Unicamp community and beyond.

Unicamp will be impacted by this mega quarry in many ways.

1. the operation of the quarry 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with blasting every day of the year (except for stat holidays), and the 7,200 large trucks coming and going every day will destroy the peace and quiet that Unicamp now enjoys. Traffic safety, traffic congestion will impact the ability of our guests to get to Unicamp and make it difficult for them to visit other locations in the area. This level of additional heavy aggregate trucks on Dufferin Road 124 is also a public safety concern for many reason. There is also no analysis on the potential impact on surrounding crops, livestock and local residents of this truck traffic and blasting.
2. the applicant proposes a large rail operation involving up to 13 hours of crossing time per day further disrupting the ability of people to travel in the area.
3. there have been no consultations with the Medical Officer of Health regarding greenhouse gas emission and the impact on local health. We currently enjoy some of the cleanest air in the world.

4. the application indicates that they will need to manage 600 million litres of groundwater every day. Unicamp has many clean, clear springs that start on it's property, a 2.5 pond and acres of marshland all of which will be affected by this operation and quite possibly disappear as Unicamp's water becomes part of the 600 million litres of water the applicant must deal with 24 hours a day, every day for eternity.
5. the applicant intends to operate 16 pumps seven days a week 24 hours a day in perpetuity to manage this 600 million litres of water. No analysis has been provided nor any costs calculated to manage this system once the mine has been rehabilitated or abandoned. Nor is there any information about safeguards in the event the pumps stop due to weather, power failure, earthquake, etc.
6. the planning rationale that ranks aggregate as a superior land use by depending on an industry-dominated policy paper exercise devalues the interest of Ontarians concerned about the protection of scarce prime agriculture and water resources.
7. valuable food producing lands will disappear, notwithstanding the applicants claim that the land will be returned to food production in the quarry farms to be located at the bottom of the 200+ foot holes. The plans suggest an eventual return to "suitable agricultural" uses. There is no legal crop that can be farmed at the bottom of these holes that will cover the costs of running the pumps required to make the land useable. According to current government legislation, there is no obligation to rehabilitate the site because it is below the water table.
8. the applicant has not demonstrated that there are no reasonable alternative locations which avoid prime agricultural areas; nor has it demonstrated that there are no reasonable alternative locations in prime agricultural areas with lower priority agricultural lands as provided for in the Provincial Policy Statement. I ask that the applicant be required to provide this information.
9. the submission includes a promise of 400 jobs but there is no analysis of the loss of existing jobs. I demand that this analysis be done by the applicant and that the jobs lost at Unicamp be included.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that there are no unacceptable impacts as a result of the proposed operation and Unicamp of Ontario Incorporated demands that this be done.

I request that this application come under the Environmental Assessment Act.

The enormity of the largest quarry application ever submitted in Ontario demands unprecedented review and consultation with clear proof and broad agreement about unacceptable impacts. The absence of important analyses in key areas clearly indicates a failure to demonstrate sufficient concern about the consequences associated with a proposal for Canada's largest quarry.

If necessary, I will define my objection further in the future.

Sincerely:  
Unicamp of Ontario Incorporated

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