

BRYON AND LYNN VANALSTINE
R.R. #4, 634286
Orangeville, ON L9W 2Z1

April 15, 2011

Delivered by Hand

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

The Highland Companies
Box 377
Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0

Dear Sirs:

Re: Proposal by The Highland Companies to develop a quarry of approximately 2400 acres in Melancthon Township

Our family backgrounds are in Dundalk, Shelburne and the Orangeville area. In view of our knowledge of the areas where our families come from, the proposal by The Highland Companies to develop the very large quarry in Melancthon has caused a concern. This concern not only relates to Melancthon, where the quarry is to be located, but also relates to a variety of other issues impacting water and traffic patterns which will be the result of a large number of trucks coming from and going back to the quarry operations.

We have read a number of papers relating to what The Highland Companies are proposing and are concerned about a number of issues which do not appear to have been thoroughly analyzed. It is because of our concerns, that we are writing this letter, not only to The Highland Companies, but to the Ministry of Natural Resources as well.

Our preliminary concerns are the following:

1. The quarry depth is estimated to be approximately 200 feet – this is much deeper than the water table.

Please advise what the impact will be of this 2400-acre excavation, at a depth of approximately 200 feet, on the Grand, Nottawasaga and Saugeen Rivers and the watershed systems affected by these rivers. What will be the impact on the headwaters of these watershed systems which all originate in the highlands of Dufferin County?

2. We have been advised that blasting operations will be 24/7, the only exception being statutory holidays.

Please advise if this is correct. If it is correct, is this reasonable in relation to any citizens that live in proximity to the quarry?

3. We reside on Highway 10 at Camilla and are aware of the present traffic patterns. We have learned that when the quarry is operating, there would be up to 7200 large trucks coming and going from the quarry every day – 3600 full trucks heading south and 3600 empty trucks heading back to the quarry.

Please advise if these estimated figures are correct. If they are not correct, please advise of the correct numbers.

If the number set out above are correct, what studies have been done to consider the impact of such traffic on:

- location of schools
- traffic congestion
- impact of local business
- traffic safety issues – Has the OPP been consulted?
- impact on tourist areas such as Collingwood.

Since we live at Highway 10 at Camilla, we are aware of HEAVY TRAFFIC CONGESTION at the present time – with increased traffic as proposed by Highland, traffic patterns would be ridiculous. Please advise and supply all studies that have been done on the traffic issue.

4. Has an analysis been done on greenhouse gas emissions based on the increased traffic caused by the proposed Highland trucking operations?

Please advise and supply all studies done on greenhouse gas emissions.

5. Please advise of all studies and analysis that has been done relating to pumping 600 million litres of water every day.

Please provide all information on this issue, including:

- impact on properties near the quarry
- impact on downstream communities
- impact on all aquifers in the vicinity of the quarry
- what size pumps are to be used.

We await to be advised on our concerns. We are opposed to the proposed quarry in Melancthon Township.

Yours very truly,

Bryon Vanalstine

Lynn Vanalstine

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