



August 21, 2013

Cuesta Planning Consultants Inc.
978 First Avenue West
Owen Sound, ON N4K 4K5

Attn: Mr. Michael Davis

**Re: Peer Review, Acoustical Study - Hidden Quarry
Review of Revised Aercoustics Noise Report and Response to Comments
Novus Project No. 12-0258**

Novus Environmental was retained by Cuesta Planning Consultants Inc. on behalf of the Township of Guelph/Eramosa to conduct a peer review of the noise and vibration assessment work conducted for the proposed James Dick Construction Ltd. "Hidden Quarry", to be located in Rockwood, Ontario.

Our peer review results were previously documented in letter entitled "Peer Review, Acoustical Study, Hidden Quarry", and dated April 8, 2013. That letter outlined a number of recommendations for updates to the noise modelling and reporting for the quarry application.

Subsequently, Aercoustics Engineering Ltd. (AEL) has conducted a re-assessment of impacts and provided a response to comments. This work is documented in:

- "Noise Impact Study, Project 11007, Hidden Quarry, Rockwood Ontario" prepared by Aercoustics Engineering Ltd. (AEL), dated May 24, 2013; and
- AEL letter to James Dick Construction entitled "Response to Peer Review from Novus Environmental Inc. for Proposed Hidden Quarry in Rockwood, Ontario, dated April 8, 2013", and dated May 24, 2013.

1.0 Overall Review

We have reviewed the updated noise impact assessment prepared by AEL, and their responses to our comments, and in general we are satisfied. Based on the revised information, noise levels from the proposed quarry operations will meet the applicable guideline limits at all noise-sensitive points of reception.

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2.0 Additional Recommendations Not Addressed in Revised Aercoustics Work

Regardless of the above, based on the AEL report, compliance with the guideline limits is dependent on the use of noise mitigation, placement of equipment, and the use of “quiet” rock drills.

In our original peer review, Novus recommended that a third party acoustical audit be conducted during the first year of operation. The audit would ensure that:

- Noise emissions from the actual facility equipment meets NPC-115 requirements and are equal to or less than that used in the noise impact assessment;
- Noise emissions from the rock drill meet the maximum power level specification contained in Section 4 of the AEL report;
- The equipment is in good operating order, meeting the Township Noise Bylaw requirements;
- The mitigation measures, including berms and barriers, outlined in the noise report are installed and in operation; and
- The resulting noise impacts from facility operations are in compliance with NPC-205 and NPC-232 requirements.

Such acoustic audits are often agreed to as part of conditions of approval.

An acoustic audit was not discussed in any of the AEL documentation provided, and we would still recommend that such an audit be agreed to.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Novus Environmental Inc.



R. L. Scott Penton, P.Eng
Principal

