



Frequently-Asked-Questions about the Hidden Quarry

Q. What is the Hidden Quarry?

A. In 2012, James Dick Construction Ltd. submitted an application to Guelph/Eramosa Township to re-zone a 100-acre parcel of land near Rockwood in order to permit a quarry. The proposed quarry is identified as “Category 2”, meaning extraction of minerals would be made above and below the groundwater table at a rate of 700,000 tonnes of aggregate material annually from the site located northeast of Highway 7 and the 6th Line.

Q. What types of concerns have been expressed to Council about the Hidden Quarry?

A. Guelph/Eramosa Township residents have expressed a number of key concerns related to a new quarry: decreased property value, contamination of private wells, additional infrastructure requirements (road upgrades, traffic lights, etc.), blasting/vibration, air quality, noise, impact on natural environment (water quality, wetlands and wildlife), property damage, cultural heritage, karst topography (shafts, tunnels, caves caused by water drainage), visual impact, effect on quality of life, tourism, and business, haul route (increased traffic and dangerous conditions) and agricultural impact (food production and equestrian farms).

Q. What is the current status of the hidden quarry project?

A. The application has been appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for a decision. The re-zoning application is now before the Ontario Municipal Board and Guelph/Eramosa Township is no longer able to approve or reject it. The Township Solicitor and consultants will attend the OMB proceedings on behalf of Guelph/Eramosa Township to defend its position. A prehearing for the Ontario Municipal Board is scheduled for November 9, 2015 at Rockmosa Community Centre.

Q. What is the Ontario Municipal Board?

A. The Ontario Municipal Board is a tribunal where appeals can be brought for resolution. Members are appointed by the Ontario government for three-year terms and include lawyers, former elected officials, engineers, surveyors, planners and public administrators. Members make decisions based on evidence presented at a hearing, the relevant law, provincial policies and the principles of good planning.

Q. Why is the quarry application in the hands of the Ontario Municipal Board?

A. The Township was involved in an extensive process of thoroughly reviewing technical reports and public submissions when the appeal to the OMB was filed by James Dick Construction Ltd. Under the requirements of the Planning Act, James Dick Construction Ltd. was able to file an appeal with the Ontario Municipal Board, which the company did in May 2015. The OMB will now decide if the rezoning should be approved.

Q. What is the Township's position on the proposed quarry?

A. The Township has requested that their Solicitors advise the OMB that Council opposes the approval of the application as appealed to the OMB as it continues to have serious concerns with the unresolved issues and impacts arising from the proposed quarry and to request that the OMB not grant the appeal, not approve the licence application referred to it and not approve the proposed quarry unless these outstanding concerns are addressed to the satisfaction of the Township.

Q. What happens if the OMB decides to approve the re-zoning to allow the quarry?

A. The decision of the OMB is final. There is limited right to seek leave to appeal a decision of the OMB, but only on questions of law.

Q. When will a decision be made by the Ontario Municipal Board?

A. A decision date is not known at this time, being dependent on when the date for the hearing is set, the length of the hearing and its complexity.

Q. I have concerns about the hidden quarry. Whom should I contact?

A. If you wish to take part in the OMB hearing, or ask questions about the hearing, you can contact the OMB to find out the name and contact information for the caseworker assigned to the file.

The contact information for the OMB is as follows:

Ontario Municipal Board

655 Bay Street Suite 1500

Toronto, Ontario M5G 1E5

Tel: (416) 212-6349 or toll free 1-866-448-2248

Fax: (416) 326-5370

TTY: 1-800-855-1155 via Bell relay

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5:00 p.m. (Excluding statutory holidays)

E-Mail: ontario.municipal.board@ontario.ca