

CITIZENS AGAINST MELROSE QUARRY

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TYENDINAGA TOWNSHIP, ON – November 12, 2019 – Citizens have long expressed their concerns over the proposed Melrose Quarry in Tyendinaga Township. With a planned location immediately adjacent to the existing Long’s Quarry, the new quarry would increase the area’s combined footprint of extraction to about 100 acres.

Residents are extremely concerned over the future of their water supply and the potential for additional aquifer drainage. Additionally, the effects of blasting, dust settling on the surrounding crops and farmland, the truck traffic, particularly past the local elementary school also greatly worry residents.

In March, 2018, the MNRF referred the ARA license application to the Land Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). A pre-hearing conference was held in August, 2019. Today, the parties met once again by teleconference to determine the issues list and to set dates.

The two outstanding issues that the parties do not agree upon are traffic and the proponent’s compliance history. Richard Makuch, LPAT vice-chair, will consider submissions from legal representatives and respond in writing.

Both Mr. Fleming and Mr. Lindgren agreed that the upcoming hearing would take approximately 8 days. The LPAT chair has asked for potential dates from both parties and noted that a hearing would not likely occur in early 2020.

About CAMQ: CAMQ is a group of Tyendinaga Township residents who are concerned about a proposal to develop a new quarry beside the existing Long’s Quarry at the corner of Melrose and Shannonville Roads, Township of Tyendinaga, Hastings County. The group formed in 2013 over concerns that the dewatering needed for the proposed Melrose Quarry would extend the impacts of current quarrying activities on the area’s groundwater supply. Area residents and farms have no access to municipal water supplies.

Threat to Water – What effect on local streams? What effect on nearby dug and drilled wells? A quarry needs to be kept dry to be operational. When a quarry operator digs below the water table (intersects the aquifer) groundwater drains into the quarry. This water, along with precipitation, must be pumped out. Over time, there is a risk that this pumping will reduce the amount of groundwater in the aquifer. Long’s Quarry appears to be authorized to pump up to 3 million litres per day for 60 days (spring thaw/melt/storm) and up to 1.3 million litres for the balance of the year. Water is a shared resource. Homes and farms in the area rely on one single aquifer for their water needs. There is no alternate water supply.

Noise and Vibration – Explosives are used to break up the limestone in Long’s Quarry to allow easier removal of aggregate. This activity has resulted in numerous complaints to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and to the township from surrounding property owners. Local home owners have reported cracks in their foundations. Additional blasting from a second quarry has the potential to affect additional properties.

For more information about Citizens Against Melrose Quarry, go to www.citizensagainstmelrosequarry.com

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Promoting Responsible, Sustainable and Equitable Resource Use

www.citizensagainstmelrosequarry.com