

Special Edition Stepping Stones



THE DUNTROON QUARRY EXPANSION NEWSLETTER

July 5, 2010

Message from Walker Aggregates' Vice-President

The Consolidated Hearings Board's review of our application for an expanded Duntroon Quarry has taken a break for most of the summer after wrapping up nine weeks of work.

Testimony over the past few weeks has focused on the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) that Walker intends to implement to mitigate any unanticipated impacts the expanded quarry may have on ground and surface water, and the natural environment; as well as noise impacts from the expanded quarry. The details of that testimony are outlined in this newsletter.

The details of what's been happening at the hearing since we published our last Special Edition of Stepping Stones three weeks ago are outlined further in this newsletter.

The hearing resumes on August 23 with testimony still to come from Walker's experts on economic impacts, visual impacts and planning, followed by testimony by experts from the Township of Clearview, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Clearview Community Coalition and Emelia Franks. The proceedings are taking much longer than expected, with the hearing anticipated to run until mid December.

I invite anyone interested in learning more about our expanded quarry application to drop by the Creemore Arena once the hearing resumes at the end of August. The proceeding begin at 10 a.m. and typically conclude at around 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Friends and neighbours are reminded that our annual summer Duntroon Quarry tour and barbecue happens on Friday, July 16 at 11:30 a.m., with buses loading shortly afterward for a noon blasting demonstration. Walker will be donating \$5 to the local food bank for each person who attends and we invite guests to bring along a non-perishable food item for the food bank.

I look forward to seeing you there.

As always, please contact me with any questions at 705-445-2300 extension 224, or in Niagara at 905-227-4142, or visit our website at <http://www.walkerind.com/walker-aggregates/duntroon-expansion.html>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Lucyshyn".

Ken Lucyshyn

CHB Hears About Adaptive Management Plan and Noise

Testimony on the Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) before the Consolidated Hearings Board opened with a focus on its purpose, intentions and core elements. The plan would be put in place by Walker if the Duntroon Quarry expansion is permitted.

Walker's hydrogeology expert Andy Hims noted that the AMP is focused on the protection and management of water and other natural resources such as flora and fauna, and does not address the mitigation of noise, dust or traffic. The AMP is a condition of the Aggregate License Site Plan and is legally enforceable.

Mr. Hims explained that the AMP submitted to the hearings board is considered a working draft. The outline of the AMP was developed in 2008 and shared with "commenting agencies," including government ministries, local municipalities and conservation authorities and the Niagara Escarpment Commission, but Walker Aggregates has not received substantive comments from all parties yet. The Ministry of Natural Resources has the responsibility to give final approval on the AMP after the land use is approved and prior to any extraction occurring at the quarry expansion.

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Mr. Hims emphasized that the AMP is a “living document because it must be able to adapt to circumstances in real time. It’s an evolving, public document that is subject to change.” Reports on the monitoring results would be submitted annually to the Ministry of Natural Resources, provided to commenting agencies, and posted on the Walker web site for public access. Every five years a comprehensive report would be prepared comparing predictions to observed data. It would be distributed to public agencies and available to the public. The AMP would be in force for the entire life span of the quarry and only end when the site is fully rehabilitated into a lake.

The board heard details of the extensive monitoring processes contained in the AMP including a “stoplight” system of green, yellow and red zones to trigger when agencies are notified and when mitigation must occur. Mr. Hims noted the red zone requirements have been increased to include a stop work requirement as an added incentive to ensure the operator addresses any negative impact from quarry operations as soon as possible.

Further testimony outlined how Walker Aggregates would monitor and mitigate any potential impacts on natural features on and off its property from an expanded Duntroon Quarry.

The AMP would be a condition of the Aggregate License Site Plan and is intended to evolve over time with ongoing consultation with the public agencies and approval authorities.

Mr. Hims and ecology expert David Charlton then provided further details about short and long-term monitoring of surface water and groundwater, amphibian populations, fish habitat and the re-forestation plan that would see 38,000 trees planted on lands surrounding the quarry.

The board asked Mr. Charlton why the contingency measures were being planned for features outside of the quarry property when earlier evidence had been provided that quarry operations were not expected to have an impact off-site. He replied that the draft AMP reflects a “belt and suspenders” approach, so if there is an impact he has not foreseen or predicted, Walker knows how to respond.

After cross examination from the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Clearview Community Coalition on the AMP, the board heard evidence on noise impacts of the proposed expanded quarry.

Walker Aggregates' acoustical engineering expert said

that if the proposed Duntroon Quarry expansion goes ahead, noise from the quarry operations will be kept to within guidelines for quarry operations set out by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

John Emeljanow told the board that, based on noise measurements at the existing Duntroon Quarry in 2003 when his firm began a noise assessment as well as other considerations, the proposed expanded quarry could be expected to have noise levels ranging from 42 to 70 decibels of combined sound exposures (dBA) in a worst case scenario during daytime operations, if the noise impacts were not mitigated. The range of noise levels was predicted at six separate receptor sites near the quarry. However, with the mitigation measures being proposed, the combined sound exposures would range from 34 to 50 dBA. The Ministry of Environment limit for a single quarry operation is 50 dBA.

An agreement with Clearview Township to remove the asphalt plant operation from an expanded quarry site, and to limit the daytime hours of operation for rock drilling, would reduce the noise impact even further.

Mitigation measures would include using a quieter drill or additional portable sound barrier screenings during drilling operations, ensuring quarrying moves forward in a controlled and progressive manner, and installing a four-metre high perimeter berm along the west limit of the quarrying operations.

Mr. Emeljanow also pointed out that – based on the way the existing quarry operates now – noise would be further reduced in the new expanded quarry, if Walker employs the same sound deadening techniques such as enclosing crushing operations and using rubber liners on the beds of trucks working inside the quarry.

Mr. Emeljanow also took the board through a set of calculations to determine the impacts of the expanded quarry on haul route noise. When comparing existing morning peak traffic travelling from the quarry east along County Road 91 to Duntroon to the predicted peak traffic in 2016 with the expanded quarry, he explained that the increase ranged from 3.5 to 3.7 decibels (depending on the location of the trucks on the route).

With the reduced speed limits that will go into effect on the road if the quarry is approved, the increase in decibel level in the morning peak hour drops to a range from 1.7 to 3.7, which is considered to be “insignificant” to the low range of “noticeable,” according to the Ministry of the Environment's draft guidelines for landfill traffic. The ministry has no such guidelines for quarry traffic.

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Mr. Emeljanow concluded that County Road 91 is the preferred haul route for the proposed quarry expansion, based on noise impact considerations. He explained that if another haul route was used – one that takes quarry trucks west along County Road 91, south along Grey County Road 31 and then east and north along Road 124 to Duntroon – the increase in truck traffic noise would range from 10.4 to 12.3 decibels, which is considered to be a “very significant” impact.

He then spoke to the added noise caused by engine brakes. He noted that if trucks travelling 60 kilometres per hour along the haul route used their engine brakes the entire time with the maximum amount of expanded quarry traffic, the additional noise level would be two decibels. Mr. Emeljanow said this was an unlikely scenario since this calculation assumes that no engine brakes are used by trucks travelling the road today, and that engine brakes are typically only used for short periods of time, as opposed to along an entire route.

The Township of Clearview had requested that Walker conduct a noise impact assessment of off-site, haul route truck traffic.

“The impacts are relatively minor,” Mr. Emeljanow said of the increased truck noise anticipated east along County Road 91 if the Duntroon Quarry expansion is approved. He later noted that “My understanding is that we have addressed all the Township’s concerns to their satisfaction for both on-site and haul route [noise] impacts.”

After cross examination of Mr. Emeljanow by the lawyer for the Clearview Community Coalition, the proceedings of the Consolidated Hearings Board adjourned until August 23, 2010.

The Duntroon Quarry is operated by Walker Aggregates Inc., a division of Walker Industries.

www.walkerind.com