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of the  
Environment

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l'Environnement

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**By Email Only**

October 23, 2009

File: EP43-NA-CL

Kathryn Pounder, MA, MCIP, RPP  
Senior Strategic Advisor  
Niagara Escarpment Commission  
232 Guelph Street  
Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4B1

Dear Ms. Pounder

**RE: Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment (NEPA) Application PS 161 05  
Duntroon Quarry Expansion  
Township of Clearview, County of Simcoe**

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Further to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) comments dated July 7, 2007, the MOE met with Walker Aggregates Inc. and Niagara Escarpment Commission to discuss our comments. On July 17, 2009, Walker Aggregates Inc. provided additional information in response to the MOE comments. On the basis of reviewing the additional information and referring to the Ministry of Natural Resources' comments and local conservation authorities' comments, the following comment is provided for your consideration.

One of the issues raised in the MOE letter dated July 7, 2007 is the potential loss of stream flow in the SW2 watercourse. The MOE now understands the following about this watercourse:

- The perennial portion of the watercourse starts from the SW2A spring. Within a short distance of the spring (perhaps in the range of 100 m to 150 m), the watercourse enters the large wetland complex. So, it is this stretch of the watercourse that will likely be eliminated as a result of quarrying/ dewatering activities.
- The proposed extraction plan does not include mining out of the streambed itself. The location of the spring (SW2A) as well as the watercourse section within the property is excluded from the extraction area. However, the dewatering activity associated with mining is expected (with high degree of certainty) to dry up the spring and the watercourse.
- The dewatering is to be carried out under authorization by the MOE through a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) application. PTTWs contain a standard condition prohibiting the cessation of stream flow: "The taking of water (including the taking of water into storage and the subsequent or simultaneous withdrawal from storage) shall be carried out in such a manner that stream flow is not stopped and is not reduced to a rate that will cause interference with downstream uses of water or with the natural functions of the stream".

- While this being the case, the experts dealing with the ecological significance of the small stretch of this watercourse (including representatives of DFO) have indicated that the stretch is of marginal/ little importance in terms of providing viable fish habitat. The stretch is too short, isolated and already affected to some degree by the adjacent roads. Flows are also likely to be very low in the summer months naturally. There are no water users that obtain their water from the short stretch of watercourse which will be affected by the loss of the streamflow. Hence, the MOE's technical staff do not consider the effects of the dewatering on the SW2 watercourse to be significant or unacceptable. The need for any monitoring or mitigation requirements (if any) related to the SW2 watercourse will be considered and determined by the MOE upon review of the application for a PTTW for the dewatering, when/if submitted. It is also noted that, at least during the operational stages of the quarrying, some water will be directed to the watercourse, as it has been identified as one of the potential discharge locations. For the post closure of the quarry (long term), it is not expected that the watercourse will start to flow again naturally, as the predicted lake levels will not be high enough.

The second issue raised was the potential for the SW11 spring systems to be adversely affected by quarrying. It has been explained to the MOE's satisfaction that, any potential losses in the flows of the SW11 springs can be effectively mitigated by directing excess water from the quarry into the infiltration areas around the SW9.

This brings the closure of the MOE review for this project. If further clarification is needed regarding the MOE comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned directly at (416) 326-4886 or via email: [Chunmei.Liu@ontario.ca](mailto:Chunmei.Liu@ontario.ca).

Yours truly,



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Environmental Assessment and Planning Coordinator  
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