

Kannakko, Kris (MNR)

From: Gaweda, Joanna (MNR)
Sent: October 18, 2007 9:09 AM
To: Moreau, Paul (MNR)
Subject: miller quarry prelim level one
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: Miller Quarry_prelim natural environment level one report_oct 17 07.pdf

Hi Paul,

Just an FYI, Al, Daryl, Karen, Mike D and I met earlier this week to discuss the circulation of the Draft Level One submitted to us and County/Twp by Millers. Attached are our comments. We held back on any comments regarding the possible protection/mitigation recommendations, as these should be in the Level 2, not yet ready, and based on scientific justification. Daryl may not be agreeable to 50 % of the prime alvar being proposed for extraction.

Joanna

Ministry of
Natural Resources

Ministère des
Richesses naturelles

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October 17, 2007

Mr. Gary Bell
Skelton Brumwell and Associates Inc.
93 Bell Farm Road
Suite 107
Barrie, Ontario
L4M 5G1

Mr. Bell:

**RE: Pre-consultation and Draft Level One Natural Environment Report
Miller Quarry Proposal, Pt. Lot 16, 17, Con A, Geographic Township of McNab**

Thank you for meeting with District staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the County of Renfrew on September 11, 2007. You requested preliminary comments from the MNR on the science contained in the draft/preliminary level one natural environment report (titled Natural Environment Assessment – Braeside Quarry Expansion Area -Brunton Consulting Services. April, 2007) which you plan to file in support of an Application for License under the *Aggregate Resources Act* (ARA).

The following are the MNR's review comments and questions regarding the science, considering the standards for Natural Environment Reports under the ARA. Note that District staff have not reviewed Section 5, Impact Assessment and Conclusions, as this is usually dealt with in a level two natural environment report (we understand this to be in preparation).

Pg 3 & 16:

The report explicitly references only the *Federal Species at Risk Act* and associated species. Have **Species at Risk in Ontario** (SARO species) been considered and if so, which ones?

Pg 3 through 15:

There are references to plant voucher specimens. Could ID's please be provided for these?

Pg 15, 3.3.2 Other Fauna:

The Milksnake, species of Scientific Concern in Ontario, is also known to occur on the alvar in the vicinity of the site. Has this species been considered (as potential Significant Wildlife Habitat - SWH)? Also, the area assessed has high potential to be a significant white tailed deer winter concentration area or core deer yard. 2001 assessments show high use of the property by deer. This property is centrally located in a heavily forested area otherwise surrounded by agricultural and rural residential land uses. It is part of the largest tract of woodland and deer yard in Ecodistrict 6E-

16. Given a lack of criteria in local planning documents, the significance criteria should be discussed with District staff.

In conclusion, the preliminary/draft level 1 natural environment report has appropriately included and delineated the alvar component of Significant Wildlife Habitat and habitat of endangered and threatened species for the subject lands. The significance of the deer yard as a feature should be further discussed with district staff.

MNR would be pleased to comment on a preliminary/draft level two natural environment report which typically would address any potential impacts from additional quarry operation and the location and operation of the proposed asphalt plant on features of significance and would provide scientific rationale for the protection and mitigation options proposed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 613-732-5522 or Joanna.gaweda@ontario.ca with questions or to obtain additional information.

Thank you,



Joanna Gaweda
District Planner
Pembroke District
/jg

- c. B. Howarth, Township Planner (electronic)
M. Dumouchel, Aggregates Inspector, Pembroke District MNR