

From: [Greg Sweetnam](#)
To: [Leigh Mugford](#)
Subject: FW: Hidden Quarry - License Application for a Category 2, Class A License under the Aggregate Resources Act - MNR Repsonse to Comments - July 2013
Date: October-24-13 3:22:57 PM
Attachments: [Blanding's Turtle Survey Protocol April 2012 Guelph District.doc](#)
[Little Brown Myotis & Northern Myotis- Building use.doc](#)
[Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis 2013 Guelph District.doc](#)
[Draft Survey Protocol for Spotted Turtle 2013 01 31.pdf](#)
[Rusty-patched Bumblebee survey methodology in Guelph District 2013.doc](#)

From: Norminton, Lorraine (MNR) [mailto:lorraine.norminton@ontario.ca]
Sent: July-11-13 9:40 AM
To: Greg Sweetnam
Cc: May, Stephen (MNR); Timmerman, Art (MNR); Ivanov, Oleg (MNR); Pickett, Karolyne (MNR); Murray, AI (MNR)
Subject: Hidden Quarry - License Application for a Category 2, Class A License under the Aggregate Resources Act - MNR Repsonse to Comments - July 2013

July 11, 2013

Greg Sweetnam
James Dick Construction
P.O. Box 470
Bolton, ON
L7E 5T4

Re: Hidden Quarry – License Application for a Category2, Class A License under the Aggregate Resources Act – Part Lot 1, concession 6, Township of Guelph/Eramosa in the County of Wellington

Dear Mr. Sweetnam

Thank you for the opportunity to review the information that was been submitted in reply to our April 15, 2013 comments. We have reviewed the explanations and provide the following comments.

Level II Natural Environment Technical Report

4.5.5 MNR would like to note that although the intermittent stream may possibly provide a seasonal source of insect food for downstream fish it does not support an on-site fish population. The existing ecological function of this stream will nonetheless be maintained during aggregate extraction.

5.1.4 In regards to the net loss of approximately 19 hectares of woodland and the recommendation to replant the areas at a site that would improve natural heritage features such as providing or enhancing a linkage or enlarging the current forest area. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss.

Species at Risk

Little Brown Myotis: Given that the building on site could provide bat maternal roost habitat (2nd paragraph, p.2), and given that it is proposed to be demolished, the building should be surveyed for LBM. The survey protocol for buildings is attached.

The wooded area (i.e. coniferous and deciduous/mixed stands) should be surveyed for the presence of maternal roosts. Survey principles for woodlands are also attached.

Rusty-patched Bumble Bee: We note that your letter is contradicting itself. Page 3 states *“targeted searches in Guelph and Rockwood from 2005 to 2008 failed to find this species.”* But previously on page 2 it states *“Extensive targeted searches for this species from 2005 to 2008 found only three specimens.”* We would appreciate some clarification on this. Notwithstanding this ambiguity, the criterion for surveying for a species is whether suitable habitat is present, unless the specific property has been surveyed for previously in an appropriate fashion. The draft habitat regulation proposal includes woodland as one of the types of areas that are suitable for foraging, and does exclude coniferous woodlands. Habitat suitability is further described in the Guelph District survey protocol based on presence of suitable forage species. We suggest you cross-reference the property’s plant list with the species forage list to determine whether suitable habitat is present within the coniferous plantation, deciduous/mixed forest stands, and any other area listed in the draft habitat regulation. If suitable habitat is present on the property the proponent is expected to conduct a survey for the species. The protocol is attached.

West Virginia White: We note that you state that the host plant that was documented on site is now extirpated from the site. We would appreciate knowing the dates that the botanical surveys were done in 2011? This is relevant because if the survey was done outside of the flowering period the plants could have easily been missed.

Blanding’s Turtle and Spotted Turtle:

Survey protocols are indeed not available on the MNR website. They are provided to consultants when required. Regardless, the absence of an MNR survey protocol or the timing at which one is developed by the MNR has no bearing on whether a survey ought to be carried out on a particular site.

It is stated that the on-site visit on April 18 is considered a targeted turtle survey. However, the temperature on that day (-1 to 0°C) was not suitable to detect either species. No other

site visits are identified as targeted turtle surveys. Given that both species are highly inconspicuous, it is important that targeted surveys be conducted during appropriate weather conditions in order to detect either species.

MNR maintains that suitable habitat is present on site for both species.

Therefore, MNR is of the opinion that it is not reasonable to conclude that the species are absent from the site based on the field work that has been conducted to date. Survey protocols are attached.

If you have any questions in regards to Species at Risk or the survey protocols attached please feel free to contact Karolyne Pickett, Species at Risk Biologist at 519-826-4961.

Level I and II Hydrogeological Investigation

The Ministry has no further concerns in regards to the Hydrogeological Investigation.

Site Plans – Rehabilitation Plans

Vegetation Monitoring- the Ministry approves the details given on reforestation procedures and follow-up monitoring. We look forward to reviewing the revised site plans and rehabilitation plans at your earliest convenience.

In light of the above comments, the Ministry is not in a position to support the Category 2, Class A license application at this time.

We would be pleased to discuss any of the above issues further with the proponent or consultants.

Respectively submitted,

Original Signed

Lorraine Norminton
A/District Planner

cc. Steve May, MNR
Al Murray, MNR
Art Timmerman, MNR
Oleg Ivanov, MNR
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