

APPENDIX T

Good evening Mayor Armstrong and Wilmot councillors.

My name is Kathy Loree. I've lived in Wilmot for over 50 years. Most of those were within 3 km of the proposed pit.

My major objection to this application, is the risk of damaging the aquifer and the groundwater.

As a child, I recall my parents being told, our newly dug Wilmot Centre well, would have enough water, to supply a herd of 20 cattle for years to come. Then, the Region started taking water from the area. The well was never used for livestock, but it, as well as many neighbouring ones dried up. We recall then having to ration, and pay to have our water trucked in. My parents needed to drill a new much deeper well. In rural areas, we are dependent on our wells.

When ALL of us open a tap, we expect clean water to flow.

In the 1960's, I remember a brand new "overflowing or artesian well" on the farm across from the old Wilmot Centre school. Most of the neighbours visited with excitement to see fresh, clean water spurting out the top. It doesn't do that anymore.

A neighbourhood farm had a powerful enough spring that, using gravity, they ran water to their upstairs bathroom without a pump.

Maps of the area show numerous streams running through. Recently, brook trout not seen earlier, have been found in at least one of those streams.

These examples reflect some of the rich water resource history in this immediate area.

Bleams Rd has two road signs as you approach either side of Shingletown. Each reads – "Drinking Water Protection Zone Begins Here". The proposed pit falls within this area. By posting these, The Region has obviously realized the area needs protection.

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I recently read that the Region, used water from this aquifer to reduce the overall rising salt level in their supply.

We need gravel “in the ground” to continue to filter this valuable resource.

Elmira's water supply will probably never recover despite continued efforts to repair their damaged aquifer.

As others have noted, I am concerned with increased traffic, noise/air pollution and the safety of the Witmer Rd/Queen St intersection.

The fertile farmland will never be replaced. Used gravel pits are rarely returned to a usable state.

We often hike at the Hydrocut near Petersburg. We used to hear many birds and see lots of wildlife there. Since that pit expansion, we don't see or hear much, other than heavy equipment, loud banging, vibrations and back up alarms.

The "Reform Gravel Mining Coalition" moratorium, is timely and appreciated by many.

Here, we live in a “greenbelt”. This past week I saw it referred to as also being a “blue belt” due to its water resources.

Previous suggestions of approval, or, requests to meet guidelines for this pit are not grounds to go ahead with it.

Many argue that we need this gravel for road and building construction. Some say, "The pit will save the cost of trucking needed gravel here for upcoming growth".

I think - If the aquifer is damaged, the cost of trucking, or building pipelines, to bring fresh water to the Region, for many years to come, will be much higher than that cost savings.

The 1972 - "Conversations with North American Indians", contains an often quoted saying -

"Canada, the most affluent of countries, operates on a depletion economy which leaves destruction in its wake. Your people are driven by a terrible sense of deficiency. When the last tree is cut, the last fish is caught, the last river is polluted; when to breathe the air is sickening, you will realize, too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can't eat money."

For all of these reasons, most importantly, the risk of damaging the aquifer and our ground water, I encourage you to vote against this pit approval.

Thank you for your time and consideration.