

APPENDIX Q

Mike Balkwill
Delegation to Wilmot Council.
April 4, 2022.

I am Mike Balkwill and I work for the water watchers a non-profit environmental advocacy group. We support community groups to protect water in their community. I also work on the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition.

Last week Wilmot Council passed a motion supporting a moratorium on new gravel mining approvals in Ontario.

Thank you. Your Council's support is part of a growing movement by municipalities across Ontario who want to see limits on gravel mining in Ontario. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight.

There are three things I want to present to you tonight for your consideration.

1. Rick Esbaugh is essentially involved in land speculation. Rick bought land in the hope that he could get it rezoned for an open pit gravel mine.

That's a gamble. A 'gravel gamble' and Rick Esbaugh is a 'gravel gambler'.

Now fair ball to him, that's his risk. But Wilmot Council has no obligation to participate in Rick's land speculation, or to be part of his 'gravel gamble'.

Rick Esbaugh is entitled to is to make an application, but that's all. Wilmot Council has the option to say NO.

I think you will agree with me it's unfortunate, that if you do say no – Rick can appeal to the OLT.

It is the view of many people that NO SHOULD MEAN NO. However, the Ontario government has biased the approvals system to favour 'gravel gamblers' like Rick.

It is exactly because of this bias in favour of the aggregate industry that municipalities like Wilmot are supporting a moratorium on new gravel mining

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approvals, to increase the influence of municipalities and communities on location of gravel mines.

2. The planning and noise experts and the lawyer representing Citizens for Safe Ground water have given you legitimate reasons to say NO to the Hallman Pit. I won't repeat their reasons.

However I will say why it is important you say no.

This application will be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

- Rick Esbaugh will appeal it if you say no to his gravel gamble.
- Citizens for Safe Ground water will appeal it if you say yes.

But when you say no you will significantly increase the chances of the community persuading the OLT to say no to Rick Esbaugh

Saying NO to Rick Esbaugh does not create any risk for Wilmot Council

Wilmot Council is NOT under any obligation to be a party to the OLT appeal. This means you are NOT required to spend money on experts and lawyers. You may choose to do that - but you are not required to do that.

It will take quite a while for the appeal to move forward – a future Council can decide if and how it wants to participate in an appeal of the Hallman Pit to the OLT.

You can show you believe it is important to protect water, farmland and the community's health and safety by voting no.

3. My third point is that the proposed Hallman Pit is not necessary. You have heard there are 7 pits in the Shingletown neighbourhood, right across the road and only 10% of the gravel licenced to be mined there is extracted every year.

Shingletown does not need the Hallman Pit

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Wilmot's director of development services, said there are 15 gravel pit licences in Wilmot that can annually extract up to six million tonnes and Approximately a quarter of that or less is extracted within a year,".

Wilmot Township does not need the Hallman Pit.

The Ontario government has licensed thirteen times more gravel for extraction than is consumed each year

Ontario does not need the Hallman Pit

The neighbourhood, the township and the province do not need the proposed Hallman pit .

And as you have heard tonight - the community doesn't want it.

Rick Esbaugh is the only person who wants this pit and he is the only person who will benefit from it

Summary

You have heard and will hear more about the many ways the proposed Hallman Pit creates risks to the community's drinking water, air quality, community safety and more. I won't add to that list now.

I will say this. Rick Esbaugh wants you to 'roll the dice' on the risks to the health and well-being of your community so that he can profit from his 'gravel gamble'.

Rick Esbaugh is the only one who will win from his Hallman Pit 'gravel gamble'.

Everyone else in Wilmot Township will lose.

I urge you to Vote no to Rick Esbaugh's 'gravel gamble' and the proposed Hallman Pit.

Thank you