

## APPENDIX L

Good evening, Mayor Armstrong, and counsel members. I want to start by thanking you for your time this evening. I understand what a huge decision you must make tonight. While I read through my letter, I urge you to put yourself in our shoes. Please hear our concerns and take into consideration the enormous negative impact this operation would have on our community.

My name is Rachel Rennie, I live at 2094 Bleams and I object to the Hallman gravel pit. This is a picture of my family – we are only some of the smiling faces that will be affected by this decision. May I remind you that this will negatively impact hundreds of people. Please help me to protect my family, my neighbours and this lovely community.

A quick recap from my previous presentation I spoke about the numerous health impacts a gravel pit brings forth. One main concern is Silica - a mineral that becomes harmful and life threatening when it is disrupted by gravel extraction as it becomes airborne. This airborne particle is classified as a chemical agent and is a regulated substance. Over time, exposure has been proven to cause forms of cancers, COPD, autoimmune diseases and increasing susceptibility to infections. This is a major health concern and consideration **MUST** be given to citizens living around gravel pit operations who will be exposed to elevated levels.

Another concern is the use of diesel fuel. Use of this fuel creates diesel emissions which consist of many volatile compounds. As such these emissions have been classified as carcinogenic. Health studies by the Canadian Government provides sufficient evidence to prove that diesel

emissions are associated with increased risk to lung and bladder cancer. There is also ample evidence to show that sensitive subpopulations, such as the elderly and children are at a greater risk of adverse respiratory issues due to the exposure of diesel emissions. So, I am asking you - how will you reduce and mitigate these health effects to the roughly 200 residents living within the area of the proposed gravel pit? The real answer here is that you can't. The only way is to say no to this pit.

I want to emphasize that the proposed Pit sits on top of a protected drinking zone. There is no way to accurately know the effects of 30 years of mining until after the damage has already been done. It just does not make sense to allow a pit to dig 1.5 metres above a water table. Let's also keep in mind that these water tables are not even. In a study done by Finland it was reported that heavy metals and degrading organic substances as well as viruses and bacteria are retained relatively well in natural areas of the ground. This natural retention is weakened where gravel had been exposed. Making the risk of ground water contamination higher on extraction sites. Faecal coliform bacteria were also observed more in gravel extraction areas with increased nitrates. This is not something to take lightly – The Walkerton e-coli outbreak that infected 2300 people and killed 7 was a result of faecal contamination. In this case well 5's aquifer was prone to absorbing surface run off from gravel soiled zones – testing showed the ongoing deterioration in the quality of water from the well. The ministry failed to apply a provision to reclassify re-existing wells – there were no contamination alarms or emergency shut offs. Due to the shallowness of well 5 and being surrounded by fractured bedrock it was unusually susceptible to contamination. After heavy rainfall manure was subsequently incorporated

into the soil contaminating well 5 with e-coli. We need to ensure municipal water safety. We are asking for irreversible damage by allowing a gravel pit to operate on top of aquifers in a drinking water protection zone.

Operating heavy equipment on top of a protected groundwater comes with great risk and enormous complications. One drop of oil contains up to one hundred litres of water. One blown hydraulic line on any piece of machinery has the possibility to contaminate millions of liters of water. An article from the international journal of engineering research and technology noted that Diesel fuel mixtures of toxic chemicals pose enormous health risk if mixed with ground water – this mixture can percolate through ground water. The permeability of soil is reduced with increasing diesel content, decreased liquid limit and a decrease of internal friction – in other words even the smallest spill alters the physical properties of the soil inhibiting the natural filtration system. Even with a spill response team you can only mitigate the impact on the environment you cannot reverse the implications from a spill. Oil carried by rainfall may persist in the subsurface environment for decades. 20 years in the automotive industry my husband has yet to see a piece of heavy equipment that does not leak some form of fluid.

After further research and attending a very informative call I have learned that the Ontario Government authorized the gravel mining industry to extract thirteen times the amount of gravel each year than needed. It is no surprise that we are unable to fully recover the full functions of the land once it has been mined. In Wilmot township to the south of Witmer road we already have seven existing pits. Of the 200,000 tonnes per year extracted from these pits only 10% of the licensed capacity is used. Why would we

approve the Hallman pit when we already have functioning pits that could be used a full capacity? I struggle to understand how the benefit of one businessman outweighs the benefits of an entire community. Tri City Materials currently owns and operates 5 pits within the region and surrounding areas. The financial gain of this operation is not more important than the wellbeing of hundreds of citizens.

In conclusion I am asking that as our counsel you uphold the six core values of Wilmot. Please put our **health and wellbeing** first. Please support us a **community** by not allowing this pit. Allow our children and **legacy** to live healthy happy lives. Think **forward** on how this will impact climate change and pave the road for future pits. Allow Wilmot residents **accessibility** into making decisions that concern their well being. Last, please **balance** economic development with community liveability.

Thank you for your time.