

P.O. Box 20051
Brant Hills PO
Burlington, ON L7P 3N0

September 14, 2022

RE: City of Burlington Health Protection and Air Quality By-Law

Dear City of Burlington Clerk, Burlington City Council and Members of the Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services Committee;

CORE Burlington (Conserving Our Rural Ecosystems of Burlington Inc) is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers with the mission to preserve the ecological integrity of rural Burlington and to advocate for healthier communities by protecting our land, air and water.

We offer this submission in support of the implementation by the City of Burlington of a "**Health Protection and Air Quality By-Law**". We assert that such a by-law is critical to safeguarding our Burlington community from the negative impacts on our local environment of large, industrial operations (such as an open pit mine) in our city.

Fine particulate dust (PM_{2.5}) can travel deeply into the respiratory tract. Studies have linked such dust exposure to increased rates of chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function and increased mortality from lung cancer and heart disease. Additionally, according to the Safety Data Sheet published on Nelson Aggregates' website, the limestone they quarry contains 10-30% quartz (crystalline silica). The SDS goes on to state that "*Chronic exposure to respirable quartz containing limestone/dolomite dust at levels exceeding exposure limits has caused silicosis, a serious and progressive pneumoconiosis which can be disabling and lead to death.*"

Our experience has been that Nelson Aggregate does NOT self-regulate; does NOT self-report, and that the MECP has delegated their accountability to the MNRF; and that the MNRF does NOT adequately monitor or enforce compliance with environmental regulations.

In this dangerous vacuum of regulatory accountability, the citizens of Burlington become the victims of an industrial giant, unable to enjoy their properties, and at risk of serious health impacts from an open-pit mining operation that regularly inflicts adverse effects upon the community.

We are very concerned about the air quality impacts of Nelson Aggregates' current 540 acre, open pit limestone quarry operation and their expansion application to blast another 124 acres out of the Escarpment in North Burlington

Community members have long complained of dust from Nelsons' quarry operations, including drilling, blasting, crushing, screening, storage, loading/unloading, track-out and trucking that, at a minimum, create nuisance dust for those nearby, and more importantly, likely create serious health risks for those with regular exposure.

Despite years of complaints from the community, Nelson Aggregate and the relevant government regulators have taken NO material action to improve the emissions from the quarry.

As part of Nelsons' expansion application documents, modelling was conducted to assess the air quality impacts of the proposed expanded operation. We assert that this modelling is flawed since it is based on unrealistically "ideal" dust control factors; US EPA emission factors (many of which are reported to be of "low quality"); and background emission levels that, in a number of cases are based on data from

communities a significant distance from Burlington. Although the report predicts that Nelsons' operation will meet current regulatory standards, it does so by relying on assumptions which are based on ideal conditions; are of low quality; and may not represent the actual location/operation. Despite over 70 years of operation at the Burlington Escarpment site, NO field data has been collected to confirm the assumptions used in the modelling and the results generated.

Despite Nelsons' assertions of "Best Management Practices" for dust suppression (practices that are the very basis of many of the modelling assumptions), recent video surveillance of the site shows considerable dust generation from the operation. There is NO evidence of effective dust suppression. The images below are typical of the dust generation observed coming from the daily operations at Nelson Aggregates' quarry on Burlingtons' Escarpment. There is no reason to believe that the proposed quarry expansion will operate any differently given that the facilities in these pictures are integral to the Nelsons' plans for the future.



Blasting at the quarry typically occurs every week. Since May of 2022 we have videotaped every blast. This link provides the video of the blast from June 2, 2022 at 12:30pm. This blast rocked our community, inundating our neighbourhood with a caustic cloud of dust.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIQ7TeSKMEA>

When the blast occurred, we were standing approximately 250 metres south of the blast location. From the video, you will observe an initial cloud of dust that travels straight up in the air; it is then picked up by the prevailing winds. Within a minute or so, that cloud of dust migrates off the Nelson Aggregates' property and engulfs the area where we were filming.

The cloud of dust was overwhelming. It had a sulphur-like smell, caused us to cough and burned our eyes. Though the dust cloud had largely dissipated within 2-1/2 minutes, nevertheless, it had a sudden and significant impact on the neighbourhood. After it dissipated, it left a noticeable layer of dust on the houses, cars and roads adjacent to the Nelson property. It should be noted that in addition to private residences in the path of this dust cloud, there is also a 60-bed long-term care home directly in the cloud's path. The elderly members of our community who reside there have, most certainly a greater sensitivity to this type of dust exposure.

We reported the June 2, 2022 event from the video (along with two prior events from April 27, 2022 and May 11, 2022) to the MECP "Pollution Reporting Hot Line" on June 21, 2022 forwarding the videos taken, a list of important questions from the community, and an offer to provide a sample of the dust we collected. The MECP passed our incident report on to the MNRF, despite the fact that the MECP is accountable for administration and enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act. When questioned about this apparent inconsistency, MECP responded that *"The Nelson aggregate operation is licensed by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resource and Forestry (NDMNRF). While the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks ensures compliance with the Environmental Protection Act, NDMNRF leads the compliance efforts at licensed or permitted aggregate operations. All complaints relating to aggregate operations should be directed to NDMNRF for assessment. NDMNRF will contact the MECP in the event that it determines that support from MECP is needed."*

In its response to our "incident report" the MNRF informed us that they had a discussion with Nelson Aggregate about the June 2, 2022 event. Though their response listed actions taken by Nelson to prevent a recurrence of the dust cloud emission event, it failed to answer most of the questions we asked, particularly those related to regulatory compliance and to the human health impacts of the event.

On September 7, 2022 we sent a follow-up letter to the MNRF with video from 3 subsequent blasting events proving that the actions taken by Nelson were ineffective. We also reiterated our unanswered questions from our original letter, dated June 21, 2022 – no response has been received yet.

CORE Burlington strongly advocates for a "**Health Protection and Air Quality By-Law**" for the City of Burlington that puts human health as the top priority, for residents living near significant air pollution generators.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Gord Pinard
President, CORE Burlington
coreburlington@gmail.com
905.973.8825

cc: Roger Goulet, PERL

June 21, 2022

To: Pollution Reporting Hot Line (MOE.Tips.MOE@Ontario.ca)

Subject: Nelson Aggregates Off-Site Release Event June 2, 2022

On Thursday June 2, 2022, at 12:30 p.m., Nelson Aggregates set off an enormous blast that rocked our community and sent a caustic cloud of dust sailing over our neighbourhood.

We were given ~4 hours of notice by Nelson Aggregates.

Even with limited notice, a small group of local community members met at a private residence immediately south from the blast site (2462 #2 Side Road) to observe the blast. We were approximately 250 metres south of the blast. It was an overcast day with light wind blowing from the north-west. We were able to capture the blast and the subsequent off-site impact on video.

The images are shocking:

https://youtu.be/urYzFHe_vcA

From the video, you will observe an initial cloud of dust that travels straight up in the air, and then it is picked up by the prevailing winds. Within a minute or so, that cloud of dust migrates off the Nelson Aggregates property and engulfs the area where my neighbours and I were standing.

The cloud of dust was overwhelming, with a sulphur-like smell, causing coughing and burning in our eyes. The dust cloud had largely dissipated within 2-1/2 minutes but during its inundation of the neighbourhood, it had a sudden and significant impact. After it dissipated, it left a noticeable layer of dust on the houses, the cars and the roads off the Nelson property. It should be noted that in addition to private residences in the path of this dust cloud, there is also a 60-bed long term care facility directly in the cloud's path, which is home to many elderly members of our community who often have a greater sensitivity to this type of dust exposure.

Beyond the inconvenience of the dust left behind, it is impossible to be outside, enjoying the property during an event like this and we question the short- and long- term health effects of this exposure. The Nelson Aggregates website has an SDS for Limestone (attached), which, under Section 2: Hazard Identification, states that the "*Hazardous Ingredient is Quartz (Crystalline Silica) at an Approximate Concentration Percentage of 10-30%*". Under Section 11: Toxicological Information, the SDS states; "*Chronic exposure to respirable quartz containing limestone/dolomite dust at levels exceeding exposure limits has caused silicosis, a serious and progressive pneumoconiosis which can be disabling and lead to death. Symptoms appear at any time, even years after exposure has ceased. Symptoms of silicosis may include shortness of breath, difficulty in breathing, coughing, diminished work capacity, diminished chest expansion, reduction of lung volume and right heart enlargement and/or failure. The only reliable method of detecting silicosis is through a chest X-ray. Silicosis may aggravate other chronic pulmonary conditions and may increase the risk of pulmonary tuberculosis infection. Smoking aggravates the effects of silica exposure.*"

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-VOY7Mumf1QR2u39eyCKaS7u5Zz_46mp/view?usp=sharing

In addition, we have also been told by air quality experts that dust emissions from a limestone mining operation like this can also contain PM_{2.5}, fine particulate matter that can travel deeply into the

respiratory tract, which studies have linked to increased rates of chronic bronchitis, reduced lung function and increased mortality from lung cancer and heart disease.

As you can imagine we were alarmed by this event, but even more disturbing was the discussion with residents who live in close proximity to the quarry who indicate dust clouds like this from blasting, day-to-day operations and truck activity are a regular occurrence. I obtained two additional videos of equally disturbing quarry blasts at the Nelson Aggregates quarry, which I have also included links to:

This is the link to the video from April 27, 2022, shot from a private residence (2116 #2 Side Road) at the west end of #2 Side Road:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-5OLty5XtsEoM9rGZVM7U2Vb19kS1BZ/view?usp=sharing>

You will notice that this blast was in the same general area as the blast from June 2, 2022, the prevailing wind was coming from the N/N-W and the resulting dust cloud from the blast migrated off-site towards the same properties impacted by the June 2, 2022 blast.

This is the link to a video from May 11, 2022, shot from the same property as the June 2, 2022 video (2462 #2 Side Road):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-6D5MkT-2uW9IeW0vr74zUBMIXvfBml2/view?usp=sharing>

On this day the blasting was in the same general area as the blasts from April 27, 2022 and June 2, 2022 but the prevailing wind was from the west. Like the other two blasts, the dust cloud migrated off-site but in this case, settled over the houses to the east.

Clearly our experience from June 2, 2022, with the off-site migration of the blasting cloud is not unique and on at least three prior occasions, in the last three months, Nelson Aggregates quarry operation has had an off-site impact.

I spent some time reviewing the *Environmental Protection Act*, which characterizes these events as discharges of a "contaminant" (any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration, radiation or combination of any of them resulting directly or indirectly from human activities that causes or may cause an adverse effect). "Adverse effect" is defined in the act to include harm or material discomfort to any person, an adverse effect on the health of any person, and the loss of enjoyment of normal use of property. Although the health effects are not known at this time, it is reasonable to be concerned about the potential, given the content of a known carcinogen in the material being blasted. The balance of the adverse effects noted were experienced during the June 2, 2022 event.

The event of June 2, 2022 (and those of April 27, 2022 and May 11, 2022) are clearly in violation of the *Environmental Protection Act*, Part II General Provisions, 14 (1) which states; "*Subject to subsection (2) but despite any other provision of this Act or the regulations, a person shall not discharge a contaminant or cause or permit the discharge of a contaminant into the natural environment if the discharge causes or may cause an adverse effect.*" Under 15(1) "*Every person who discharges a contaminant or causes or permits the discharge of a contaminant into the natural environment shall forthwith notify the Ministry if the discharge is out of the normal course of events, the discharge causes or is likely to cause an adverse effect and the person is not otherwise required to notify the Ministry under section 92*".

Based on the videos taken and in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act*, and in particular O/Reg 419/05, Nelson Aggregates had at least 3 reportable discharge events.

- Please confirm that Nelson Aggregates notified the Ministry forthwith of the three events documented in this eMail;
- Please confirm the specific actions taken by the Ministry to investigate the cause of the events, the health effects on the community and the actions to be taken (including implementation timelines) to ensure these events do not occur again in the future; and
- Please confirm the number of similar reportable discharge events that have occurred on the property in the past 12 months and the actions taken by the Ministry and Nelson Aggregates for each event.

We did collect a sample of the dust that landed on the cars on June 2, 2022 and can make that sample available to the Ministry for testing and analysis if that would help the investigation.

We are obviously anxious about this event and would appreciate your timely response to our outreach to ensure we have no further incidents of these contaminant discharges.

Thank you for your prompt attention and follow-up.

Sincerely

Gord Pinard

President – CORE Burlington
905.973.8825

cc: Katie O'Connell, Aggregate Resources Manager (NDMNRF)
Tina Dufresne, District Manager (Halton/Peel Environment)
Mayor Marianne Meed Ward (Burlington)
Councillor Rory Nisan (Burlington)
Tim Commisso, City Manager (Burlington)
Jane MacCaskill, Chief Administrative Officer (Halton Region)
Curt Benson, Manager Community Planning (Halton Region)
Joe Nethery, Manager of Priority Development Projects (Halton Region)
John Dungavell, Director (Niagara Escarpment Commission)
Joe Muller, Senior Strategic Advisor (Niagara Escarpment Commission)

From: [Gord Pinard](#)
To: Jordan.C.Beatty@ontario.ca
Cc: [Gord Pinard](#); Tracy.Allison@ontario.ca; Scott.G.Thompson@ontario.ca; mike.zastre@ontario.ca; [Dufresne, Tina \(MECP\)](#); Ashley.Snow@ontario.ca; Stephanie.Irwin@ontario.ca; Rachael.fletcher@ontario.ca; [CORE Burlington](#); [Janet Turpin Myers](#); katie.oconnell@ontario.ca; [Mailbox, Office of the Mayor](#); [Nisan, Rory](#); [MacCaskill, Jane](#); [Benson, Curt](#); [Nethery, Joe](#); [John Dungavell](#); joe.muller@ontario.ca; [Commisso, Tim](#); [Stuart, John](#)
Subject: Re: Nelson Aggregates-Complaint of Impacts caused by a blasting event: Occurrence Date of June 02, 2022.
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
Importance: High

Hi Jordan

Thank you for your response.

I am glad to hear that the three blasts noted in our complaint from June 21, 2022 met the regulatory requirement for over-pressure and appreciate your focus on Nelson Aggregate meeting their regulatory obligations, however, in this particular case, the three blasts noted (April 27, May 11 and June 2) did NOT comply with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act by discharging a contaminant into the natural environment which may/did cause an adverse effect.

Your note indicates that your conversation with Nelson "confirmed that a dust cloud occurred due to an unforeseen change in wind direction at the moment of the blast on June 2". I was across the road from the blast on June 2 and it was not apparent to me or the other neighbours observing the blast that the wind had changed directions, in fact we noted at the time of the warning sirens that the wind was blowing directly towards us. Did Nelson provide meteorological data from June 2 to demonstrate the change in wind direction?

Your note does not speak to any follow-up on the April 27 and May 11 events, Nelson's compliance with the reporting requirements under the EPA for those events, Nelson's historical performance with respect to off-site discharges of contaminants and most importantly, your investigation in to and plans to address the serious human health impacts of respirable silica and PM_{2.5} exposure from these clouds of quarry dust that repeatedly travel into the community?

Your note also states, "Hopefully you can understand that blasting is an essential part of operations at this quarry and that the licensee is working hard to conduct blasting to a high standard to reduce disturbances to nearby residences". I do understand that blasting is an essential part of quarrying operations but more importantly, I understand that as neighbours of this quarrying operation, we are protected from adverse effects of that operation by the Environmental Protection Act. Nelson's level of "hard work" is not an exemption from the regulatory obligations in place to protect the community and the natural environment. Their operating controls must be more than an effort to "reduce disturbances to nearby residences" and must consistently demonstrate regulatory compliance as is expected of every other business operating in Ontario.

The notification and warning systems in place provide notice of a scheduled blast but cannot be expected to serve as notification to the community of an imminent discharge to the natural environment with adverse effects.

In four subsequent blasts (June 30, July 14, July 27 and August 12) we did observe the newly installed water guns spraying around the blast area and assume the other mitigation measures noted were also implemented. Unfortunately, in three of those blasts we observed off-site migration of the dust cloud associated with the blast (the fourth blast occurred on a day with no appreciable wind and the dust cloud remained on site). Links to the videos of the three blasts with off-site migration are provided below.

July 14, 2022 – the video was shot from 2462 #2 Side Road. Unfortunately, we had some camera problems and did not capture the blast and the full migration of the dust cloud to the south-west however, from the video you can clearly see the residual cloud of dust over residential properties on the south side of #2 Side Road.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-EnJGILkveZhx6ido4DXDGMgRwLVkQG0/view?usp=sharing>

July 27, 2022 – the video was shot from 2462 #2 Side Road and you can see from the video that the dust cloud was picked up by the prevailing wind from the west and carried off-site, over the houses to the east of the quarry (similar to event from April 27, 2022).

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-dRfuwsaKVT-CP18tPiqAbwXc0zFAQI6/view?usp=sharing>

August 12, 2022 – the video was shot from 2116 #2 Side Road and you can see from the video that the dust cloud was picked up by the prevailing wind from the north-east and carried off-site, over the houses to the south-west of the quarry.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-xT0TGsZGJn68SEIOgcrE5Xp0jJ1iTCV/view?usp=sharing>

In our original letter, dated June 21, 2022, we asked 3 very specific questions which were only partially answered in your response – I have restated those questions below and added one additional question, given the ineffective results of the mitigative actions taken by Nelson Aggregate:

- Please confirm that Nelson Aggregate notified the Ministry forthwith of the six off-site contaminant discharge events, noted in this eMail and the eMail sent June 21, 2022, as required by the Environmental Protection Act
- Please confirm the specific actions taken by the Ministry to investigate the cause of the remaining events from the June 21, 2022 letter and the three additional events noted in this letter. Please include your actions to address the potential health effects on the community.
- Please confirm the number of similar reportable discharge events that have occurred from the Nelson Aggregate operations in the past 12 months and the actions taken by the Ministry and Nelson Aggregate for each event.
- Please confirm the next steps to be taken by the Ministry and Nelson Aggregate to ensure no further off-site discharge events – this is particularly important given the ineffectiveness of the actions taken since the June 21, 2022 letter. It

is assumed that it will take some time to investigate, design and implement improved mitigation measures to ensure no future off-site contaminant discharge events – on this basis, what are the interim control measures being implemented as we believe the adverse effects (potential and actual) are unacceptable to the community and must be dealt with immediately.

We appreciate your offer to “connect us with a representative from Nelson Aggregate to discuss their operations and what mitigation measure might be implementable”. A similar offer was made by a Nelson Aggregate spokesperson at a community meeting back in 2019 which CORE Burlington did follow-up on – the meeting was attended by the President of Nelson Aggregate who stated that he was not prepared to discuss any of the details of the current Nelson Aggregate operation because they were a private company and CORE Burlington represented community members opposed to their expansion plans. Shortly after that, CORE Burlington received legal notice from Nelson Aggregate stating that any future questions or information requirements must be directed from Core Burlington legal counsel to Nelson Aggregate legal counsel. Unfortunately, we are well past the opportunity for constructive, transparent dialogue with Nelson Aggregate and now rely on the resources of MNRF and MECP to ensure the obligations of the Environmental Protection Act are fully implemented to protect the Burlington community.

Finally, in our June 21, 2022 letter we offered to provide a sample of the material collected from the June 2, 2022 dust cloud given the SDS identification of 10-30% Quartz (Crystalline Silica) and the serious associated health risks. Do you plan to do laboratory analysis on that sample to determine the health exposure to the community from the blast?

We consider this an urgent issue as the quarry continues to operate, the blasts are occurring every 1-2 weeks and off-site discharge of contaminants has not been solved. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely

Gord Pinard

President – CORE Burlington
905.973.8825



From: "Beatty, Jordan (NDMNRF)" <Jordan.C.Beatty@ontario.ca>

Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 10:11 AM

To: Gord Pinard [REDACTED]

Cc: "Allison, Tracy (NDMNRF)" <Tracy.Allison@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Scott (MECP)"

<Scott.G.Thompson@ontario.ca>, "Zastre, Mike (NDMNR)" <mike.zastre@ontario.ca>, "Dufresne, Tina (MECP)" <Tina.Dufresne@ontario.ca>, "Snow, Ashley (MECP)" <Ashley.Snow@ontario.ca>, "Irwin, Stephanie (MECP)" <Stephanie.Irwin@ontario.ca>
Subject: RE: Nelson Aggregates-Complaint of Impacts caused by a blasting event: Occurrence Date of June 02, 2022.

Hi Gord,

Sorry for any delay in response to your inquiry. I have been in contact with Nelson Aggregates regarding blasting on the dates you mentioned and can confirm all blast were within the Environmental Noise Guidelines and NPC-119 for blasting allowable limit of 128 db.

Furthermore, they did confirm that a dust cloud occurred due to an unforeseen change in wind direction at the moment of a blast on June 2. Hopefully you can understand that blasting is an essential part of operations at this quarry and that the licensee is working hard to conduct blasting to a high standard to reduce disturbances to nearby residences. This includes including implementing a notification system and warning signals for residents. Additionally, they have implemented the following additional mitigation measures to further reduce dust generation during future blasts.

1. Using a water truck, they are saturating the quarry floor to limit the dust raising from this surface as the material falls to the ground.
2. Water guns spraying around the blast area to help with the reduction in suspended particulate in the air
3. Clean up the drill fines from the quarry face prior to blasting.
4. Take extra precautions by blasting in very low wind conditions.

I hope this response is well received. If you would like, I can connect you with a representative from Nelson Aggregates to discuss directly their operations and what mitigation measure might be implementable?

Best regards,
Jordan

Jordan Beatty | Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist | Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Aurora District | (705) 718-6709 | jordan.c.beatty@ontario.ca

From: Zastre, Mike (NDMNR) <mike.zastre@ontario.ca>

Sent: July 11, 2022 8:56 AM

To: Gord Pinard [REDACTED]

Cc: Beatty, Jordan (NDMNR) <Jordan.C.Beatty@ontario.ca>

Subject: RE: Nelson Aggregates-Complaint of Impacts caused by a blasting event: Occurrence Date

of June 02, 2022.

Thank you Gord. Jordan Beatty will be in contact with you this week. Thanks.

Mike

From: Gord Pinard [REDACTED]
Sent: July 8, 2022 11:22 AM
To: Allison, Tracy (NDMNRF) <Tracy.Allison@ontario.ca>; Thompson, Scott (MECP) <Scott.G.Thompson@ontario.ca>; Zastre, Mike (NDMNRF) <mike.zastre@ontario.ca>
Cc: Irwin, Stephanie (MECP) <Stephanie.Irwin@ontario.ca>; Dufresne, Tina (MECP) <Tina.Dufresne@ontario.ca>; Snow, Ashley (MECP) <Ashley.Snow@ontario.ca>; Gord Pinard [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Nelson Aggregates-Complaint of Impacts caused by a blasting event: Occurrence Date of June 02, 2022.

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Thank you Tracy. I realize these investigations take time and the current Rogers outage further complicates matter. I would request that Mike can provide a status update and anticipated timeline for resolution.

Sincerely

Gord Pinard

President – CORE Burlington
905.973.8825



From: "Allison, Tracy (NDMNRF)" <Tracy.Allison@ontario.ca>
Date: Friday, July 8, 2022 at 11:18 AM
To: Gord Pinard [REDACTED] "Thompson, Scott (MECP)" <Scott.G.Thompson@ontario.ca>, "Zastre, Mike (NDMNRF)" <mike.zastre@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Irwin, Stephanie (MECP)" <Stephanie.Irwin@ontario.ca>, "Dufresne, Tina (MECP)" <Tina.Dufresne@ontario.ca>, "Snow, Ashley (MECP)" <Ashley.Snow@ontario.ca>
Subject: RE: Nelson Aggregates-Complaint of Impacts caused by a blasting event: Occurrence Date of June 02, 2022.

Greetings Gord,

MNRF has received your inquiry and will action accordingly. Mike Zastre is the lead

supervisor for the file, however is not reachable at this time due to the Rogers outage. I will ensure Mike is notified asap.

Cheers,
Tracy

Tracy Allison
District Supervisor
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)
Midhurst District
Phone: 226-668-1072
Email: tracy.allison@ontario.ca



As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Gord Pinard [REDACTED]
Sent: July-08-22 11:00 AM
To: Thompson, Scott (MECP) <Scott.G.Thompson@ontario.ca>; Zastre, Mike (NDMNRF) <mike.zastre@ontario.ca>
Cc: Thompson, Dan L. (NDMNRF) <Dan.L.Thompson@ontario.ca>; Allison, Tracy (NDMNRF) <Tracy.Allison@ontario.ca>; Irwin, Stephanie (MECP) <Stephanie.Irwin@ontario.ca>; Dufresne, Tina (MECP) <Tina.Dufresne@ontario.ca>; Snow, Ashley (MECP) <Ashley.Snow@ontario.ca>; Gord Pinard [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Nelson Aggregates-Complaint of Impacts caused by a blasting event: Occurrence Date of June 02, 2022.

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Thank you for the clarification Scott.

Mike – Could you please provide an update on the NDMNRF assessment of the events from April 27, May 11, and June 2.

Thank you

Gord Pinard

President – CORE Burlington

905.973.8825



From: "Thompson, Scott (MECP)" <Scott.G.Thompson@ontario.ca>

Date: Friday, July 8, 2022 at 9:37 AM

To: 'Gord Pinard' [REDACTED]

Cc: "Thompson, Dan L. (NDMNRF)" <Dan.L.Thompson@ontario.ca>, "Allison, Tracy (NDMNRF)" <Tracy.Allison@ontario.ca>, "Zastre, Mike (NDMNRF)" <mike.zastre@ontario.ca>, "Irwin, Stephanie (MECP)" <Stephanie.Irwin@ontario.ca>, "Dufresne, Tina (MECP)" <Tina.Dufresne@ontario.ca>, "Snow, Ashley (MECP)" <Ashley.Snow@ontario.ca>

Subject: RE: Nelson Aggregates-Complaint of Impacts caused by a blasting event: Occurrence Date of June 02, 2022.

Hello Gord, thank you for your email.

The Nelson aggregate operation is licensed by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resource and Forestry (NDMNRF). While the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks ensures compliance with the Environmental Protection Act, NDMNRF leads the compliance efforts at licensed or permitted aggregate operations. All complaints relating to aggregate operations should be directed to NDMNRF for assessment.

NDMNRF will contact the MECP in the event that it determines that support from MECP is needed. I have been provided with the following contact:

Mike Zastre
Supervisor, Aggregate Resource Act
NDMNRF
Mike.zastre@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

Scott Thompson
Senior Environmental Officer
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Halton Peel District Office
4145 North Service Road

Burlington, Ontario
L7L 6A3

 (905) 334-9533

Fax (905) 319-9902

Email scott.g.thompson@ontario.ca

Internet: www.ene.gov.on.ca

Spills Action Centre 1-800-268-6060

We want to hear from you. How was my service? You can provide feedback at 1-888-745-8888.

From: Gord Pinard [REDACTED]
Sent: June-24-22 2:38 PM
To: Thompson, Scott (MECP) <Scott.G.Thompson@ontario.ca>
Cc: Gord Pinard [REDACTED]; Irwin, Stephanie (MECP) <Stephanie.Irwin@ontario.ca>; Dufresne, Tina (MECP) <Tina.Dufresne@ontario.ca>
Subject: Re: Nelson Aggregates Off-Site Release Event - June , 2022

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Hi Scott

Thank you for getting back to me with your update.

Can you please clarify for me the regulatory responsibility? This event appears to be a contravention of the Environmental Protection Act - is that not administered and enforced by the MOECP? I know the NDMNRF administers and enforces the Aggregate Resources Act but the ARA does include regulation of air emissions.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely;

Gord Pinard

President – CORE Burlington

905.973.8825

On Jun 24, 2022, at 11:36 AM, Thompson, Scott (MECP) <Scott.G.Thompson@ontario.ca> wrote:

Hello Gord, thank you for your email, I have forwarded your email to Mike Zastre, NDMNRF. Please note that all complaints regarding aggregate operations which are permitted by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, may be directed to that ministry for assessment.

Mike Zastre
Supervisor, Aggregate Resources Act

NDMNRF
mike.zastre@ontario.ca

Sincerely,

Scott Thompson
Senior Environmental Officer
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Halton Peel District Office
4145 North Service Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7L 6A3

 (905) 334-9533

Fax (905) 319-9902

Email scott.g.thompson@ontario.ca

Internet: www.ene.gov.on.ca

Spills Action Centre 1-800-268-6060

We want to hear from you. How was my service? You can provide feedback at 1-888-745-8888.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: June 21, 2022 3:39 PM

To: Tips, MoE (MECP) <MOE.Tips.moe@ontario.ca>

Cc: O'Connell, Katie (NDMNRF) <Katie.OConnell@ontario.ca>; Dufresne, Tina (MECP) <Tina.Dufresne@ontario.ca>; Mayor Marianne Meed Ward <mayor@burlington.ca>; Rory Nisan

<rory.nisan@burlington.ca>; Jane.MacCaskill@halton.ca; Curt.Benson@halton.ca;

Nethery, Joe <joe.nethery@halton.ca>; Dungavell, John (NDMNRF)

<John.Dungavell@ontario.ca>; Muller, Joe (NDMNRF)

<Joe.Muller@ontario.ca>; tim.commisso@burlington.ca

Subject: Nelson Aggregates Off-Site Release Event - June , 2022

Importance: High

CAUTION -- EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

On Thursday June 2, 2022, at 12:30 p.m., Nelson Aggregates set off an enormous blast that rocked our community and sent a caustic cloud of dust sailing over our neighbourhood.

The cloud of dust was overwhelming, with a sulphur-like smell, causing coughing and burning in our eyes. The dust cloud had largely dissipated within 2-1/2 minutes but during its inundation of the neighbourhood, it had a sudden and significant impact. After it dissipated, it left a noticeable layer of dust on the houses, the cars and the roads off the Nelson property.

Please find attached a summary of the event, including video and the relevant SDS from the Nelson Aggregates website.

This event occurred at the Nelson Aggregates Burlington Quarry
2433 No. 2 Sideroad
Burlington, Ontario

L7P 0G8

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at



Sincerely;

Gord Pinard

President – CORE Burlington

905.973.8825

<image001.png>

<2022 06 02 Off-Site Release Letter (rev 2).docx>