

Motion

Agenda Number: 20.1

Date: March 24, 2022

Moved by Councillor Sinclair

Seconded by Councillor

Whereas Ontario currently has over 5000 Aggregate Resources Act [ARA] licenced pits and quarries located throughout the province that are able to meet the expected near and mid-term needs of Ontario's construction industry;

And whereas, there are 23 ARA Licensed pits and quarries with a total area of 1844 hectares in the Town of Caledon;

And whereas, ARA License applications continue to be submitted without a definitive determination if there is a need for additional supply;

And whereas, gravel pits and quarries cause the permanent destruction of natural environments, habitats and the countryside;

And whereas, there are no sunset rules for ARA License strip mines leading to mines lasting over seventy years in Caledon with no viable end land uses resulting from a mine;

And whereas, pits and quarries are classed as Major Facilities in the Provincial Policy Statements, 1.2.6 Land Use Compatibility, and have significant adverse effects on adjacent lands in terms of noise, air pollution, and truck haul routes;

And whereas, despite strip mining being heavy industry, the mines are assessed at a reduced agricultural rate;

And whereas, the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat climate change has brought awareness to the very high carbon footprint associated with the production of concrete and asphalt which are major end-users of aggregates;

And whereas, there is an obligation to consult with First Nations peoples regarding the impacts of quarries on treaty lands and a responsibility to address those impacts;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Ontario government be requested to impose an immediate temporary moratorium on all new gravel mining applications pending the formation of an independent panel to conduct a broad consultation process including with First Nations, affected municipalities, independent experts and scientists to chart a new path forward for gravel mining in Ontario which:

- Establishes criteria and processes for determining the need for new gravel licences;
- Establishes updated policies and conditions for gravel mining below the water table to reflect current groundwater science;
- Develop new policies for aggregate re-use in urban areas in order to reduce the need for new aggregate licences and reduce transportation emissions;

- Recommend a fair levy based on tonnage shipped, to host municipalities for gravel mining that includes compensation for the full environmental and infrastructure maintenance costs to the local community caused by the extraction and distribution of aggregate;
- Recommend a property assessment category reflecting the heavy industrial use of licensed lands.
- Provide greater weight to the input by local municipalities into new licenses to lessen the environmental social impacts from mining operation and trucking through their communities;
- Provide clarity on the role of host municipalities under the Planning Act in decision making on ARA License site plan amendments;
- Provide clear tests for ending “forever” strip mine licences and rehabilitation to new viable land uses,
- Provide revisions to application procedures which fully honour First Nations’ treaty rights;

And further, that the Regional Chair, on behalf of Regional Council, write a letter to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, forwarding a copy of this motion to outline Peel’s position on this matter;

And further, that a copy of this resolution be sent the leaders of all Provincial Parties; the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; the Honourable Ted Arnott, MPP; Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Small Urban Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Councils; Rural Ontario Municipal Associations; and the Regions of Durham, Halton, Waterloo, York and Niagara.

Regional Chair