

Uppers Quarry



Health and Safety

Good afternoon, everyone! My name is Donna Boksa, I am a resident of Fernwood Estates in Niagara Falls. I am a retired ICU/CCU Registered Nurse and would like to share with you some of my concerns regarding the decision on the request for a Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA-21-0003) Proposed Uppers Quarry, City of Niagara Falls.

Quarries are a reality in our society to supply aggregate rock for the construction industry.

A Quarry Site has many active industrial components:
Aggregate Extraction, Processing, Storing, Transportation

These Quarry site activities expose and expel contaminants:
Gasses, Fumes, Pollutants, Microscopic particles, Toxins, Carcinogens

Eg. carbon monoxide, sulphuric dioxide, nitrogen oxide, Nitriles pesticide, ash, crystalline silica, volatile organic compound (VOC), elevation of ground level ozone

These contaminants are released into the environment. They travel through the atmosphere and are deposited, inhaled, absorbed, react, and can alter life on a cellular level.

The Walker Corporation wants you to believe that the Need for Aggregate Rock from this particular site (Uppers Quarry) supersedes the Health and Safety Risks that will be imposed on the Environment, Eco-system and the Population of the surrounding communities

The three **Health and Safety Risks** DUST - NOISE - POLLUTANTS are baked into the complexity of any Quarry production. But the Uppers Quarry Site Location is an additional and unique Risk Factor, that makes this location choice unsuitable as an alternative Quarry site choice for the Region and City of Niagara Falls to consider.



LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION -

2.

The Close Proximity to:

- Residential subdivisions (280m to nearest property in Fernwood Estates, bordering Place of Worship)
- Tourist area (Lundys Lane, Niagara Falls, border to USA, Place of Worship)
- Vital regional and local infrastructure (Welland Canal, Welland Canal Underpass, Highway, Hydro and Gas lines)
- Destruction of viable agricultural land (site is productive farmland)
- Rerouting of Water resources (aquifer, local wells, local rivers)
- Compromising habitat of local local wildlife

Studies and data have shown the *most common public's concerns and complaint* regarding a Quarry facilities are the emissions of :

DUST, NOISE AND POLLUTANTS

and how they will negatively impact the *local communities*.

These three main emission issues can be partially tempered by the use of :

- technologically advanced eco friendly machinery and large cap equipment
- higher grades of filters/dampers/insulation
- PPE
- increased setbacks
- extensive buffer zones with alternative material choices
- protective storage options
- environmentally friendly transportation
- best practices for site design
- monitoring and sensors on all equipment for emission variability



Our natural resources are valued and extraction of these valuable resources require a costly investment to attain...

The Health and Safety of Our environment, ecosystems and populations are valuable necessities of Life and require a costly investment to attain.

Quarry production requirements to be Implemented to ...

- use of only the most advanced technological machinery
(determined by an independent environmental engineering expert)
- emissions sensors on all site machinery
(including transportation trucks and boarder site sensors)
- independent third party oversight of all sensor emission data including monitoring of environmental and weather conditions (wind / air temperature / humidity / precipitation)
- (these factors increase the radial distance that emissions of particulate matter, soundwaves, and pollutants can spread)
- guideline peramitors for emissions from all monitored and equipment sensor
(determined by an independent environmental engineering expert)

These requiemnts provide some facilitaiion toward optimal

Health and Safety protection

for the

Environment, Ecosystem and the Communities

from the

Adverse Risks associated with Quarry Site production emmsion



4.

Our residential communities are built and established in a fixed location.

The Region and City was to have done their due diligence and legally accepted the responsibility to choose to approve our subdivisions in these locations.

They took into consideration:

- 🎬 the geography
- 🎬 infrastructure
- 🎬 the size and quality of home development

And they took into consideration Risk on::

- 🎬 the environment and ecosystem
- 🎬 the water resources
- 🎬 the wildlife
- Neighboring communities and landowners
- the economical value that our residential communities would offer over other potential land uses for the properties.

Most importantly, the decision was viewed through the lens of the Region and City's long term planning vision.

With all those considerations, our homes in these established communities, precede the Walkers Uppers Quarry Land use proposal.



The Region and City's responsibility is to apply all the *same considerations*, to the present Walkers Uppers Quarry proposal that were applied when our residential subdivisions (Fernwood Estates and Empire) were considered BUT they must now also consider an additional factor....the Health and Safety risks asked to be imposed on the residential communities and people that live in **close proximity** and preclude the Walkers proposal to develop a Quarry on the Uppers Land.

Just because the Walkers Corporation owns the land does not give them the right to infringe on the Health and Safety of the local communities.

The residents Do Not have a reasonable and viable option or responsibility to mitigate the Health and Safety Risk factors that the Quarries emissions will impose on their lives.

So here we are.....with the research, facts, data and our hearts in hand, explaining to you why we want you, our Councilors, to represent your constituents by voting "NO" to the Walker Corporation proposal of rezoning this parcel of agricultural land, to become an industrial Quarry.

**May your tenure on Council demonstrate a legacy of just decisions,
that are a predictor of a better future for our environment and society.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Donna Boksa

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