
MEMORANDUM

CWCD 2021-87

Subject: Update on Port Colborne Quarry – Proposed Pit 3 Extension

Date: Friday, April 16, 2021

To: Regional Council

From: Sean Norman, Senior Planner

The purpose of this memo is to inform Regional Council that Port Colborne Quarries Inc. (PCQ) has submitted their applications under the Planning Act and circulated the Region their application under the Aggregate Resources Act for the proposed extension of Pit 3, and that the applicant is hosting a virtual public open house on April 20, 2021.

Overview

As first reported through CWCD 166-2020 (June 19, 2020) PCQ is proposing to expand their Pit 3 quarry in the City of Port Colborne. The proposed expansion would be on lands immediately to the east and southeast of the existing Pit 3, between Second Concession Rd. and Main St. East/Highway 3.

Applications Required

The Planning Act applications required are a Regional Official Plan Amendment, Local Official Plan Amendment, and Local Zoning By-Law Amendment.

Aggregate planning is unique in comparison to other types of land-use planning. There is an additional Provincial process that occurs in addition to the Planning Act process, that being the licensing of mineral aggregate operations by the Province through the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA). Whereas the Planning Act and Regional Official Plan process is concerned with land use approvals, licenses under the ARA control and regulate the operation of pits and quarries.

These processes are separate, but often occur at the same time.

April 20, 2021 Public Open House

On April 20, 2021, PCQ will be hosting a virtual public open house for their Aggregate Resource Act (ARA) application. The open house is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the ARA. This public open house is not being hosted by Region or City staff. Public open house(s) and public information centers hosted by Region and City staff for the Planning Act applications will follow at a later date.

The link for the ARA open house can be found on the applicant's website at:

www.portcolbornequarries.ca

Pit 3 Extension vs. Pit 4

There has been some discussion recently regarding the language that refers to this application as the 'Pit 3 Extension' as opposed to 'Pit 4'. Region Planning Staff can confirm that there is no difference in the application or review requirements based on the name of the project. New lands are being proposed for a mineral aggregate operation; a Regional Official Plan Amendment, Local Official Plan Amendment, and Local Zoning By-Law Amendment are required. A new ARA license is also required, regardless of whether it is referred to as an extension or a new quarry. The naming of the project is by the applicant, and has no bearing on the application process or level of review.

Respectfully submitted and signed by:

Sean Norman, PMP, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services