

Chair, members of Council,

BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association supports the Region of Halton Staff report, which recommends a denial of the Nelson Aggregate application.

We also agree with the findings regarding the application in the Jart report.

You have heard many of the environmental reasons from the delegations and reports why this application should be denied.

A large body of limestone such as our Mount Nemo plateau can be compared to a giant sponge, which absorbs rain and snow runoff and then gently releases it in its many tributaries to the surrounding area. Once you start punching large holes in this sponge, its effectiveness is compromised both for flora, fauna and humans

I live at the base of Mount Nemo on Walkers Line, so I speak from experience. We depend on it to supply our family with a pure and constant supply of water collected from the base of the escarpment. Even in the driest of summers it has not failed us **yet**, but it could if the Quarry extension application is approved. Many other families on top of the plateau and at the base will also be affected.

All the science shows that a quarry expansion is not recommended for this area. The reasons range from threatening the habitat of the endangered Jefferson Salamander to negative impacts to private wells. Future generations will be grateful for your denial of the application today.

Please practise the precautionary principle, which states: "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."*

Please:

1. Endorse the Staff report you have in front of you.
2. Direct staff to present this position to the Consolidated Hearing Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this to you.

Kurt Koster,
President, BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association

*From the 1998 Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle. (The Wingspread Conference on the Precautionary Principle was convened by the Science and Environmental Health Network).

The Wingspread Conference on the Precautionary Principle was a three day academic conference where the precautionary principle was defined. The January 1998 meeting took place at Wingspread, headquarters of the Johnson Foundation in Racine, Wisconsin, and involved 35 scientists, lawyers, policy makers and environmentalists from the United States, Canada and Europe.

Kurt Koster,
President
BurlingtonGreen