

February 28, 2020

Mr. David Welwood
Principal Planner
Planning, Development & Legislative Services
Region of Waterloo

Project No.: 241.20013

Dear Mr. Welwood,

**RE: PEER REVIEW OF NOISE FEASIBILITY STUDY
PROPOSED HALLMAN PIT – WILMOT TOWNSHIP**

SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd. Was retained by the Region of Waterloo to conduct a peer review of the Noise Feasibility Assessment for the proposed “Hallman Pit” operations. The following application and supporting documents were considered in the review:

- “Noise Feasibility Study for a Category 3 – Class “A” Pit Above Water, Hallman Pit”, prepared by HGC Ltd., dated September 12, 2019 (“the Noise Report”)
- “Planning Summary Report, Proposed Hallman Pit, 1894 Witmer Road, Wilmot Twp.”, prepared by IBI group, dated October 11, 2019 (Planning Report);
- Township of Wilmot Official Plan, April 19, 2019; and
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks (“MECP”) Publication NPC-300 – *Environmental Noise Guideline – Stationary and Transportation Sources – Approval and Planning*

BACKGROUND

The proposed Hallman Pit is located in Wilmot Township in a rural area. The proposed gravel pit is located north of Witmer Road, south of Bleams Road (Regional Road 4) and west of Queen Street in the Town of Wilmot. The proposed licence area is ±57.27 hectares with a maximum annual tonnage of excavation of 750,000 tonnes.

Operations at the proposed pit include above water extraction, stockpiles, conveyor systems, 5 front end loaders, heavy trucks, a central processing plant equipped with a permanent crusher, screener, and wash plant, as well as a portable crusher. Trucks and/or conveyors will be used to transfer material from the working face to the central plant. The gravel pit will typically operate from 07:00 to 18:00 on Monday to Friday, and from 08:00 to 12:00 on Saturday. Shipping activities from 06:00 to 18:00 on Monday to Friday, and from 06:00 to 12:00 on Saturday. No other evening or nighttime operations are anticipated.

There are existing residences located north of the site along Bleams Road and southwest/southeast of the site along Witmer Road.

The Township of Wilmot Official Plan requires that new aggregate pit operations prepare “noise, dust, and vibration studies demonstrating that the proposed operation is appropriately designed, buffered and/or separated from any surrounding sensitive land uses to prevent any adverse effects”, as per Section 7.2.4.1a).

The Noise Report provides an assessment of potential noise levels from the Pit operation, compared against the applicable MECP Publication NPC-300 noise guideline limits. Provided the NPC-300 guidelines are met, the noise requirements of the Wilmot Official Plan will also be met.

CRITERIA AND RECEPTORS OF INTEREST

We are in agreement with the noise-sensitive receptor locations considered in the analysis. The Noise Report correctly identifies the applicable noise guidelines (NPC-300 Class 3 limits for R1 to R3; Class 2 Limits for R4 to R9. The strictest “exclusionary limits” have been used in the assessment.

ACOUSTICAL MODELLING

The noise emission level data used in the analysis (Noise Report Table 2) have been reviewed and fall within the range of typical values for such equipment. The noise modelling techniques which have been used are consistent with good acoustical engineering practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The noise mitigation recommendations for the various Phases of extraction outlined in Section 5 of the Noise Report are feasible and consistent with mitigation requirements and typical practices at other pit and quarry operations. Based on our review of the noise modelling results provided, the proposed mitigation measures will result in compliance with the applicable NPC-300 noise guidelines.¹

CLOSING

Provided the noise control requirements outlined in Section 5 of the Noise Report are included on the Operational Plans and are followed by the operator, noise levels from Pit operations should meet the requirements of MECP Publication NPO-300 and the Wilmot Official Plan. No additional assessment is required. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.



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¹ Note that SLR has not independently modelled noise levels from the Pit; our comments are based on our review of documentation contained in the Noise Report, and our experience in modelling and measure noise from similar Pit operations at other locations.