



NELSON AGGREGATE CO.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Burlington, Ontario – February 10, 2009 – Nelson Aggregate Co.

JART REPORT SHOWS NEED FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

“The recently released JART (Joint Agency Report Team) Report on Nelson’s Burlington Quarry demonstrates the need for improved communications between the City, Region and Nelson. The report underscores the urgency to resume cooperative dialogue in order to bring greater clarity to the issues regarding Nelson’s extension application before Councillors vote in the coming weeks,” said Nelson President Norm Elmhirst on Tuesday.

Nelson Aggregate is pleased that the JART report supports the main conclusions of our technical experts regarding noise, air quality, blasting, cultural heritage, karst, and agriculture. JART is also supportive of some significant changes Nelson has made in its application including a 30 % reduction in the extraction area to provide additional environmental protection and the company’s efforts to establish a Community Liaison Committee.

Nelson has always been committed to the JART process and has undertaken additional studies and provided responses to every question JART has raised. When requesting the hearing last summer, Nelson wrote to both the Region of Halton and City of Burlington confirming that "Nelson remains committed to working with the review agencies and members of the public in order to clarify, scope, and resolve outstanding concerns related to the applications."

Mr. Elmhirst went on to say, “We also renew our previous invitations for the Mayor, Chair, and Councillors to tour our facilities to see for themselves how the quarry operates, and see the specific land under review before they vote on the issue.”

Nelson will provide each municipality and agency with a list of inaccuracies and misinterpretations contained in the JART report, some of which are quite significant and misleading. It is hoped that the staff preparing the individual reports will incorporate the corrections in their own agency reports. According to Mr. Elmhirst “It would be a shame to have gone through a five year process only to have Council and agency decisions based on inaccurate information.”

Nelson's Burlington quarry has been a part of the Burlington rural community for over 50 years. Almost all of the houses, schools, and roads in Burlington and the surrounding Halton area have been constructed using crushed stone from the quarry. Having the Nelson quarry this close to its market eliminates unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption. The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is one of the top environmental concerns in the world today.

“With the quarry running out of material and over 48 jobs at stake, the Consolidated Hearing Board process must proceed, but this does not mean that we can't continue to work through the issues to better understand where we agree, where we differ and where we can find further agreement with a bit of cooperation now.” said Mr. Elmhirst.

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Nelson Aggregate Co., www.nelsonaggregate.com, was formed in 1983 as a partnership between Lafarge Canada Inc. and Steed and Evans Holdings Inc. Nelson offers quarry, sand and gravel, and asphalt products which are used extensively in sewer and watermain construction, road construction, and in commercial and residential construction. Nelson's locations are strategically situated in Beamsville, Burlington, Cambridge, Orillia and Oneida to serve the southern Ontario market. A major contributor to the local and regional economy in which it operates, Nelson Aggregate is a recognized industry leader for best practices in aggregate operations, environmental management, rehabilitation and community relations.

For more information:

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