

## Comment Index

### Pit No. 4 Extension Project

Publication Date: July 26, 2024

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**From:** Ferris, Kevin (HC/SC) on behalf of IA-ATL / EI-ATL (HC/SC)  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Allison  
**Cc:** Alain, Jérémie (HC/SC)  
**Subject:** RE: Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme - EA Registration  
**Date:** June 6, 2024 1:57:28 PM  
**Attachments:** imaoe001.png  
Human Health Considerations in IA.pdf

**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

Exercice caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Hello Allison,

As per your email below regarding Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme, please identify any project-related human health impacts to which you require advice and guidance from Health Canada.

HC's role in Impact/Environmental Assessment is founded in statutory obligations under the Canadian Impact Assessment Act, and its knowledge and expertise can be called upon by reviewing bodies (e.g., Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, review panels, Indigenous groups and/or other jurisdictions). In the absence of such a request from one of the above noted groups, HC is unable to carry out a comprehensive review of the project. **However, HC is able to accommodate specific requests for human health advice and guidance related to provincial environmental assessments within a reasonable timeframe.**

Health Canada currently possesses expertise in the following areas related to human health: air quality, recreational and drinking water quality, traditional foods (country foods), noise, and methodological expertise in conducting human health risk assessment.

To help with your review of human health impacts, I have attached a document of common human health considerations in project reviews and links to Health Canada's guidance documents.

Kind regards,

**Kevin Ferris**

Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch  
Health Canada / Government of Canada  
[kevin.ferris@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:kevin.ferris@hc-sc.gc.ca)

Direction générale des opérations réglementaires et de l'application de la loi  
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[kevin.ferris@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:kevin.ferris@hc-sc.gc.ca)

**From:** Fitzpatrick, Allison <Allison.Fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 2:24 PM  
**To:** Eytayo-Oyesode, Oladiwura <Oladiwura.Eytayo-Oyesode@novascotia.ca>; Alward, Emily <Emily.Alward@novascotia.ca>; Mitchell, David A <David.Mitchell@novascotia.ca>; Mosher, Elaine <Elaine.Mosher@novascotia.ca>; Hurlburt, Donna D <Donna.Hurlburt@novascotia.ca>; Wildlife EA <WildlifeEA@novascotia.ca>; Crewe, Tara <Tara.Crewe@novascotia.ca>; White, Shannon C <Shannon.White@novascotia.ca>; Drake, Carrie L <Carrie.Drake@novascotia.ca>; Mahoney, Meagan <Meagan.Mahoney@novascotia.ca>; Blackburn, Lori M <Lori.Blackburn@novascotia.ca>; Boudreau, Susan M <Susan.Boudreau@novascotia.ca>; Steele, Cynthia <Cynthia.Steele@novascotia.ca>; McPherson, Robyn <Robyn.McPherson@novascotia.ca>; MacPherson, George E <George.MacPherson@novascotia.ca>; Hearn, Scott <Scott.Hearn@novascotia.ca>; Webber, Diane E <Diane.Webber@novascotia.ca>; Dickie, John <John.Dickie@novascotia.ca>; Wickson, Mark <Mark.Wickson@novascotia.ca>; Creamer, Amber <Amber.Creamer@novascotia.ca>; MacDonald, Brent A <Brent.MacDonald@novascotia.ca>; MacQuarrie, Rebecca M <Rebecca.MacQuarrie@novascotia.ca>; Cormier, John <John.Cormier@novascotia.ca>; Lewis, Beth J <Beth.Lewis@novascotia.ca>; Hernould, Alexandra S <Alexandra.Hernould@novascotia.ca>; Gorveatt, Kendra Alair <Kendra.Gorveatt@novascotia.ca>; DesRoche, Gillian <Gillian.DesRoche@novascotia.ca>; Poirier, Colin <Colin.Poirier@novascotia.ca>; Lahey, Rodney <Rodney.Lahey@novascotia.ca>; David, Ashley D <Ashley.David@novascotia.ca>; Ramen, Satya <Satya.Ramen@novascotia.ca>; NSE-SAS-Division <NSE-SAS-Division@novascotia.ca>; Farrell, Tanya M <Tanya.Farrell@novascotia.ca>; MacKenzie, Tanya L <Tanya.MacKenzie@novascotia.ca>; MacDonald, Jeffrey Malcolm <Jeffrey.MacDonald@novascotia.ca>; Donaldson, Samuel <Samuel.Donaldson@novascotia.ca>; Lovitt, Christina <Christina.Lovitt@novascotia.ca>; Zanth, Kathy M <Kathy.Zanth@novascotia.ca>; projects-projets@iaac-aeic.gc.ca; IA-ATL / EI-ATL (HC/SC) <ia-atl-ei-atl@hc-sc.gc.ca>; beverly.amos-casey@canada.ca; fcr\_tracker@ec.gc.ca; referralsmaritimes@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; dfo.fppmar-pppmar.mpo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca  
**Cc:** Tutty, Bridget R <Bridget.Tutty@novascotia.ca>  
**Subject:** Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme - EA Registration

**Warning:** This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

**Attention:** Ce message provient d'un EXPÉDITEUR EXTERNE - soyez PRUDENT, en particulier avec les liens et les pièces jointes.

#### Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme – Environmental Assessment – Comments due June 25, 2024

Good Afternoon,

This is to advise that on June 6 2024, **Oscro Aggregates Ltd** will register the **PIT NO. 4 EXTENSION. GLENHOLME** for environmental assessment, in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed Project will involve the continued excavation of aggregate material (stone and sand) from the reserve within the current Pit No. 4 property, as well as expanding the pit towards the south, east, and north. This expansion will add 30 hectares to the current permitted pit surface area. The proposed Project will also include the addition of an electric washing/screening/crushing plant, installation of a settling pond, development of a water source, addition of an access road, and a fuel storage area. The rate of aggregate extraction from the site is expected to vary from year to year, starting from 150,000 metric tonnes per year, upwards depending on market demand.

The proposed project is located in Colchester County, near the community of Glenholme. Construction is intended to begin in 2024 and is expected to be operational for



## Human Health Considerations in Impact Assessment

Health Canada (HC) provides the following generic considerations for evaluating human health impacts in environmental/impact assessment (EA/IA). Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of human health concerns that may result from projects, and that issues will vary based on project specifics. Please also note that HC does not approve or issue licenses, permits, or authorizations in relation to the IA. HC's role in Impact Assessment is founded in statutory obligations under the Canadian Impact Assessment Act, and its knowledge and expertise can be called upon by reviewing bodies (e.g., Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, review panels, Indigenous groups and/or other jurisdictions). In the absence of such a request from one of the above noted groups, HC is unable to carry out a comprehensive review of the project. However, HC is able to accommodate specific requests for human health advice and guidance related to provincial environmental assessments within a reasonable timeframe.

HC currently possesses expertise in the following areas related to human health: air quality, recreational and drinking water quality, traditional foods (country foods), noise, and methodological expertise in conducting human health risk assessment. Based on Health Canada's "Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment", please consider the following information on these topics to assist in your review.

	Consideration	Reference Document
Receptor Location(s)		
Please ensure the registration document clearly identifies the locations of all receptors that may be impacted by the proposed project, including any receptors located along the transportation route, if applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to clearly describe the location and distance from the proposed site(s) to all potential human receptors (permanent, seasonal or temporary), taking into consideration the different types of land uses (e.g. residential, recreational, industrial, etc.), and identifying all vulnerable populations (e.g. in schools, hospitals, retirement or assisted living communities). Note that the types of residents and visitors in a particular area will depend on land use, and may include members of the general public and/or members of specific population subgroups (Indigenous peoples, campers, hunters, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Human Health Risk Assessment. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.</i></p> <p><a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-6-2023-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-6-2023-eng.pdf</a></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there is the potential that project-related activities could affect human receptors, impacts to human health should be considered.</li> </ul>	

Atmospheric Environment		
Project impacts to the atmospheric environment include changes to air quality and noise, and can occur in both the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project. Project impacts to air quality are commonly caused by emissions from equipment or vehicles as well as by dust. Noise impacts are commonly caused by equipment as well as by activities such as blasting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If there are receptors that could be affected by project-related activities, impacts to the atmospheric environment should be considered. Changes to the atmospheric environment that may impact human health include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ impacts to air quality (dust or fumes including PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PAHs)</li><li>○ increased noise from construction or operations</li></ul></li></ul>	<i>Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: Noise. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario</i> <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-3-2023-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-3-2023-eng.pdf</a>  <i>Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Air Quality. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.</i> <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-1-2023-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-1-2023-eng.pdf</a>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If there are receptors who could be impacted by project-related noise, it may be necessary to inform receptors prior to loud activities, such as blasting.</li></ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If there is the potential for impacts to human receptors from noise and/or air quality changes from the project, the proponent should consider establishing mitigation measures. If complaints are received additional mitigation measures may be required.</li></ul>	
Recreational and Drinking Water Quality		
The proponent should consider whether any nearby waterbodies are used for recreational (i.e. swimming, boating, or fishing) or drinking water purposes, as well as whether there are any drinking water wells in the area potentially impacted by the project. Nearby drinking and/or recreational water quality may be impacted by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If there is the potential for impacts to drinking and/or recreational water quality from the project site, the proponent should consider establishing mitigation measures. If complaints are received additional mitigation measures may be required.</li></ul>	<i>Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Drinking and Recreational Water Quality. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.</i> <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-2-2023-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-2-2023-eng.pdf</a>

<p>accidents or malfunctions, such as a fuel spill; by dust and increased sediment runoff; and by other chemical discharges to the environment. Additionally, wells in the area potentially impacted by the project may be impacted by activities such as blasting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proponent should consider preparing a response plan in the event of an accident or malfunction with the potential to impact drinking and/or recreational water quality. Response plans should include a spill response kit, adequate spill response training, and a communication plan to notify all recreational and drinking water users in the impacted area as well as all relevant authorities.</li> <li>• In some cases, for projects that are likely to have an impact on drinking and/or recreational water quality, the proponent should consider conducting water monitoring prior to the start of the project (to establish a baseline). Monitoring would continue throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project (as applicable) to monitor for any changes in water quality or quantity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Country Foods</b>		
<p>If there are plants or animals present in the area potentially impacted by the project that are consumed by humans, there may be potential for impacts to country foods. The proponent should consider all country foods that are hunted, harvested or fished from the area potentially impacted by the project. Impacts to country foods may occur from the release of contaminants into soil or water (including from an accident or spill) or from deposition of air borne contaminants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If there is the potential for impacts to country foods from the proposed project, the proponent should consider establishing mitigation measures. If complaints are received additional mitigation measures may be required.</li> <li>• The proponent should consider preparing a response plan in the event of an accident or malfunction with the potential to impact country foods. Response plans should include a spill response kit, adequate spill response training, and a communication plan to notify all potential consumers of country foods in the impacted area as well as all relevant authorities.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Country Foods. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.</i>  <a href="https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-5-2023-eng.pdf">https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-5-2023-eng.pdf</a></p>

For more information on HC's guidelines for evaluating human health impacts in environmental assessments, please see:

*Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Impact Assessment: **Noise**. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.*  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-3-2023-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-3-2023-eng.pdf)

Appendix B of this guidance document provides a checklist that may be beneficial in verifying that the main components of a noise environmental assessment are completed.

*Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: **Air Quality**. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.*  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-1-2023-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-1-2023-eng.pdf)

Appendix A of this guidance document provides a checklist that may be beneficial in verifying that the main components of an air quality environmental assessment are completed.

*Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: **Drinking and Recreational Water Quality**. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.*  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-2-2023-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-2-2023-eng.pdf)

Appendix A of this guidance document provides a checklist that may be beneficial in verifying that the main components of a water quality environmental assessment are completed.

*Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: **Country Foods**. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.*  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-5-2023-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-5-2023-eng.pdf)

Appendix A of this guidance document provides a checklist that may be beneficial in verifying that the main components of a country foods environmental assessment are completed.

*Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: **Human Health Risk Assessment**. Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch, Health Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.*  
[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-6-2023-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-6-2023-eng.pdf)

Appendix B of this guidance document provides a checklist that may be beneficial in verifying that the main components of a human health risk assessment are completed.



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St. John's NL A1C 6M1

Bureau de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador  
901-10, Barter's Hill  
St. John's (Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador) A1C 6M1

June 7, 2024

Allison Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Policy, Planning and Environmental Assessment Branch  
Government of Nova Scotia  
[Allison.fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca](mailto:Allison.fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca)

**SUBJECT : Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme – Environmental Assessment  
Registration**

Dear Allison Fitzpatrick:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the registration document for Pit No. 4 Extension project (the Project), received on May 30, 2024.

The federal environmental assessment process is set out in the [Impact Assessment Act](#) (IAA). The [Physical Activities Regulations](#) (the Regulations) set out a list of physical activities considered to be “designated projects” under the IAA.

On October 26, 2023, following the Supreme Court of Canada's (SCC) decision on the constitutionality of the IAA, the Government of Canada released the [Statement on the Interim Administration of the IAA Pending Legislative Amendments](#) (Interim Statement). The guidance provided in the Interim Statement will be followed until targeted and meaningful legislative amendments are made to the IAA to align with the decision of the SCC.

The Interim Statement indicates that where the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is of the opinion that no impact assessment is required, this will be indicated to proponents, in order to provide certainty as early as possible.

The relevant entry in the Regulations for this type of project is:

*19(f) The expansion of an existing mine, mill, quarry or sand or gravel pit, in the case of an existing stone quarry or sand or gravel pit if the expansion would result in an increase in the area of mining operations of 50% or more and the total production capacity would be 3 500 000 t/year or more after the expansion.*

While it is the responsibility of proponents to determine whether their proposed project includes physical activities described in the Regulations of the IAA, based on the information submitted to the Province of Nova Scotia on the proposed Pit No. 4 Extension project, the Agency is of the opinion that, as proposed, the project would not have been described in the Regulations. As such, the proponent would not be expected to submit an Initial Project Description of a Designated Project. If the project changes from what has been described in its provincial registration, the proponent is advised to

contact the Agency if, in their view, any proposed project activities may be described in the Regulations.

Please note that for physical activities not described in the Regulations, should the Project be carried out in whole or in part on federal lands, section 82 of the IAA would apply if any federal authority is required to exercise a power, duty or function under an Act other than IAA in order for the Project to proceed, or if a federal authority is providing financial assistance for the purpose of enabling the Project to be carried out. In that case, that federal authority must ensure that any Project assessment requirements under the applicable sections of the IAA are satisfied. In the SCC's decision, the Court found that the sections in the IAA pertaining to the assessment process set out for non-designated projects located on federal lands were constitutional. Determinations made by federal authorities should continue as usual for such projects.

We also note that in proceeding with the Project, the proponent may still be required to obtain or seek amendment to other federal regulatory permits, authorizations and/or licences.

The proponent is encouraged to contact the Agency at (902) 426-0564 if it has additional information that may be relevant to the Agency or if it has any questions or concerns related to the above matters.

Sincerely,

Samantha Zabudsky  
Environmental Assessment Officer, Newfoundland and Labrador Satellite Office  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada  
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Date: June 25, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Nova Scotia Office of L'nú Affairs – Consultation Division; Reviewed by Beata Dera, Director of Consultation

Subject: Osco Pit no. 4 Expansion Project, Colchester County, Nova Scotia

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**Scope of review:**

The following review considers whether the information provided will assist the Province in assessing the potential of the proposed Project to adversely impact established and/or asserted Mi'kmaw Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights.

**List of Documents Reviewed:**

Environmental Assessment Registration Document

**Details of Technical Review:**

**3.0 INDIGENOUS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

This section states that the Proponent sent two engagement letters to Millbrook First Nation, Sipekne'katik First Nation, the Native Council of Nova Scotia, The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, the Union of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq, and the Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council. The proponent is encouraged to initiate engagement with KMKNO. Please note that the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia are rights holders and therefore distinctive from the general public.

**5.1.6 Wetlands**

This section states that wetlands in the expansion area which may be disturbed together occupy approximately 5.4ha, and may be fully or partially removed as a result of the pit expansion. OLA is aware that wetlands support a wide variety of plants, including those that the Mi'kmaq consider to be for sacred, ceremonial, and medicinal purposes.

**6.4 Fish and Fish Habitat**

This section states that there may be impacts to fish and fish habitat from the alteration of a small watercourse during construction, changes in hydrology, water quality and quantity, productivity, and loss of fish habitat. The watercourses that intersect with the PDA include the reaches of one small unnamed tributary to McCurdy Creek. Fish species present may include Brook trout and American eel. OLA is aware that American eel and Brook trout are species of interest to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Potential impacts to fish and their habitat may potentially adversely impact Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights.

**6.6.2.3 Vegetation Communities**



This section states that black ash was encountered in the field within watercourse 7 in a location adjacent and outside of the Project Development Areas (PDA). OLA is aware that black ash is a species of interest to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. Potential impacts to black ash may potentially adversely impact Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights.

### 9.3 Potential Impacts to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia

A Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) was not undertaken for the proposed Project.

This section states that Mi'kmaq hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering as well as the right to ceremony may be impacted by project activities. According to the proponent: "The Project will result in the loss of vegetation and wildlife habitat from clearing activities, which has the potential to impact hunting, trapping, and gathering activities. Additionally, Indigenous peoples that may have used the PDA for hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering activities historically can no longer access the entirety of the PDA as it is privately owned land and for safety and security purposes. However, the Proponent is not currently aware of any of these activities occurring near PDA." This section states that efforts were made to engage the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and no responses were received. Table 9.2 provides a summary of potential impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty rights, from proponent's perspective.

#### **Key Considerations:**

Crown consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia is ongoing for this project. The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia may provide additional information that informs the regulator in assessing the proposed project's potential impacts to established and/or asserted Mi'kmaw Aboriginal and Treaty rights and appropriate accommodation and mitigation measures. At this time, OLA is able to provide the following considerations:

OLA encourages the Proponent to continue to engage with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and to initiate engagement with KMKNO and provide regular updates throughout the duration of the Project.

A Mi'kmaq Communication Plan would be helpful to achieve the sharing of information and providing a mechanism for input from the Mi'kmaq regarding wetland mitigation, compensation, and monitoring plans.

Typically, for a project of this scope, scale and similar locational factors, a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) would be considered in order to determine what, if any, traditional and current use activities and Aboriginal Rights are practiced by the Mi'kmaq within the Project area.



Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

Pêches et Océans  
Canada

Bedford Institute of Oceanography  
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Date: June 20, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Kelley Fraser, Regulatory Review Biologist, Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program

Subject: Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme, Colchester County, Nova Scotia

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### Scope of review:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for administering the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act* (FA), the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), and the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

DFO's review focused on the impacts of the works outlined in the Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme Environmental Assessment Registration Document to potentially result in:

- the death of fish by means other than fishing and the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat, which are prohibited under subsections 34.4(1) and 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*;
- effects to listed aquatic species at risk, any part of their critical habitat or the residences of their individuals in a manner which is prohibited under sections 32, 33 and subsection 58(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*; and
- the introduction of aquatic species into regions or bodies of water frequented by fish where they are not indigenous, which is prohibited under section 10 of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

### Recommendations:

DFO recommends that the proponent:

- Provide further information on whether potential decrease in runoff volumes associated with the activity has the potential to directly or indirectly impact fish and fish habitat, including for Endangered inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon and its Critical Habitat; and
- Refer to DFO's website, <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>, for further information on DFO's regulatory review process and for further measures to protect fish and fish habitat.

This information can be provided through submission of a Request for Review application ([Request a project review \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html)) to allow DFO staff to conduct a regulatory review of the project to identify potential impacts to fish and fish habitat, and to determine if an authorization under the *Fisheries Act* and/or a *Species at Risk* permit is required.

Date: June 21, 2024  
To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer  
From: Beth Lewis, Director of Special Places Protection  
Subject: Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme - Environmental Assessment Registration

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: ***Archaeology and Paleontology***

**List of Documents Reviewed:**

*EA Document, HRP Final Report A2023NS149*

**Details of Technical Review (Archaeology):**

The EA document covers the key elements of the archaeological assessment.

**Details of Technical Review (Paleontology):**

The surficial geology described in the proposal is not likely to contain palaeontology resources, so no issues related to Special Places palaeontology are anticipated.

**Key Considerations:**

December 15, 2023

Logan Robertson  
Cultural Resource Management Group Limited  
Ten Mile House  
1519 Bedford Highway  
Bedford, Nova Scotia  
B4A 1E3

Dear Logan Robertson:

**RE: Heritage Research Permit Report  
A2023NS149 – Glenholme Quarry Expansion Environmental Assessment, Archaeological  
Resource Impact Assessment (Screening & Reconnaissance 2023)**

We have received and reviewed the final report on work conducted under the terms of Heritage Research Permit A2023NS149 – Glenholme Quarry Expansion Environmental Assessment, Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment (Screening & Reconnaissance 2023) Project in Colchester County, Nova Scotia in 2023.

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) is conducting an Environmental Assessment for a proposed expansion of OSCO Construction Group's Glenholme Quarry, situated within PID 20134193 and partially within PID 20451092, on the east side of Little Dyke Road, in Colchester County, Nova Scotia. The proposed development area occupies an approximate area of 30.5 ha, and is approximately 70 m west of McCurdy Creek, 600 m west of Folly Creek and 1.4 km north of the Minas Basin. Cultural Resource Management Group Limited (CRM Group) was retained to conduct an archaeological resource impact assessment (ARIA) on the proposed development area. This ARIA involved Mi'kmaq engagement, background study, predictive modelling, field reconnaissance, and subsurface testing.

Background study indicates that the general area has been home to the Mi'kmaq for millennia prior to the arrival of Europeans. The Debert Belmont Complex, a collection of Precontact archaeological sites occupied as long as 12,000 years ago, is situated approximately 9.7 km to the east of the proposed development, the nearest registered Precontact archaeological site is 6.5 km away, and there are numerous examples of Mi'kmaq placenames in proximity to the proposed development area. Research does not indicate any notable historic activity within the study area, no structures are identified on historic mapping into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the proposed development sits at a distance from the Folly and Debert Rivers. Aerial photographs depict significant resource extraction activities associated with forestry and late farming. Field reconnaissance showed the area to be largely impacted by past forestry and farming activities. Four (4) subsurface tests were conducted, and showed that the upper strata of Podzolic Order soil profiles were either stripped or intermixed from the aforementioned activities. The proposed development area has been subjected to a significant level of non-domestic, 20<sup>th</sup> century disturbances. Intact soil profiles were identified in tests 3 & 4. However, no areas of moderate to high archaeological potential were identified within the proposed development area. No evidence of Precontact cultural resources were identified. The proposed development area was ascribed low archaeological potential.

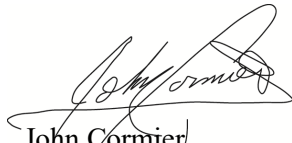
L. Robertson  
December 15, 2023  
Page 2

Based on the above, CRM Group offered the following the recommendations:

1. It is recommended that the Study Area, as defined and depicted in this report, be cleared of any requirement for further archaeological investigation.
2. If any further changes are made to the layout of the study area beyond the areas assessed in this report, it is recommended that those proposed areas be subjected to an Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment.
3. If archaeological deposits or human remains are encountered during construction activities associated with the project, all work in the associated area(s) should be halted and immediate contact made with the Special Places Program (John Cormier: 902-424-4542).

Staff at CCTH have reviewed the final report and find it acceptable as submitted. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John Cormier  
Coordinator, Special Places

Date: June 21, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Climate Change Division – Nancy Rondeaux

Subject: **Pit No.4 Extension (Osco Aggregates Limited), Glenholme, Colchester County**

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

**List of Documents Reviewed:**

Environmental Assessment Registration Document

**Details of Technical Review:****Adaptation:**

- Due to the anticipated 30-year lifespan of the project, the long-term effects of climate change are not evaluated. Instead, the EA registration document focuses on assessing the effect of recent climatological conditions, particularly of extreme weather events, on the project.
- Section 7 of the EA registration document includes a description of the local climate (section 7.2.1.1) based on climate normal and extreme values from the Debert Climate Station from 1991-2020. The use of a 30-year time frame for historical normal meets recommended practice.
- The EA registration document does not draw on future climate data, but identifies climate-related potential impacts:
  - increased frequency and magnitude of heavy precipitation (including snowfall);
  - increased frequency of extreme storms accompanied by heavy and/or freezing precipitation, thunderstorms, or strong winds;
  - increased incidence of flooding and erosion; and
  - increased incidence of forest fires.
- The relative severity of these potential impacts is not presented within a risk management framework, however, potential mitigative measures are provided for the identified climate impacts. Chapter 7.3 identifies appropriate storm water drainage and erosion protection as key design requirements to help reduce the impact of environmental extremes.

**Mitigation**

- The Assessment suggests that releases of GHGs will emanate from combustion engines of heavy equipment and may affect emission reduction targets for GHGs that have been set or are being developed federally and provincially.

- The proponent is of the opinion that with the addition of the onsite electric plant, and subsequent reduction in trucking, releases of GHGs for the Project are expected to be lower than current operations.
- The proponent does not provide numbers to back this assertion, however, given the description of the changes, any change will fall within the negligible range.
- The Assessment has listed practices for mitigation of emissions. The no-idling policy and regular maintenance of equipment are usually sufficient for these types of projects.

**Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)**

Adaptation:

- We suggest the proponent consider using local climate change projections for the various project phases (including any post-closure periods) and consider climate change-adjusted IDF curves in designing or upgrading stormwater management infrastructure (data available at [climatedata.ca](http://climatedata.ca)). The proponent may wish to consider adopting a risk management framework (described in the 'Guide to Considering Climate Change in Project Development in Nova Scotia') to determine which impacts present the highest risks to the project and to assist in the determination of priorities for adaptation and enhanced design measures, if required.

Mitigation:

- No further recommendations or requirements.

Date: June 24, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Air Quality Unit

Subject: **Pit No. 4 Expansion, Colchester County, Nova Scotia**

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: Noise

**List of Documents Reviewed:**

- *Pit No. 4 Extension Project EA Registration Document*
- *Appendix B*

**Details of Technical Review:**

OSCO Aggregates Limited (OSCO) proposes to expand its existing Pit No. 4 aggregate operation located in the community of Glenholme, Colchester County, Nova Scotia. The proposed Project will involve the continued excavation of aggregate material from the existing Pit No. 4, as well as expanding the pit towards the south, east, and north. The proposed Project will also include the addition of an electric washing/screening/crushing plant (the electric plant), eliminating the need of transporting aggregate material to Pit No. 2. Aggregate extraction from the existing Pit No. 4 is at least 150,000 tonnes per year, depending on market demand. If the expansion is approved, it is expected that operational activities and aggregate production would be similar to previous years and extend the operational lifetime 10-20 years.

The proponent currently conducts routine noise monitoring at four locations surrounding the existing pit, and a baseline noise assessment for the current pit was included in the environmental assessment. The proponent states that the pit will adhere to the noise limits specified in the Nova Scotia Pit and Quarry Guidelines; however, the proponent has not assessed against the permissible sound levels set out in the Guidelines for Environmental Noise Measurement and Assessment (GENMA). The proponent presents a noise assessment for the existing pit, but no assessment for the potential impacts from the proposed expansion on nearby receptors.

The proponent states noise mitigation will include maintaining vehicles and heavy equipment in proper working order and maintaining a vegetated berm and tree buffer between the site and adjacent receptors. The proponent stated that crusher operation will be limited to operating between 7:00 – 22:00 on weekdays and 7:00 – 18:00 on weekends.



**Key Considerations:**

The Air Quality Unit notes the following key considerations:

- It is unclear if the proposed expansion has the potential to exceed the appropriate GENMA daytime and evening permissible sound levels for the nearest receptor (rural classification).
- It is unclear how effective noise management and mitigation will be in the absence of a noise management plan with a clear chain of responsibility for actions, including timely complaint resolution.

Date: June 24, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Air Quality Unit

Subject: **Pit No. 4 Expansion, Colchester County, Nova Scotia**

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: Air Quality

**List of Documents Reviewed:**

- *Pit No. 4 Extension Project EA Registration Document*
- *Appendix B*

**Details of Technical Review:**

OSCO Aggregates Limited (OSCO) proposes to expand its existing Pit No. 4 aggregate operation located in the community of Glenholme, Colchester County, Nova Scotia. The proposed Project will involve the continued excavation of aggregate material from the existing Pit No. 4, as well as expanding the pit towards the south, east, and north. The proposed Project will also include the addition of an electric washing/screening/crushing plant (the electric plant), eliminating the need of transporting aggregate material to Pit No. 2. Aggregate extraction from the existing Pit No. 4 is at least 150,000 tonnes per year, depending on market demand. If the expansion is approved, it is expected that operational activities and aggregate production would be similar to previous years and extend the operational lifetime 10-20 years.

Operation of the pit has the potential to generate dust and combustion emissions. Impacts on air quality from this project are most likely to occur due to clearing/grubbing, the operation of heavy equipment (e.g. crushers, earthmovers), rock drilling/blasting, and onsite routine operations. The proponent states that dust management will be undertaken, including installing a 3m tall berm adjacent to the properties on Little Dyke Road and maintaining existing tree buffers and the use of water sprays. It is stated that combustion emissions reduction shall be accomplished by operational best practices, such as minimizing idling times and maintaining vehicles and equipment in proper working order. Overall, the impacts to air quality are expected to be similar to the existing operation; however, operations would be moving closer to residential receptors on Little Dyke Road which could impact the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures.

**Key Considerations:**

The Air Quality Unit notes the following key considerations:

- It is unclear how effective mitigation measures will be given that the proposed expansion area borders residential properties on Little Dyke Road.
- It is unclear how effective dust management will be in the absence of a dust management plan with a clear chain of responsibility for actions, including timely complaint resolution.

**REVISED SIGNATORY**

**DATE:** July 2, 2024

**To:** Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

**FROM:** Graham Fisher, A/Provincial Director of Planning

**SUBJECT: PIT 4 EXTENSION, COLCHESTER COUNTY, NS**

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**Scope of Review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: Statements of Provincial Interest and engagement with municipalities.

**Document Reviewed:**

Registration Document

**Details of Technical Review:**

The Municipality does not have zoning that applies to this area. The proponent refers to the electric plant for processing and scale house as buildings, which may be considered structures by the Municipality and require a building permit. The proponent has sent notification letters to the relevant municipality regarding the project.

*Statements of Provincial Interest:*

- Drinking Water: No anticipated impact. There are no designated protected water areas in this area.
- Agricultural Land: No anticipated impact. The majority of the area appears to have class 6 soils based on the Canada Land Inventory Soil Capability maps, which would not be suitable for agriculture.
- Flood Risk: No anticipated impact. The Salmon and North Rivers Flood Risk Areas are within this plan area but are not in close proximity to the project site.
- Infrastructure: No anticipated impact. There is no water nor sewer servicing in this area.
- Housing: No anticipated impact. A berm of 3m high is proposed to create a sound and visual barrier between the quarry and the nearby residential uses.

**Key Considerations (provide in non-technical language):**

There is no outstanding information and/or conditions. All components considered under DMAH's areas of mandate have been adequately addressed. We would like to remind the proponent to ensure that they have undertaken adequate consultation with the Municipality in order to confirm whether building permits are required for the proposed buildings.

**From:** [Wade, Suzanne \(ECCC\)](#)  
**To:** [Fitzpatrick, Allison](#)  
**Cc:** [Hingston, Michael \(il | he, him\) \(ECCC\)](#); [Gautreau, Rachel \(elle | she, her\) \(ECCC\)](#); [Mailhiot, Joshua \(il | he, him\) \(ECCC\)](#); [Wade, Suzanne \(ECCC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme, NS - EA Registration (24-NS-010)  
**Date:** June 25, 2024 11:57:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Hi Allison,

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has reviewed the EA Registration document for the proposed Pit No. 4 Extension in Glenholme, Nova Scotia and we offer the following comments:

### **Wildlife Comments**

It is not possible to adequately evaluate the potential effects of the project on migratory birds, including migratory bird Species at Risk (SAR) and species of conservation concern (SOCC), based on the information provided. The following should be addressed:

- Breeding Bird Surveys were not conducted for a large area of the Project Development Area (PDA). ECCC's Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) expects Proponents to conduct breeding bird surveys in the Project footprint area and in adjacent areas where birds, including migratory bird SAR and SOCC, may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project. Therefore point count station placement should be such that the stations are at distances that are useful in detecting bird use of the Project footprint and adjacent areas. CWS normally expects point count stations to be located approximately 300 m apart in forest habitat with a larger distance acceptable in open habitats (400-500m acceptable). Based on the Figure E2, it appears that point counts were not conducted East, South, or West of the current project footprint. Figure E2 shows locations for surveys that were conducted in 2017; however, the data collected at these points is not presented. Furthermore, PC9 and PC10 were only surveyed in August, which is too late in the season for surveys of breeding birds. Rather, CWS generally recommends that breeding surveys for most landbirds in the Maritimes be conducted between early June and early July. Breeding bird surveys should be conducted for the entire Project Development Area, tables should be provided listing each species identified at each point count location, and Figures should clearly show the locations where any SAR or SOCC were detected in relation to proposed project infrastructure.
- The Local Assessment Area (LAA) includes habitats such as Wetland 6 which includes a Ducks Unlimited Pond [used by SAR (Bank Swallow, Common Nighthawk) and Common Loons] and Wetland 7 (used by Canada Warbler). However, the Proponent did not present data on the use of the Ducks Unlimited site by migratory birds during the

breeding season (except for a few exceptions) and in migration, did not adequately evaluate the potential effects of the Project on migratory birds in the LAA, and did not provide adequate measures to avoid adverse effects on these species. This should be addressed.

The following should be considered when providing additional information:

- With regards to migratory birds, when providing information in an environmental assessment document, the proponent should give particular, but not exclusive, consideration to birds or habitat that meet one of the following criteria:
  - species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and/or provincial species at risk legislation; designated, under review or identified as candidate species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC); and/or with rarity ranks assigned by the province and/or the ACCDC;
  - areas of concentration of migratory birds, such as breeding areas, colonies, spring and fall staging areas, and wintering areas;
  - breeding and nesting areas of species low in number and high in the food chain.
- For projects undergoing environmental assessment, CWS recommends that adverse effects of the project on SAR and Critical Habitat (CH) are identified, and, if the project is carried out, that mitigation measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects. We recommend that mitigation measures:
  - be consistent with best available information including any Recovery Strategy, Action Plan or Management Plan in a final or proposed version; and
  - respect the terms and conditions of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) regarding protection of individuals, residences, and critical habitat of Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened species.

We also recommend follow-up monitoring to verify impact predictions, and adequacy of mitigation measures, and adaptive management in the event that species at risk or their critical habitat are adversely affected by the project.

Furthermore, additional information should be provided as described below.

- Common Nighthawk

According to Table 5 of Appendix E, Common Nighthawk was observed at the Ducks Unlimited Canada pond and hard to the north of the property in 2017. This species is a ground nester, and could nest in cleared areas of the PDA. In the event that nightjar are detected, mitigation measures to avoid both direct and indirect impacts on individuals should be described, and a monitoring plan to verify EA predictions and adequacy of mitigation measures should be proposed.

## Bank Swallow

According to Table 5 of Appendix E, Bank Swallow was observed near the Ducks Unlimited Canada pond in 2017. Bank Swallows may nest in large piles of soil left unattended/unvegetated during the most critical period of breeding season (April 15<sup>th</sup> through August 15<sup>th</sup>). To discourage this, the proponent should consider measures to cover or to deter birds from these large piles of unattended soil during the breeding season. If migratory birds take up occupancy of these piles, any industrial activities (including hydroseeding) will cause disturbance to these migratory birds and inadvertently cause the destruction of nests and eggs. Alternate measures will then need to be taken to reduce potential erosion, and to ensure that nests are protected until chicks have fledged and left the area. For a species such as Bank Swallow, the period when the nests would be considered active would include not only the time when birds are incubating eggs or taking care of flightless chicks, but also a period of time after chicks have learned to fly, because Bank Swallows return to their colony to roost.

See also for example the following guidance concerning beneficial management practices that should be considered for implementation when designing mitigation measures for Bank Swallows, provided at [Bank Swallow \(\*Riparia riparia\*\): in sandpits and quarries - Canada.ca](#)

### ○ Landbird SAR

Canada Warbler was detected in the LAA in Wetland 7, outside the PDA. CWS generally recommends buffers for this landbird SAR as follows during the breeding season:

- Low disturbance activities – 50 m
  - Medium disturbance activities – 150 m
  - High disturbance activities – 300 m
- CWS recommends a 200m buffer from Common Loon nests (for major construction activities near a lake) during the months of May, June and July. Also, no high disturbance (e.g. blasting) within 1km of active Common Loon nests should occur during the nesting season (May, June and July).

### Avoidance of Incidental Take of Active Nests of Migratory Birds

In Section 6.7.4.1 of the EIA Registration Document, the Proponent states that “Clearing and grubbing activities will be scheduled to the extent possible outside of the normal breeding bird and migratory bird season (April 8 to August 28 for nesting zone C3) so that eggs and flightless young are not inadvertently harassed or destroyed. At a minimum, if complete avoidance of these activities during the specified timeframe is not feasible, nest searches will be undertaken by a qualified biologist and avoidance setbacks will be established around active nests.”

Active nest searches in complex habitat are not recommended by CWS as they are unlikely

to be successful, and incidental take would still be likely to occur. Rather, CWS recommends that activities that may result in incidental take of nests or eggs, such as tree or shrub removal, occur outside the migratory bird nesting period.

Nests in complex habitat are difficult to locate and adult birds avoid approaching their nests in a manner that would attract predators to their eggs or young. Except when the nests searched are known to be easy to locate without disturbing them, active nest searches are generally not recommended by CWS; there is a low probability of locating all nests, and searches are likely to cause disturbance to nesting birds. In many circumstances, incidental take is likely to still occur during industrial or other activities even when active nest searches are conducted prior to these activities. Therefore, except for very specific circumstances (e.g. surveys for Pileated Woodpecker nesting cavities protected under Schedule 1 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*), CWS does not recommend nest searches in vegetation.

The Proponent should also consider that some species of migratory birds, including the Killdeer (a species which was observed on-site in 2017 according to Table 5 of Appendix E) and the threatened Common Nighthawk, may be attracted to cleared areas for nesting. In such a case, nest surveys may be carried out successfully by skilled and experienced observers using appropriate methodology. It should be noted that species such as Killdeer have highly mobile chicks. Should any nests or unfledged chicks be discovered, it is expected that these would be protected by an appropriate-sized buffer. Monitoring from a distance should be conducted to verify that the size of the buffer zone is adequate. While buffers to protect nests from disturbance may be flagged, nests should never be approached and marked using flagging tape, spray paint, or other similar material, as this increases the risk of nest predation.

#### Additional Comments

- Lighting for the safety of the employees should be shielded to shine down and only to where it is needed, without compromising safety.
- Street and parking lot lighting should also be shielded so that little escapes into the sky and it is directed where required. LED lighting fixtures are generally less prone to light trespass and should be considered.
- Since even small spills of oil can have serious effects on migratory birds, every effort should be taken to ensure that no oil spills occur. The Proponent should ensure that all precautions are taken by staff to prevent fuel leaks from equipment, and contingency plans in case of oil spills should be prepared.
- Several types of migratory bird habitat are in decline in Nova Scotia, including mature coniferous forest, mature deciduous forest, and mature mixed forest. This is of concern because certain bird species prefer mature forest habitat. It is desirable for projects to avoid causing further loss and fragmentation of these habitat types, and to avoid further fragmentation of the landscape.
- CWS recommends that project effects on wetlands be avoided. Where they cannot be



avoided they should be minimized, and for residual impacts there should be compensation to mitigate the effects. CWS recommends the development of a Wetland Compensation Plan that fully describes the mitigation hierarchy, including:

- Identification of wetlands potentially affected by the project,
  - A detailed description of potential effects, and the reasons why avoidance and minimization of impacts were determined to be not possible, and
  - Identification and justification of proposed offset ratios.
- 
- To promote wetland conservation, ECCC-CWS recommends the following general beneficial management practices:
- Developments on wetlands should be avoided.
  - Where development does occur in the vicinity of wetlands, a minimum vegetation buffer zone of 30 metres should be maintained around existing wetland areas.
  - Hydrological function of the wetland should be maintained.
  - Runoff from development should be directed away from wetlands.
  - The use of a 30-metre buffer from the high water mark of any water body (1:100 Flood Zone) in order to maintain movement corridors for migratory birds. Please see <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html> for further information concerning buffer zones.
- CWS recommends that a variety of species of plants native to the general project area be used in revegetation efforts. Should seed mixes for herbaceous native species for the area not be available, it should be ensured that plants used in revegetation efforts are not known to be invasive.

CWS also recommends that measures to diminish the risk of introducing invasive species be developed and implemented. These measures could include:

- cleaning and inspecting construction equipment prior to transport from elsewhere (not limited to out of province equipment) to ensure that no plant matter is attached to the machinery (e.g. use of pressure water hose to clean vehicles prior to transport); and
  - regularly inspecting equipment prior to, during and immediately following construction in wetland areas and in areas found to support Purple Loosestrife to ensure that plant matter is not transported from one construction area to another.
- Some species of migratory birds, including the Killdeer and the threatened Common Nighthawk, may be attracted to cleared areas for nesting. In such a case, nest surveys may be carried out successfully by skilled and experienced observers using appropriate methodology. It should be noted that species such as Killdeer have highly mobile chicks. Should any nests or unfledged chicks be discovered, it is expected that these would be protected by an appropriate-sized buffer. Monitoring from a distance should be conducted to verify that the size of the buffer zone is adequate. While buffers to protect

nests from disturbance may be flagged, nests should never be approached and marked using flagging tape, spray paint, or other similar material, as this increases the risk of nest predation.

- Certain species of migratory birds may nest on the sides of buildings, bridges or other pieces of infrastructure. Additionally, some species may nest on equipment, if they are left unattended/idle for long periods of time.

CWS recommends the following beneficial management practices:

- The proponent should ensure that project staff are aware of the potential of migratory bird nests on infrastructure, buildings, and bridges, if applicable.
- If a nest is discovered, the proponent should conduct no activities around the nest that may cause the nest to be abandoned or destroyed. Activities should be suspended until the chicks have fledged and left the area.
- If the proponent anticipates that birds may nest on infrastructure, the proponent should install anti-perching and nesting exclusion devices (e.g. snow fencing, chicken wire fencing, etc.) before any nest attempts are made.
- If there is ultimately a need to decommission a building or structure used for nesting by migratory birds, CWS should be consulted in a timely manner in advance of any proposed decommissioning activities for species-specific considerations.
- Beaver dam removal could impact migratory birds using the associated ponds. If waterfowl and/or waterbirds are using ponds created by beaver dams for nesting or raising chicks, the proponent should not alter beaver dams until waterfowl and/or waterbirds have raised their young.
- The Proponent should ensure that provisions for wildlife response are identified in emergency prevention & response plans. The following information should be included:
  - Mitigation measures to deter migratory birds from coming into contact with polluting substance (e.g. oil);
  - Mitigation measures to be undertaken if migratory birds and/or sensitive habitat becomes contaminated;
  - The type and extent of monitoring that would be conducted in relation to various spill events.

ECCC-CWS "*Guidelines for Effective Wildlife Response Plans*" (available at [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2023/eccc/cw66/CW66-771-2021-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/eccc/cw66/CW66-771-2021-eng.pdf) ) are recommended as a reference in the development of emergency prevention and response.

- In Section 6.7.4.1, it is stated that the Proponent would contact the NSDNRR SAR biologist if a bird SAR is encountered. As a reminder, CWS is the branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada responsible for the management and conservation of

migratory birds in Canada.

## **Applicable Legislation**

- ***Migratory Birds Convention Act***

The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) protects most bird species in Canada however, some families of birds are excluded. A list of species under MBCA protection can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-birds-legal-protection/list.html>.

The federal Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 ([justice.gc.ca](http://justice.gc.ca)) and its [regulations](#) protect migratory birds and their eggs and prohibit the disturbance, damage, destruction or removal of migratory bird nests that contain a live bird or a viable egg. Migratory birds are protected at all times; all migratory bird nests are protected when they contain a live bird or viable egg; and the nests of 18 species listed in [Schedule 1 of the MBR 2022](#) are protected year-round. These general prohibitions apply to all lands and waters in Canada, regardless of ownership. For more information, please visit: [Avoiding harm to migratory birds - Canada.ca](#).

For migratory birds that are listed as Endangered, Threatened or Extirpated on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* S.32 (protection of individuals) and S.33 (protection of residences) apply to all land tenure types in Canada. For some migratory bird species listed under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), the residence prohibition will protect nests that are not active but are re-used in subsequent years (please note that the residence of a migratory bird may not necessarily be limited to their nest).

Section 5.1 of the MBCA describes prohibitions related to depositing substances harmful to migratory birds:

“5.1 (1) No person or vessel shall deposit a substance that is harmful to migratory birds, or permit such a substance to be deposited, in waters or an area frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which the substance may enter such waters or such an area.

(2) No person or vessel shall deposit a substance to be deposited in any place if the substance, in combination with one or more substances, result in a substance – in waters or an area frequented by migratory birds or in a place from which it may enter such waters or such an area – that is harmful to migratory birds.”

It is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that activities comply with the MBCA and regulations. In fulfilling its responsibility for MBCA compliance, the proponent should take the following points into consideration:

- Information regarding regional nesting periods can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/general-nesting-periods.html>. Some species protected under the MBCA may nest outside these timeframes.
- Most migratory bird species construct nests in trees (sometimes in tree cavities) and shrubs, but several species nest at ground level (e.g., Common Nighthawk, Killdeer,

sandpipers), in hay fields, pastures or in burrows. Some bird species may nest on cliffs or in stockpiles of overburden material from mines or the banks of quarries. Some migratory birds (including certain waterfowl species) may nest in head ponds created by beaver dams. Some migratory birds (e.g., Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Eastern Phoebe) may build their nests on structures such as bridges, ledges or gutters.

- One method frequently used to minimize the risk of destroying bird nests consists of avoiding certain activities, such as clearing, during the regional nesting period for migratory birds.
- The risk of impacting active nests or birds caring for pre-fledged chicks, discovered during project activities outside the regional nesting period, can be minimized by measures such as the establishment of vegetated buffer zones around nests, and minimization of activities in the immediate area until nesting is complete and chicks have naturally migrated from the area. It is incumbent on the proponent to identify the best approach, based on the circumstances, to complying with the MBCA.

Further information can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds.html>

- ***Species at Risk Act***

The *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) “General prohibitions” apply to this project. In applying the general prohibitions, the proponent, staff and contractors, should be aware that no person shall:

- kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual;
- possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual, or any part or derivative;
- damage or destroy the *residence* of one or more individuals.

General prohibitions only apply automatically:

- on all federal lands in a province,
- to aquatic species anywhere they occur,
- to migratory birds protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) 1994 anywhere they occur.

Section 33 of SARA prohibits damaging or destroying the residence of a listed threatened, endangered, or extirpated species. For migratory birds species at risk (SAR), this prohibition immediately applies on all lands or waters (federal, provincial, territorial and private) in which the species occurs.

For project assessments, SARA requires that:

79 (1) Every person who is required by or under an Act of Parliament to ensure that an assessment of the environmental effects of a project is conducted, and every authority who makes a determination under paragraph 82(a) or (b) of the *Impact Assessment Act* in relation to a project, must, without delay, notify the competent minister or ministers in writing of the project if it is likely to affect a listed wildlife species or its critical habitat.

(2) The person must identify the adverse effects of the project on the listed wildlife species and its critical habitat and, if the project is carried out, must ensure that measures are taken to avoid or lessen those effects and to monitor them. The measures must be taken in a way that is consistent with any applicable recovery strategy and action plans.

For species which are not yet listed under SARA, but are listed under provincial legislation only or that have been assessed and designated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), it is best practice to consider these species in EA as though they were listed under SARA.

For species-specific technical information for terrestrial SAR not protected under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA), ECCC recommends that the Province of Nova Scotia be consulted.

### **Water Quality**

Pollution prevention and control provisions of the *Fisheries Act* are administered and enforced by ECCC. Subsection 36(3) of the *Fisheries Act* prohibits “anyone from depositing or permitting the deposit of a deleterious substance of any type in water frequented by fish, or in any place under any conditions where the deleterious substance, or any other deleterious substance that results from the deposit of the deleterious substance, may enter such water”.

It is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that activities are managed so as to prevent the release of substances deleterious to fish. In general, compliance is determined at the last point of control of the substance before it enters waters frequented by fish, or, in any place under any conditions where a substance may enter such waters. Additional information on what constitutes a deposit under the *Fisheries Act* can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/managing-pollution/effluent-regulations-fisheries-act/frequently-asked-questions.html>

### **Accidents and Malfunctions**

Hazardous materials (e.g. fuels, lubricants, hydraulic oil) and wastes (e.g. waste oil) should be managed so as to minimize the risk of chronic and/or accidental releases. For example, the proponent should encourage contractors and staff to undertake refueling and maintenance activities on level terrain, at a suitable distance from environmentally sensitive areas including watercourses, and on a prepared impermeable surface with a collection system.

The proponent is encouraged to prepare contingency plans that reflect a consideration of potential accidents and malfunctions and that take into account site-specific conditions and sensitivities. The Canadian Standards Association publication, *Emergency Preparedness and Response*, CAN/CSA-Z731-03, reaffirmed 2014), is a useful reference.

All spills or leaks, such as those from machinery or storage tanks, should be promptly contained and cleaned up (sorbents and booms should be available for quick containment

and recovery), and reported to the 24-hour environmental emergencies reporting system (Maritime Provinces 1-800-565-1633)

If you have any questions, please direct any further correspondence to ECCC's environmental assessment window for coordination at: [FCR\\_Tracker@ec.gc.ca](mailto:FCR_Tracker@ec.gc.ca).

Suzanne Wade

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**From:** Fitzpatrick, Allison <[Allison.Fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca](mailto:Allison.Fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 30, 2024 2:24 PM

**To:** Eytayo-Oyesode, Oladiwura <[Oladiwura.Eytayo-Oyesode@novascotia.ca](mailto:Oladiwura.Eytayo-Oyesode@novascotia.ca)>; Alward, Emily <[Emily.Alward@novascotia.ca](mailto:Emily.Alward@novascotia.ca)>; Mitchell, David A <[David.Mitchell@novascotia.ca](mailto:David.Mitchell@novascotia.ca)>; Mosher, Elaine <[Elaine.Mosher@novascotia.ca](mailto:Elaine.Mosher@novascotia.ca)>; Hurlburt, Donna D <[Donna.Hurlburt@novascotia.ca](mailto:Donna.Hurlburt@novascotia.ca)>; Wildlife EA <[WildlifeEA@novascotia.ca](mailto:WildlifeEA@novascotia.ca)>; Crewe, Tara <[Tara.Crewe@novascotia.ca](mailto:Tara.Crewe@novascotia.ca)>; White, Shannon C <[Shannon.White@novascotia.ca](mailto:Shannon.White@novascotia.ca)>; Drake, Carrie L <[Carrie.Drake@novascotia.ca](mailto:Carrie.Drake@novascotia.ca)>; Mahoney, Meagan <[Meagan.Mahoney@novascotia.ca](mailto:Meagan.Mahoney@novascotia.ca)>; Blackburn, Lori M <[Lori.Blackburn@novascotia.ca](mailto:Lori.Blackburn@novascotia.ca)>; Boudreau, Susan M <[Susan.Boudreau@novascotia.ca](mailto:Susan.Boudreau@novascotia.ca)>; Steele, Cynthia <[Cynthia.Steele@novascotia.ca](mailto:Cynthia.Steele@novascotia.ca)>; McPherson, Robyn <[Robyn.McPherson@novascotia.ca](mailto:Robyn.McPherson@novascotia.ca)>; MacPherson, George E <[George.MacPherson@novascotia.ca](mailto:George.MacPherson@novascotia.ca)>; Hearn, Scott <[Scott.Hearn@novascotia.ca](mailto:Scott.Hearn@novascotia.ca)>; Webber, Diane E <[Diane.Webber@novascotia.ca](mailto:Diane.Webber@novascotia.ca)>; Dickie, John <[John.Dickie@novascotia.ca](mailto:John.Dickie@novascotia.ca)>; Wickson, Mark <[Mark.Wickson@novascotia.ca](mailto:Mark.Wickson@novascotia.ca)>; Creamer, Amber <[Amber.Creamer@novascotia.ca](mailto:Amber.Creamer@novascotia.ca)>; MacDonald, Brent A <[Brent.MacDonald@novascotia.ca](mailto:Brent.MacDonald@novascotia.ca)>; MacQuarrie, Rebecca M <[Rebecca.MacQuarrie@novascotia.ca](mailto:Rebecca.MacQuarrie@novascotia.ca)>; Cormier, John <[John.Cormier@novascotia.ca](mailto:John.Cormier@novascotia.ca)>; Lewis, Beth J <[Beth.Lewis@novascotia.ca](mailto:Beth.Lewis@novascotia.ca)>; Hernould, Alexandra S <[Alexandra.Hernould@novascotia.ca](mailto:Alexandra.Hernould@novascotia.ca)>; Gorveatt, Kendra Alair <[Kendra.Gorveatt@novascotia.ca](mailto:Kendra.Gorveatt@novascotia.ca)>; DesRoche, Gillian <[Gillian.DesRoche@novascotia.ca](mailto:Gillian.DesRoche@novascotia.ca)>; Poirier, Colin <[Colin.Poirier@novascotia.ca](mailto:Colin.Poirier@novascotia.ca)>; Lahey, Rodney <[Rodney.Lahey@novascotia.ca](mailto:Rodney.Lahey@novascotia.ca)>; David,Ashley (NS) <[Ashley.David@novascotia.ca](mailto:Ashley.David@novascotia.ca)>; Ramen, Satya <[Satya.Ramen@novascotia.ca](mailto:Satya.Ramen@novascotia.ca)>; NSE-SAS-Division <[NSE-SAS-Division@novascotia.ca](mailto:NSE-SAS-Division@novascotia.ca)>; Farrell, Tanya M <[Tanya.Farrell@novascotia.ca](mailto:Tanya.Farrell@novascotia.ca)>; MacKenzie, Tanya L <[Tanya.MacKenzie@novascotia.ca](mailto:Tanya.MacKenzie@novascotia.ca)>; MacDonald, Jeffrey Malcolm <[Jeffrey.MacDonald3@novascotia.ca](mailto:Jeffrey.MacDonald3@novascotia.ca)>; Donaldson, Samuel <[Samuel.Donaldson@novascotia.ca](mailto:Samuel.Donaldson@novascotia.ca)>; Lovitt, Christina <[Christina.Lovitt@novascotia.ca](mailto:Christina.Lovitt@novascotia.ca)>; Zanth, Kathy M <[Kathy.Zanth@novascotia.ca](mailto:Kathy.Zanth@novascotia.ca)>; [projects-projets@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:projects-projets@iaac-aeic.gc.ca); IA-ATL / EI-ATL (HC/SC) <[ia-atl-ei-atl@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:ia-atl-ei-atl@hc-sc.gc.ca)>; [beverly.ramos-casey@canada.ca](mailto:beverly.ramos-casey@canada.ca); RCF Surveiller / FCR Tracker (ECCC) <[FCR\\_Tracker@EC.GC.CA](mailto:FCR_Tracker@EC.GC.CA)>; [referralsmaritimes@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:referralsmaritimes@dfo-mpo.gc.ca); [dfo.fppmar-ppppmar.mpo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:dfo.fppmar-ppppmar.mpo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Cc:** Tutty, Bridget R <[Bridget.Tutty@novascotia.ca](mailto:Bridget.Tutty@novascotia.ca)>

**Subject:** Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme - EA Registration

You don't often get email from [allison.fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca](mailto:allison.fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

## **Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme – Environmental Assessment – Comments due June 25, 2024**

Good Afternoon,

This is to advise that on June 6 2024, **Osco Aggregates Ltd** will register the **PIT NO. 4 EXTENSION. GLENHOLME** for environmental assessment, in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act.

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### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed Project will involve the continued excavation of aggregate material (stone and sand) from the reserve within the current Pit No. 4 property, as well as expanding the pit towards the south, east, and north. This expansion will add 30 hectares to the current permitted pit surface area. The proposed Project will also include the addition of an electric washing/screening/crushing plant, installation of a settling pond, development of a water source, addition of an access road, and a fuel storage area. The rate of aggregate extraction from the site is expected to vary from year to year, starting from 150,000 metric tonnes per year, upwards depending on market demand.

The proposed project is located in Colchester County, near the community of Glenholme. Construction is intended to begin in 2024 and is expected to be operational for 30 years ending in 2055.

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### **DEADLINES:**

Please note that **all comments must be provided by June 25, 2024**, to be considered in this environmental assessment. We understand this a slight change from the usual 30-day comment period. It is necessary to ensure adequate time to support analysis and decision-making processes under the legislative timeframe. Reviewers will still have 25 days to consider the document and we are hopeful that our efforts over the past year to streamline and standardize review process will help with an efficient review. Please provide comments via email if possible. If there are no comments, please also reply indicating so.

On or before **July 26, 2024**, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change will decide if the project can be granted conditional environmental assessment approval. On the decision day, all submissions received will be posted on the Department's website for public viewing.

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### **ACCESSING EA DOCUMENTS AND DATA:**



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Date: 20 June 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Department of Public Works, Environmental Services – Jason Rae, P.Eng.,   
Manager.

Subject: Pit No. 4 Extension Project, Glenholme

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: Traffic Engineering and Road Safety

**List of Documents Reviewed:**

*Pit No. 4 Extension Project, Glenholme*

**Details of Technical Review:**

The proponent is proposing to expand an existing pit in Glenholme, Colchester County.

Current access off Little Dyke Road will no be changing. It is understood that a new private access road off Little Dyke Road will be built to Pit No. 4 (Section 2.5.1.2 Infrastructure Development – Access Roads, Page 19).

Traffic volumes on the surrounding local toads are not expected to change significantly during construction, operation and maintenance of the pit expansion (Section 6.8.3 Effects on Transportation, Page 112-113).

Current mitigation measures for any accidents or collisions are appropriate (Section 8.4.3 Vehicle Accident – Mitigation Measures, Page 144).

Public works is a substantial aggregate consumer in the region of Colchester County through both Capital Construction and Maintenance activities. Private industry expanding their capabilities, in accordance with the applicable regulatory review, in the region would enhance our access to said aggregate. This should lead to more competitive pricing and reduce any supply constraints which may have been present in the past.

DPW does not have any comments or concerns on this EA.





Date: June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Water Branch - Krysta Montreuil, Acting Director

Subject: Pit No.4 Extension (Osco Aggregates Limited), Glenholme, Colchester County

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: surface water quality and quantity, groundwater quality and quantity, and wetlands.

**List of Documents Reviewed:** Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD) Submission, including Appendices.

**Details of Technical Review:****Surface Water**

The EARD concluded that with planned mitigation and environmental protection measures, the residual environmental effects of the Project on water resources during each phase of the Project will be minimal. The proponent commits to designing surface water drainage to minimize changes in hydrological flow within the LAA. The proponent also commits to planning site water management features and erosion and sediment controls in consideration of extreme rain fall events and spring freshets. The submission however does not include information on the detailed design considerations or approaches for developing these designs and plans. As such, their effectiveness cannot be fully assessed. Specifically:

- The water balance analysis assumes that both the existing area and the new pit development areas will be an enclosed watershed without an outlet to the external stormwater system. The EARD mentions the Project will account for storm allowances (i.e., 1-in-100-year 24-hour flood event). However, it is not clear if the pit floor has capacity to manage and infiltrate water from significant precipitation events such as this extreme precipitation events.
- It is unclear if the Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) pond is a natural or man-made pond. However, the DUC pond may be a watercourse as defined in the *Environment Act*, based on the information provided in the EARD. The water balance analysis indicates a 30% decrease of surface runoff contributing to the existing DUC marsh system. It is mentioned that this reduction may impact the marsh indirectly and the proponent should consider directing the outflow towards the DUC marsh to support the wetland hydrology. The EARD does not include further details so the effectiveness of this mitigation cannot be fully assessed.

- A settling pond (50m x 100m) with collection ditches is proposed to be constructed on site. However, it is unclear on the design standard (e.g., storm event) of the pond so the effectiveness of the pond cannot be fully assessed.
- Water quality measurements were completed for pH, temperature, conductivity/specific conductivity and dissolved oxygen (DO) in the two identified watercourses present in the PDA. Two pH measurements are within the range (6.5-9.0) of Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life (CCME FPAL Guidelines), and one pH measurement is slightly below the CCME FPAL Guidelines in WC2 (WC2-T1, pH=6.4). DO measurements were all above the CCME FPAL Guidelines. However, the exact locations of water sampling locations were not provided to support complete understanding of the measurement results in relation to existing pit activities. Total suspended solids (TSS) which is a typical water quality parameter measured for pit related activities was not included.

## Groundwater

The primary relevant points for groundwater from the proposed expanded aggregate extraction operations are as follows:

- The proponent states they will continue to keep operations above the water table – however, little water table data was provided (no locations or water table elevations).
- There are 4 reported monitoring wells and 4 residential wells currently being monitored. The locations were not provided.
- There are about 10 residential homes to NW that are relatively near the proposed expansion (within 200 m)
- A baseline water well survey for supply wells within 200 m of revised project boundaries – quality and quantity (well records or field tests) should be completed.
- Note that the new expanded operations area for aggregate extraction is a likely recharge area (hill elevation and porous surficial material)
- Concerns related to water quality could occur due to site disturbance from excavation – such as elevated TSS, turbidity, TDS and metals content (i.e. geochemical changes due to oxidation)
- There may be concerns to water quality and water quantity where there are site wetlands. Any wetland alteration will affect local water level conditions in the wetland. These water conditions vary based on local geological conditions and wetland type and could be resulting from either perched water, the groundwater table itself or a combination of both.

- The report (p. 68) states there are 118 wells within a distance of 1 km from the site boundaries. Many of these are to the south, on the other side of the Little Dyke Lake. Residential properties to the NW (about 10) within 200 m do not all show online well records, however it is assumed each will have a water well supply.
- Prior to expansion, a revised monitoring well program should be determined in conjunction with the Department. Although 4 off-site and 4 on-site monitoring wells are apparently monitored (p.69), only brief summaries and neither the data, nor locations were provided in the EARD. As well, water table elevations and seasonal changes were not shown. Additional on-site monitoring wells should be added to the network to assess water table conditions and monitor groundwater quality for the expanded Project Area.
- The EARD (p. 15) states the intention to conduct all operations above the water table. The installation of additional monitoring wells (in the groundwater monitoring program) and determination of true water table location will help ensure this objective. Typically, the Department requires at least 1.0 m separation between the water table and operating quarry floor, although the current approval allows 0.5 m separation. It is important to note that this should be in relation to the maximum seasonal high water table elevation measured in site monitoring wells in the expansion area.
- Mitigations are proposed (p.70) to address potential potable water supply issues that may occur.

## Wetlands

There is not enough information provided in the EARD to predict whether adverse environmental effects on wetlands will occur. The following information was not provided:

- WESP-AC Functional Assessment results were not included for all the wetlands proposed for direct or indirect alteration. Wetlands 3, 4 and 5 did not have WESP-AC functional assessments done. WESP-AC functional assessments (WESP-AC WSS Interpretation Tool) should be completed to determine if wetlands are classified as Wetlands of Special Significance (WSS).
- The total area proposed to be altered to each wetland. There was conflicting information provided in the EARD. In several locations the EARD states that approximately 5.4 Ha of wetland will be altered, but within the potential environmental effects section of the report it states that 2.43 Ha will be altered. It is unclear if this was an error in the environmental effects section.
- Mitigation and monitoring for partially altered wetlands were not included.
- In the water balance analysis, it mentions the potential for a 30% reduction of

surface water contributing to wetland 6 (Ducks Unlimited wetland) which extends off the property. This would be a considerable change in flow and could cause indirect impacts to the wetland. For any wetlands that could be impacted on adjacent land, wetland mitigation and monitoring would be required in addition to landowner permission, if impacts are likely.

- Wetland 7 is considered a Wetland of Special Significance (WSS) based on the presence of black ash and Canada warbler. Within the EARD, there is mention of possible indirect alteration to occur to this wetland. The proponent should confirm that no alterations will occur to wetland 7.

Additionally, the EARD does not provide rationale for the avoidance of the wetlands. WL 1 is a large bog that is 3.93 Ha and WL 4 is a large bog/treed swamp complex. Bogs are rainwater fed and contain deep (usually 1m+) of peat. These wetlands have many benefits within the watershed including carbon sequestration, sediment retention, nitrate removal, phosphorus retention, water storage, biodiversity and more. Detailed information was not provided on the alteration of these wetlands including the depth of peat, removal of peat and amount of aggregate and sand below the peat to make alteration feasible, how the surface water would be managed, and if they would be digging below the groundwater table. The proponent should provide rationale for why wetlands are not being avoided.

### **Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)**

#### **Surface Water**

On-going assessment of the retaining and infiltrating capacity of the pit floor should be completed and include information regarding representative precipitation events (i.e., 1-in-100-year 24-hour flood event, or appropriately defined event in consideration of the climate change strategy mentioned in the EARD), to support planning of appropriate surface water management measures.

Surface water quantity (e.g., water levels) for the DUC pond system should be monitored during the expansion to inform appropriate mitigation measures. The monitoring plan should include appropriately defined background conditions, and monitoring frequencies to assess impact.

A detailed surface water management, and erosion and sediment control plan should be developed by a qualified professional prior to the expansion of the pit. These plans should outline the design basis for the surface water management features (e.g., existing and proposed ditches), and additional details of the proposed settling pond (e.g., design standard) and associated surface water conveyance structures for onsite water diversion.

While the design proposes a closed system for managing surface water on the site, any discharges of surface water runoff to nearby watercourses should be characterized and compared against applicable water quality guidelines and should include any discharges directed to the DUC marsh. TSS should be included in water quality measurements.

## Groundwater

As the proponent states they will conduct all operations above the water table this reduces substantially any concerns about altering groundwater quantity/flows. However due to altered recharge conditions and reduction of water storage in soil organic layers, there could be impacts.

Groundwater quality is relatively susceptible to impacts in the shallow, alluvial/glaciofluvial aquifer. However, impacts due to operations (outside of potential for hydrocarbon spills) are likely to be low. Any turbidity (or Total Suspended Solids TSS) impacts from physical disturbance and possible precipitation infiltration are likely to be quickly attenuated in the subsurface. Other changes are likely to be minor, based on geochemical effects of removing overlying soil organic filtration layers.

- As most of the local residential wells are deeper, drilled wells, and not dug wells in the surficial aquifer, risks of water quality impacts are low. However, due to the proximity to homes (within 100-200 m) in the NW area, it will be prudent to conduct water quality sampling of water supplies at these locations to establish baseline conditions, before any significant activity occurs.
- As the site is being expanded, the groundwater monitoring network should be expanded to ensure water table conditions in the new aggregate extraction areas are understood and operations will not occur within the previously established limit of 0.5 m above seasonal high-water table. A map should be provided showing all of the monitoring locations (monitoring wells and residential wells).

## Wetlands

The information provided in the EARD is insufficient in identifying the potential environmental impacts on wetlands. Wetland delineations and WESP-AC functional assessments should be completed for all wetlands that could be altered directly or indirectly. The proponent should complete delineations and WESP-AC functional assessments for all wetlands within the EA study area and confirm which ones are considered wetlands of special significance. The proponent should also submit a Wetland Alteration Approval Application for review and approval for any wetlands proposed to be directly or indirectly altered and complete any necessary compensation and monitoring. The proponent should utilize Nova Scotia's Wetland Alteration Application's Guided Template for the permit applications.

Date: June 25, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

Subject: Pit No.4 Extension (Osco Aggregates Limited), Glenholme, Colchester County

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: authorities and approvals required from the Land Services Branch, geoscience health and safety, mineral exploration, mineral development, abandoned mines, biodiversity, species at risk, wildlife and wildlife habitat.

**List of Documents Reviewed:**

**Forestry and Wildlife Branch:**

- Environmental Assessment Registration – Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme, Colchester County, and Appendices.

**Land Services Branch:**

- Environmental Assessment Registration Document
- Appendices A-E
- GIS shapefiles

**Geoscience and Mines Branch:**

- Project E.A. document
- NS Mineral Occurrence Database
- Nova Scotia Geoscience Atlas
- NovaROC: Mineral Rights Online Registry System

## **Details of Technical Review:**

### **Forestry and Wildlife Branch:**

Overall, the OSCO Aggregates Limited, Pit No. 4 Expansion in Glenholme, Colchester County, prepared by Dillon Consulting is a comprehensive document and of sufficient quality to assess risks to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

The project site falls within the boundaries of Federal Critical Habitat for inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon associated with the Folly River water system. Although Atlantic Salmon were not identified during surveys, it was confirmed that potential suitable habitat is within WC1. In addition, it is noted that the tributaries to McCurdy Creek and the DUC Pond are expected to be typical of small streams in the area and include brook trout, American eel, and a variety of minnow species. The proponent should ensure activities do not impact critical habitat quality and function through appropriate mitigations.

There are 2 SAR occurrences associated with wetlands within the project area including Black Ash and Canada Warbler (WL7/8). WL7 is identified as a Wetland of Special Significance (WSS) under NSECC Provincial Wetlands Conservation Policy. The PDA encroaches within 30m of WL7, mitigations are lacking details, and should be in line with the Black Ash recovery document, which suggests black ash polygons [locations] should be re-buffered by 100 m to protect wetland boundaries and account for uncertainty in available map layers; and individual records should be buffered by 200 m to protect seed dispersal distances around individual trees.

It is understood that eight wetlands are within the LAA, however, four of them currently have no planned direct alterations (no activities planned within 30m). Overall, 5.41 ha of wetlands are proposed to be directly altered by project activities. Only wetlands present entirely within the PDA or the portion within the boundaries were assessed. A complete comprehensive functional assessment requires assessment of wetlands within the boundaries and on neighbouring properties. Functional assessments for remaining wetlands should be completed prior to construction, operations, and development of a Wildlife Management Plan.

Other notable features within proximity to the PDA includes the DUC Pond, and Little Dyke Lake. The DUC Pond is directly southwest and borders approximately 500m of the project property with a small portion of the western part of the PDA draining toward the pond. The DUC Pond supports many functions and values including but not limited to common loon nesting, bank swallow foraging, bald eagle habitat, and snapping turtle habitat. The southern end of the pond has historically been modified for managing water levels. Locals birdwatch, hunt, and trap in this area. Little Dyke Lake is a small lake with a community of permanent and seasonal residents. Loons and bald eagles are common visitors/residents here.

The NSECC Wetland Specialist can provide expertise around the WSS and the wetland complexes and how the project may influence these ecosystems and processes, and ensure they are not negatively impacted. It is noted that the project will result in a change in both surface water and groundwater flow across the landscape as a result of the impact to on-site wetlands, one watercourse, and the development of an open pit.



Overall, survey and monitoring are largely consistent with current best practices, however, effective wetlands and SAR mitigations are lacking and should be detailed in the Wildlife Management Plan. Additionally, several conclusions of minimal or negligible impacts to wetlands and SAR, including impacts to surface and ground water, are made without sufficient supporting information, specifically in areas adjacent to wetlands.

The 2023 bird spring migration and summer breeding surveys were provided, supplemented with 2016/17 results. A nightjar survey was completed, however, there were no specific surveys described for bald eagle or owls. Historic observations of bald eagle nesting are documented in the area as noted in the report. Common Loons were noted during non-directed surveys. Loon nesting has been consistent on both Little Dyke Lake and the DUC Pond for many years and tracked by residents. Impacts of drainage into the DUC Pond from adjacent project activities could impact loons. Additional information on eagle, owl, and loon surveys would be helpful in the assessment to ensure appropriate mitigations are developed.

The Potential Cumulative Environmental Effects section (EARD Section 10) provides little detail relevant to understanding the compounding complex range of issues that this subject warrants and the extent of potential adverse effects was not able to be determined.

#### **Land Services Branch:**

The Project is located on private land. The Project does not include Crown lands and does not join Crown lands. No authorities or approvals are required from the Land Services Branch unless the scope of the project changes to include Crown lands.

#### **Geoscience and Mines Branch:**

It has been confirmed, as stated in the report, the potential for acid rock drainage (ARD) is minimal with no known occurrences of acid generating rocks in the area as highlighted on the Nova Scotia Geoscience Atlas for the Glenholme area. There are also no active mineral exploration licences or mineral occurrences in the vicinity.

#### **Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)**

#### **Forestry and Wildlife Branch:**

Based upon a review of the information submitted, the following recommendations are provided:

- Obtain all necessary permits to undertake the project as required under legislation related to wildlife, species at risk, watercourses and wildlife habitat alterations.
- Provide digital waypoints and/or shapefiles for all species detected during flora and fauna surveys, including Species at Risk and Species of Conservation Concern to NRR (those species listed and/or assessed as at risk under the *Species at Risk Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, COSEWIC, as well as all S1, S2 and S3 species). Data should adhere to the format prescribed in the NRR

Template for Species Submissions for EAs and is to be provided within two (2) months of collection.

- Develop a Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) in consultation with DNRR and ECCC which shall:
  - Communication protocol with regulatory agencies.
  - Identify general wildlife concerns (e.g., human-wildlife conflict avoidance).
  - Develop education sessions and materials for project personnel on Species at Risk, non-Species at Risk-wildlife, and other important biodiversity features they may encounter on-site and how to appropriately respond to those encounters.
  - Determine noise, dust, lighting, blasting, and herbicide use mitigations.
  - Develop emergency response plans for accidental spills, pollution, chemical exposure, and fire.
  - Apply best management practices to prevent erosion, and sedimentation from entering any watercourses or wetlands.
  - Apply standard best management practices for any material stockpiles to avoid creating artificial habitat for wildlife.
  - Quarries and borrow pits are known to provide suitable habitat for nesting turtles with and with proximity to potential turtle habitat (DUC Pond, etc.) turtles may have a presence here. Develop an annual turtle nesting monitoring plan is recommended to protect and mitigate against potential impacts to nesting or hatchling turtles in the project area. This will identify needs around use of turtle exclusion fencing or other measures to reduce the potential for access to nesting.
  - Initiate measures to protect and mitigate against adverse effects to migratory birds during construction and operation. The incidental take of migratory birds, as well as their nests and/or eggs, is not permitted under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and the *NS Wildlife Act*. Mitigations include avoidance of certain activities (such as vegetation clearing) during the regional nesting period for most birds, buffer zones around discovered nests, limiting activities during the breeding season around active nests, restricting lighting use at night during seasonal migration periods, and other best management practices.
  - Identify mitigation measures consistent with recovery documents (federal and/or provincial recovery and management plans, COSEWIC status reports) to avoid and/or protect Species at Risk/Species of Conservation Concern discovered or with the potential to be found in the Study Area, including mitigations to avoid the destruction of critical and core habitat.
  - Identify monitoring and mitigation measures for bank swallows to ensure any stockpiles or banks have a slope of less than 70 degrees to deter bank swallow nesting in high disturbance areas.
  - Ensure areas of avoidance or mitigation are clearly flagged and visible to workers.
  - Ensure standard practices are established during development, construction, and operation of the site to prevent wildlife interactions that may result in

entanglement, entrapment, or injury. As part of daily operations staff should be trained to survey the site, identify issues, and consult, as appropriate, for solutions when wildlife is found to be utilizing artificial or existing habitat conditions during the operation of the site.

- Make sure details on monitoring and inspections to assess compliance with the WMP.
- Employ standard operational practices to minimize external lighting during night-time operations to mitigate potential influence on the behaviour of migratory birds including but not limited to, the use of directional lighting projected downward, eliminate all unnecessary lighting and cover only the areas needing illumination.
- In consultation with NRR, establish a plan to revegetate areas that are no longer operational with native plant species to aid in the control of invasive species.
- Provide a decommissioning and site reclamation plan and reclaim site in consultation with NRR at the end of project.
- Describe the impacts of the project on landscape-level connectivity for wildlife and habitat (e.g., habitat fragmentation, loss of intact forested habitat, increased road density). Include an assessment of the cumulative effects of the project on landscape-level connectivity and habitat loss, and the measures proposed to mitigate those effects.
- Recommendations specific to this project:
  - For Species at Risk detected (Black Ash, Canada Warbler), mitigation should be in line with recovery documents to ensure indirect and direct impacts are appropriately mitigated.
  - Provide full functional assessments for all wetlands within the project area, including wetlands along the boundary (no activities planned within 30m) and adjacent properties.
  - Conduct surveys for bald eagles, owls, and loons, and monitoring plans to protect and mitigate against potential impacts from project activities.

#### **Land Services Branch:**

No further comments.

#### **Geoscience and Mines Branch:**

No considerations to offer on this EARD.

Date: June 26, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Environmental Health Consultant, Environmental Health and Food Safety Branch,  
Sustainability and Applied Science Division.

Subject: Pit No.4 Extension (Osco Aggregates Limited), Glenholme, Colchester County

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: Protecting human health from environmental hazards.

**List of Documents Reviewed:**

EARD – Pit No. 4 Extension – Glenholme, Colchester County, NS

**Air Quality**

The EARD describes how air quality could be negatively impacted by project related activities and acknowledges the relationship between air quality and human health.

The Project has undertaken work to assess baseline air quality in the vicinity of the undertaking.

The Project has identified mitigation measures to minimize project related impacts on air quality.

**Acoustic Environment**

As stated in the EARD, the acoustic environment has been selected as a VEC because it contributes to the health and well-being of humans. The Project has determined there are approximately 60 residences within 500 m of the proposed Project boundaries.

The Project has undertaken noise monitoring to establish baseline noise levels at properties closest to the project boundaries.

The Project has described how activities may interact with the acoustic environment.

The Project has identified a number of mitigation measures to minimize project related effects on the acoustic environment.

**Water Wells**

The potential for the project to interact with the quality and quantity of surface and ground water resources have been described for the project, and mitigation measures identified.

118 wells were identified within 1km of the study area. Section 6.3.2.2 of the EARP states that,

“Well records indicate that the majority of the wells have been installed for domestic purposes...and that one well was identified as an irrigation well.”

Section 6.8.3, Pg. 112 of the EARP states,

“The Project may indirectly affect local agriculture if surface or groundwater resources are adversely affected because of Project activities as those water sources may be used for irrigation.”

**Key Considerations:**

There are no specific concerns or issues from an environmental health perspective in relation to this proposed project, based on a review of the EARD.

## Fisheries and Aquaculture

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Date: June 25, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Lesley O'Brien-Latham, Executive Director, Policy and Strategic Advisory Services

Subject: Pit No.4 Extension (Osco Aggregates Limited), Glenholme, Colchester County

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### Scope of review:

The scope of this review follows the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture's legislated mandate to develop, promote and support fishing, aquaculture, seafood processing and sportfishing in Nova Scotia.

### List of Documents Reviewed:

OSCO AGGREGATES LIMITED Environmental Assessment Registration Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme, Colchester County, Nova Scotia (p4e-ea-registration-document.pdf)

Fish and Fish Habitat sections 5.1.4 page 43

Water resources and Wetlands page 43

Appendix

Fish and Fish Habitat sections 6.4 pages 72-80

### Details of Technical Review:

There are a total of 0 rockweed leases and 1 aquaculture site within 25km of the proposed project. Of these, 0 are marine shellfish sites, 0 are marine finfish sites, and 1 is a land-based aquaculture facility.

The Proponent outlines mitigation measures and monitoring with respect to sedimentation, water withdrawal or discharge that would impact water amounts and quality at land-based facilities. If these measures are appropriately followed, the risks of potential negative effects on aquaculture sites are expected to be low. If power disruptions are going to occur, the applicant would need to update their plans and provide appropriate mitigations to the Department of Environment and Climate Change for review by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The Project proponent should be made aware of the [Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act](#), Provincial [Aquaculture License and Lease Regulations](#), Provincial [Aquaculture Management Regulations](#), and the [Nova Scotia Rock Weed Harvesting Regulations](#). They should also be directed to the Department's [Site Mapping Tool](#) for more information on the location of sites and leases in the area of their proposed project.

There is one licensed NS marine commercial fisheries buyer/processor located within Colchester County where the proposed pit expansion is to be located. Activities deriving from the proposed pit expansion are not expected to pose any negative impact to the

operations of this facility.

The waters adjacent to the proposed site are known as Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 35. Fishing in LFA 35 occurs from October 14th to December 31st and open again from the last day in February until July 31st, respectively. As the project is land-based with no proposed marine activities, it is not expected to pose negative impacts to lobster and other commercial marine fisheries adjacent to the proposed site.

There is communal-commercial, Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC), and livelihood fishing conducted within LFA 35 in the waters adjacent to the proposed site. The indigenous communities, Sipekne'katik First Nation, and Millbrook First Nation, located adjacent to the proposed site, possess access rights ((via licences granted by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans) to pursue lobster fishing in LFA 35. As the project is land-based with no proposed marine activities, it is not expected to pose any negative impacts to the lobster and other commercial marine fisheries (harvested by Sipekne'katik First Nation and Millbrook First Nation) adjacent to the proposed site.

Summary page 80:

*'In light of the potential residual effects outlined above, and with the implementation of other mitigation measures aimed at reducing or minimizing environmental effects on fish and fish habitat, the residual environmental effects of the Project on fish and fish habitat during all phases are rated not significant, with a high level of confidence. No follow-up or monitoring is proposed.'*

**Fish and fish habitat evaluation:**

Two small streams flow through the proposed expansion of the pit (WC1 and WC2). WC1 has a wetted width of 2 m and fish were observed (probably brook trout). Water quality information provided in section 6.4 indicated parameters that are conducive to trout production (pH 7.5, water temp 15C, high Dissolved Oxygen value. WC1 is small (wetted with 0.5m) and was described as ephemeral and was warmer (19.2C) than WC1.

Visual observations along with water quality assessments outlined in the EA registration document provide evidence of fish habitat in WC1.

**Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)**

- Potential adverse impacts on the aquaculture and rockweed harvesting industries are expected to be minimal provided that the monitoring and mitigation measures identified by the proponent are effectively implemented.
- The Department does not anticipate risks to commercial fishing or marine activities within the Department's mandate as the project is land-based.
- Sections of streams (WC1 and WC2) were observed to have fish habitat or be conducive to fish habitat. NSDFA best practices for identifying fish habitat and

establishing a baseline of fish presence or densities is to conduct an electrofishing survey. The proponents conducted visual observations and water quality assessments. Electrofishing surveys or other methods (such as fyke nets or seines) to validate fish presence and densities were not referenced/conducted.

- Potential adverse impacts to fish habitat and the sportfishery if mitigative measures are not employed. The fish and fish habitat evaluations conducted by the proponent confirm fish habitat, however the proposed mitigative measures in section 6.4.4 of the EA registration suggest minimal efforts to protect the riparian area. Prior to commencement of work, NSDFA requests that the proponent communicate with Inland Fisheries experts in the Department to identify risks to fish and fish habitat and appropriate mitigations in the riparian area.



Date: June 28, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: ECC ICE Division

Subject: Pit No.4 Extension (Osco Aggregates Limited), Glenholme, Colchester County

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**Scope of review:**

This review focuses on the following mandate: regulatory compliance

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**List of Documents Reviewed:**

- OSCO Aggregates Limited Pit No.4 extension, Glenholme, Colchester County, NS Environmental Assessment registration document June 2024- 23-6113

**Details of Technical Review:**

The registration document was reviewed and the following potential regulatory points were noted:

1. The document makes several references to the Pit4 expansion having the capacity to process off-site material. The processing of off-site aggregate is not typically permitted by ECC. The current IA does not permit this activity,
2. Section 2.3.2 indicates “a berm will be constructed on the western portion of PID 20499745 and 20434193, the portion of the PID that is adjacent to the residents”. Additional details will be required to verify compliance with IA.
3. The expansion project indicates the proposed expansion will result in the “direct loss of wetland area or function for those wetlands within the PDA that will be subject to Project activities such as site clearing, grubbing, and construction of infrastructure, access roads, and extraction of aggregate materials.” Table 6.9 and Section 6.5.3 shows the wetland area to be altered is 5.41ha, however section 6.5.5 references a direct loss of 2.43ha. The Nova Scotia Wetland Conservation Policy has a goal of achieving no net loss of wetland function and requires all projects that will negatively affect wetland areas or function to submit an application through the Wetland Alteration Approval process with a detailed compensation plan,
4. The document proposes a new entrance to Pit4 on Little Dyke Road (current entrance is also on Little Dyke Road located nearer to Pit2). The new entrance requires the alteration of a watercourse and a wetland. Each of these alterations would require an Approval.
5. The document proposes construction of an 1800 m<sup>3</sup> pond for a water source for the electric plant. This activity will require regulatory approval before excavating into the water table and may also require a water withdrawal approval during operation of the plant.

6. The document proposes the addition of fuel storages tanks within Pit4. The proposed 4500L above ground storage tank will require registration with the Department as per the Petroleum Management Regulations.
7. Section 6.2.1 references sound level limits and monitoring. This operation will need to comply with the new Guidelines for Noise Monitoring and Assessment (2023) and not the Pit and Quarry Guidelines noise limits as referenced in the document.
8. The document discussed storm water management for the site and indicated pooling water was not expected to be an issue. The document made a couple of statements in the case of extreme weather events where storm water may be discharged into 'naturally wetted areas' and/or directed off property. Neither of these practices comply with the Act and Regulations.
9. Section 6.3.5 states "surface water contained within wetlands and unnamed watercourses within the project area will be drained and may not return to current conditions." This activity requires an Approval prior to commencing the activity.

**Key Considerations: (provide in non-technical language)**

- An amendment to the IA for the site (2008-060731-06) will be required for the Pit No.4 expansion should the project be approved.
- The proponent has proposed multiple watercourse and/ or wetland alterations within the expansion project. These Approvals will need to be acquired prior to commencing each specific activity.

**Agriculture**

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Date: June 27, 2024

To: Allison Fitzpatrick, Environmental Assessment Officer

From: Heather Hughes, Executive Director, Policy and Corporate Services,  
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Subject: Pit No. 4 Extension  
Glenholme, Colchester County, Nova Scotia

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the documents for the above-noted project.

Departmental review of the project documents has identified the following:

- The proposed expansion area is located on class 3 land, which has a restricted range of potential crops or requires special conservation practices.
- There are 13 registered farms within a 3 km boundary of the proposed expansion area. With 3 of these registered farms located between 350 m and 650 m away from the proposed expansion area.
- The proposed expansion area borders agricultural land at three sections, all of which are classed as 'field crop'. Additionally, the proposed expansion area covers a small section of 'field crop' classed land.
- At its southern border, the proposed expansion area borders the Glenholme Marsh Body and intersects with the marsh body in one section. This should be considered under the *Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act*.
- The decrease in proximity between pit operation and agricultural land could result in:
  - the dust from pit operation settling onto nearby soft fruit operations;
  - exposure of fruit harvesting workers to increased noise levels from pit operation; and
  - potential for water usage issues in the area, as irrigation is critical for strawberry production.

The Department has concerns with the proposed project given that protection of agricultural land is a key priority for the industry and is reflected in the Nova Scotia Statement of Provincial Interest for Agriculture.



Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office

**Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative**

Our Rights. Our Future.

75 Treaty Trail  
Truro, NS B6L 1W3

**Tel** (902) 843 3880 **Fax** (902) 843 3882

**Toll Free** 1 888 803 3880

**Email** [info@mikmaqrights.com](mailto:info@mikmaqrights.com)

**www.mikmaqrights.com**

July 11, 2024

Allison Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, EA Branch  
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[allison.fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca](mailto:allison.fitzpatrick@novascotia.ca)

**RE: Consultation with the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia on the OSCO Pit No. 4 Extension Project, Glenholme, Colchester County.**

I write in response to your letter dated June 4, 2024 requesting consultation under the *Terms of Reference for a Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Process* (ToR) as ratified on August 31, 2010, on the above noted project. We wish to proceed with consultation.

**EA Review**

Our team at Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn has reviewed the EA registration, Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme, Colchester County, Nova Scotia: Registration Document for a Class 1 Undertaking Under Section 9 (1) of the Nova Scotia Environment Assessment Regulation Quarry Review and has found that values and concerns have not fully been addressed.

**3.0 Indigenous and Public Engagement**

The proponent neglected to engage early with the KMKNO and we would encourage them to engage early and often in the future. Additionally, we would encourage the proponent to engage early with all communities in Mi'kma'ki and Unama'ki.

Has a Mi'kmaw Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) been conducted? If not, one is requested that one is completed prior to expansion approval.

**6.1 Atmospheric Environment**

**Air Quality**

Contamination of food sources for fauna and Mi'kmaq harvesters is a major concern with particulate. How can the proponent and the province guarantee these food sources will not become contaminated? What are the proposed monitoring locations for particulate? Have there been exceedances of the current limits outlined in the Industrial Approval? There are concerns with cumulative effects of particulate over the lifespan of the project. There are several watercourses near the project area, how does the proponent plan to monitor the health of these

watercourses to ensure particulate does not adversely affect fish and fish habitat? The Mi'kmaq expect to be included in the development of a monitoring plan through comment and review.

Will monitoring for NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> be conducted onsite? It is recommended that monitoring locations be established.

### Light

Over 70% of avian species are at night, with 30% relying solely on an undisrupted nighttime ecology. In addition to this, over half of the insect population is nocturnal. Lighting in remote areas significantly and negatively alters the performance of the night ecology in that area. Dark sites are becoming less, it is important to acknowledge this moving forward on any and all development. Hence, we are recommended that night lighting be limited and/ or amber or red lighting be used.

## **6.2 Acoustic Environment**

Have there been studies conducted to assess how noise will affect local wildlife? If so, please provide for our review. Particular attention should be paid to fish and fish habitat.

Will additional noise monitoring locations be established with the expansion? If so, where are the proposed locations?

## **6.3 Water Resources (Surface Water and Groundwater)**

It is expected that the Surface Water Management Plan, Groundwater Management Plan and Environmental Protection Plan will be developed with input from the Mi'kmaq through review and comment.

## **6.4 Fish and Fish Habitat**

Any effects to fish and fish habitat are effects to Mi'kmaq rights. Section 6.4.6 states that, "no follow up monitoring is proposed". The Mi'kmaq disagree with this assessment due to the presence of fish and fish habitat particularly viable salmon habitat. It is recommended that monitoring of watercourses continue through the life of the project to ensure that no harm come to fish and fish habitat. It is also encouraged to set the boundary at 50 metres from the watercourse rather than the regulated 30 metres.

## **6.5 Wetlands**

Wetlands support thousands of aquatic, terrestrial, and flora species. In addition to playing an important role for Mi'kmaw who inhabited and steward the forest since time immemorial, they are essential for maintaining a healthy biodiversity within and over arching ecosystem. It is expected that a Wetland Monitoring and Compensation Plan will be developed with input from the Mi'kmaq through review and comment.

## **6.6 Vegetation**

In this document forestry activities such as clearcutting has been noted. Forest harvests, regardless of type of prescription, are still considered to be a renewable resource. Meaning that land will naturally regenerate and become a valuable and productive member of that ecosystem in a relatively short period of time, months, with minor successional species acting as a food source, capturing carbon, and providing sedimentation control, while young and mature forest significantly increase these attributes within 10 years of a harvest. Therefore “clearcutting”, which has not been permitted since June of 2022, is not justification to significantly alter a site in the long term or permanently.

Section 6.6.6 states that “No follow-up or monitoring is proposed”, when referring to Wetland 7. Due to the presence of SOCC and Black Ash, it is recommended that Wetland 7 be included in the Wetland Monitoring and Compensation Plan to ensure no harm comes to these species as an indirect result of the project expansion.

## **6.7 Wildlife**

It is expected that the Wildlife Management Plan will be developed with input from the Mi’kmaq through review and comment.

### **Additional Questions**

- Have any bat hibernacula been identified near the project area?
- How does the proponent plan to prevent Bank Swallows from nesting in stockpiles?

## **6.9 Archaeology**

The KMKNO Archaeology Research Division (ARD) has reviewed an Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment (ARIA), A2023NS149, for the OSCO Pit No. 4 Extension Project located in Colchester County. The ARIA was conducted by Cultural Resource Management Group Limited (CRM Group) involving a background study, field reconnaissance, and exploratory shovel testing designed to “investigate the depth and composition of sediment stratigraphy within the Study Area. The tests helped to evaluate the area’s surficial geology and archaeological potential” (CRM Group, A2023NS149: 38). The results of the study and shovel testing determined that no areas of high potential were identified in the Study Area. Results described the Study Area as “consist[ing] largely of heavily impacted areas” caused by forestry and agricultural activity and through levelling caused by “vehicle tracking and farming” (CRM

Group, A2023NS149: 48). Therefore, the Study Area was ascribed as low potential and cleared of the requirement for any additional archaeological investigations.

Mi'kmaw archaeological sites have developed since time immemorial and may not be identified from the surface character of the current landscape, disturbed or undisturbed, one cannot conclusively eliminate potential for Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage without subsurface testing. Although four shovel tests, strategically placed within the Study Area to understand soil profiles of disturbed areas and upland areas near wetlands, did provide some insight to the subsurface environment pertaining to disturbance, it is not sufficient to evaluate archaeological potential (CRM Group, A2023NS149: 38-45). Specifically, to clearly eliminate the presence of Mi'kmaw cultural heritage since time immemorial.

We consistently recommend in areas that will undergo impact, that subsurface testing be undertaken to confirm the presence, or lack of presence, of archaeological heritage. This is especially important in landscapes which will undergo significant permanent mechanical alteration associated with quarry activities. We wish to clarify that negative tests and negative evidence are considered relevant and important data, regardless of suspected disturbances or classifications of low potential to exhibit archaeological resources.

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs expects a high level of archaeological diligence with evidence-based decisions grounded in an understanding of the subsurface environmental data. The Maw-lukutijik Saqmaq (Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs) expects subsurface data, adequate to eliminate concern for presence, protection, and management of Mi'kmaw archaeological and cultural heritage as part of assessment of potential in advance of any development. Disturbance is defined, for archaeological purposes, as the dislocation of soils and/or sediments, such as that by heavily treaded or tracked vehicles, as well as purposeful excavation by heavy equipment.

We would recommend that all areas impacted be subjected to shovel testing prior to any development (both high and low potential areas) to eliminate concern for presence, protection, and management of Mi'kmaw archaeological and cultural heritage as part of assessment. We strongly recommend subsurface data, adequate to eliminate concern for presence, protection, and management of Mi'kmaw archaeological and cultural heritage as part of assessment of potential in advance of any development. Without subsurface testing, the evidence of a lack of concern in impact areas does not exist. We wish to clarify that negative tests and negative evidence are considered relevant and important data.

## **6.10 Traditional land and Resource Use**

It is recommended that a Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study (MEKS) be undertaken. Additionally, as stated previously in this response, it is recommended that the proponent engage early with all Mi'kmaq communities in Mi'kma'ki and Unama'ki.

Finally, the Mi'kmaw Nation in Nova Scotia has a general interest in all lands, waters and resources in Nova Scotia as the Mi'kmaq have never surrendered, ceded, or sold the Aboriginal

Title to any of its lands in Nova Scotia. The Mi'kmaq have a Title claim to all of Nova Scotia and as co-owners of the land and its resources it is expected that any potential impacts to Rights and Title shall be addressed.

Yours in Recognition of Mi'kmaq Rights and Title,

Director of Consultation  
Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuaqn Negotiation Office

Kendra Gorgeatt, Nova Scotia Office of L'nu Affairs  
Jeremy Higgins, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change  
Michael McLean, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division  
Barry Gillis, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division  
Paul Jones, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division  
Jennifer Lonergan, Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change, ICE Division



June 10, 2024

Re: OSCO Aggregates Limited Pit #4 Extension Project

To Whom It May Concern,

When is one more gravel pit in Little Dyke going to be one too many?

Historically, Little Dyke was a combination of farm fields, dyke land, forested wetlands and a lakeside seasonal recreational area. This rural community is situated on a small 5 km horseshoe-shaped loop. In addition to Little Dyke Lake, this loop also hosts a large Ducks Unlimited Pond and public beach access to Little Dyke Beach. Within the centre of this loop is expansive wetlands, kept saturated by the vast network of water tributaries (many circulating beneath ground surface) surrounding it.

Through the years, agricultural farmland in this area continues to be rapidly consumed by large gravel pit excavations. Seasonal accommodations are now permanent year-round residences. This proponent, OSCO Aggregates Limited, has already established 4 large existing gravel extraction pits here. There is also a provincial Department of Transportation highway pit, multiple privately-owned excavations and a commercially owned pit used by a local paving company - all located within this small community as well. Unlike sustainable food crop plantings, gravel is a non-renewable resource!

This proposed extension project would be OSCO's excavation #5. The property is located directly in residential backyards on land property owners had initially advised residents would be cultivated for blueberry fields. The land has recently been clear cut of existing forestry resources. Once neighbouring residential property boundary setbacks and necessary berm construction sizes have been established, and conscientious consideration given to the close proximity of surrounding wetlands on the northside border of this proposed excavation site, I truly fear this project will serve as one huge, noisy, dusty, flooded mess created for very minimal gain. The proponent's adjacent Pit #4 has consistently breached the water table at the northern edge of the property because of close proximity to wetlands.

Silica dust (crystalline silica) blankets residential properties, farm produce fields (including silage fodder for livestock herds), blueberry crops and the ecologically-sensitive environments of Little Dyke Lake, affiliated water tributaries and surrounding wetlands. Dust is continuously released into the atmosphere when stones are dug, crushed/screened, and constantly being moved around by all of the necessary equipment/vehicles involved in this open pit mining process. The entire area and every living organism in it are completely at the mercy of being health-compromised by these ongoing year-long gravel excavation activities.

I believe the following question deserves respectful consideration by all parties involved with this application: which of the following two solutions would be easier to accomplish?

- a) Relocation of a gravel excavation operation (all mobile components) to an alternative site elsewhere.
- b) Relocation of a lake, a sizable Ducks Unlimited pond, a vast network of water tributaries which keep surrounding wetlands saturated, an extensive family farm (Millen Farms) operation that has historically been providing local food supplies for almost 50 years, and an entire community of residents no longer able to enjoy their quiet rural properties.

I believe option a) would seem the most obvious logical choice! OSCO Aggregates Limited is self-proclaimed to be an environmentally-conscious corporation. Therefore, I trust they, too, will deem relocation to an alternative site a more astute and professional business decision.

Respectfully,

Cc Colchester North MLA, Tom Taggart  
Cc District 10 Colchester County Councillor, Victoria Lomond

**From:**  
**To:** [ssment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** OSCO Pit 4 Extension Project  
**Date:** June 14, 2024 12:11:38 PM

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## **OSCO PIT 4 EXTENSION APPLICATION IS CORPORATE BULLYING.**

Why are the innocent tax paying residents of this small community allowed to continuously be assaulted by whatever mess of projects this large greedy wealthy corporation feels like making? Are the many residents who actually live here not important Nova Scotia citizens? All of us contribute far more to the daily welfare and economy of this local area than anything this corporation has contributed. It is appalling that this bullying is permitted to happen over and over again too many times! Perhaps Mr. J. Irving would like to give up his own current residence for a beautiful property here in Little Dyke right next to these huge gravel pit messes he seems to think we won't mind him making.

Attaching terms and conditions to conditional approvals by the Department of Environment and Climate Change is useless. When control is given to these large corporations to do their own self-monitoring measures for noise monitoring, water sampling, hours of operation, etc., it is guaranteed all of that is being done at optimal times of day, month, year and at locations selected most convenient for the industry's benefits. OSCO does sound monitoring right beside our property so I know it is only being done at times when there is hardly any truck traffic and no gravel crusher or wash plant even operating.

### **CONDITIONAL TERMS MUST BE COMPLETED BY INDEPENDENT SOURCES.**

Has OSCO head office ever done an internal review or audit of their Glenholme site's financial records to see how many people they're paying wages to that are also getting paid for driving personal dump trucks on company time? Are they, technically, getting paid double? No wonder there never seems to be enough employees in the organization available to keep our public roads swept clear of all the gravel debris continuously being spilled on community roadways.

This entire community is being held hostage by whatever demands this big corporation wants! They want to "grow" the excavations here but in truth, more gravel can never be grown to replace all that they have already removed..

## **TIME TO MOVE THIS OSCO OPERATION SOMEWHERE ELSE!**

Thank you,

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments  
**Date:** June 18, 2024 12:02:34 PM

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: My husband and I are very much against this expansion for many reasons. #1 Our health - yes we have read the negative health impact from being so close to this project. #2 - Our quality of life - what was thought of as cottage country and farm land is now morphed into a huge commercial pit with noise almost constant with no regard to the local residents quality of life. #3 Safety of our grandchildren with the increased traffic and speed of those trucks that operate for the pit - on Little Dyke Road. Name: e

Email: @gmail.com Address:

Municipality: email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 61 y:

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** OSCO Aggregates Ltd. Pit 4 Extension Project  
**Date:** June 20, 2024 11:03:19 AM

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<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/water-overview/pollution-causes-effects/groundwater-contamination.html>

## **Groundwater Contamination**

(paragraph 3, Section 1: How we Contaminate Groundwater)

*“Among the more significant point sources are municipal landfills and industrial waste disposal sites. When either of these occur in or near sand and gravel aquifers, the potential for widespread contamination is the greatest.”*

OSCO Aggregates Ltd. gravel excavation sites in Little Dyke are all sand and gravel aquifers.

Cleverly creative wordsmithing submitted by this EA consultant firm cannot cover up nor should it be permitted to casually dismiss federally-recognized factual truths and concerns as “insignificant”.

OSCO’s existing Pit 4 (118 acres) has been excavated to the point it now sits directly on the water table! Yet, they are proposing to further construct an industrial wash plant, a permanent crusher operation and establish sediment settling ponds (*ie, industrial waste disposal site*) on top of that water table too?! Incredulous to even try to rationalise or comprehend the logic of that decision!

The more I read about significant risks this proponent’s extension project will entail for our entire community’s health and welfare, the

more increasingly worried I become!

Our Canadian federal environment department recognizes and specifically addresses water contamination issues this country is challenged with. I believe local municipal and provincial decision makers should too.

Respectfully,

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments  
**Date:** June 20, 2024 2:24:15 PM

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**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: These gravel pit operations have no place in a residential community. Literally digging up people's backyards for profit and then after thirty years there is still no reclamation carried out? Just check the google earth views of Glenholme and note the craters still there from the Willcare pits. Now OSCO in Little Dyke continues the gravel mining legacy. These sites should be made to retain top soil and return these pits to forestry or agricultural land use so they are not eyesores for perpetuity. Residents should not have to put up with excessive noise pollution as they try to live their rural lives. Crusher plants running all hours of the day, heavy trucks roaring through the community, excessive use of Jake brakes is not acceptable. This destroys communities and lowers property values, while corporations get richer. And when will it end, if they are allowed to keep buying up agricultural and forested land closer to houses and create another expansion? Please consider the impact on our families when giving approval for this expansion. Name: Email: @tru.eastlink.ca Address: Municipality: Glenholme email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 65 y: 20



**From:** @hotmail.com  
**To:** Environment Assessment Web Account  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pit 4 Osco EA  
**Date:** June 23, 2024 8:47:22 AM

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Please see below concern and attached email regarding the June 6th, 2024 EA, sending this to you within the 30 day window to express concerns.

--

Sent from [Email.Avn](#) for Android

-----Original message-----From: @hotmail.com To:  
minister.environment@novascotia.ca Date: 21 June Subject: Pit 4 Osco EA

All,

Attached you will find a letter outlining my concerns about the Environmental Assessment for the proposed extension of Osco Pit 4 in Glenholme, NS dated June 6th, 2024 and its impact on the community.

Property owner Little Dyke, NS

--

Sent from [Email.Avn](#) for Android

20 June 2024

Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
PO Box 442  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2P8

Attention: Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change and all who are cc'd in this letter

RE: Environmental Assessment Registration, Osco Aggregates, Glenholme, NS-  
June 6, 2020

Objective: to establish community concerns which makes this extension accountable for the impact on the surrounding area

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and an I writing to express my concerns around the Osco extension project, Pit No 4 that is happening in and around the Little Dyke Community in Great Village/Glenholme, NS. I have been a resident of this wonderful community since August 2020, when my husband and I moved back to our home province during the pandemic to settle into our pre-retirement home. I currently work from home full time for the Federal Government.

Although there are many concerns that the community has brought forth, I will focus on the top three that affect me, my home and the surrounding community that I see need immediate attention. I will also offer potential solutions/suggestions for consideration.

Concern	Potential Solutions
<u>Air Quality</u> -It is understood that Crystalline Silica is a known carcinogen that when disturbed can pose a health hazard. When Osco uses its machinery to mine and crush sand and gravel this carcinogen will be released causing increased dust pollution. Thus, causing	<u>Air Quality</u> -Occupational Health has exposure limits based on an 8-hour workday. According to the Environmental Assessment, Osco is proposing working longer days that will surpass 8 hours. Not only affecting the exposure to staff but to the surrounding community. This

<p>microscopic particles to be released in the air which can travel hundreds of kilometers away. This not only will affect the Little Dyke Community, but the community at large. I would prefer not to die of Silicosis, lung cancer, COPD, kidney disease, or rheumatoid arthritis, all of which can happen from exposure to this cancer-causing agent. I would like to be able to enjoy the outdoors in this community but knowing that my health can be immensely affected by one particle getting into my lungs causes me great concern and worry.</p>	<p>crushing and mining area should be encapsulated/enclosed to prevent the surrounding community from being exposed to this carcinogen. The air quality would need to be monitored on a regular basis and dust control measures put into place. At minimum there should be a qualified independent professional taking samples of this to determine how much of this carcinogen is in the Osco pit and what level of threat it poses to the surrounding community. There needs to be an independent Environmental Assessment completed by someone other than a company that is paid by Osco. This would ensure there is no conflict of interest and perceived bias in this report and that everyone's best interest is being looked at in a fair, equitable manner. The independent study needs to have the community's best interest and take more of a wholistic approach as to how this extension will impact not only the company, but the surrounding community and the wildlife.</p>
<p><u>Noise</u>-the current noise that comes from Osco is already loud and concerning as their hours go early in the morning and late at night. It is not always peaceful to wake up in the morning or go to sleep in the evening.</p>	<p><u>Noise</u>-A noise ordinance needs to be looked at by establishing and limiting the hours of operation and their machinery use. This cannot be a 24-hour operation of which they are proposing as their future goal in the Environmental Assessment dated 6 June 2024.</p>
<p><u>Road Safety</u>-we already must deal with rocks on our recently paved road which can cause a driving hazard. Although Osco does sweep these off the road, there is no consistency in this. There have been many rocks that have bounced off the Osco trucks and damaged windshields in the vicinity. With an extension to the operations the road traffic will be increased, and the roads already have spring weight</p>	<p><u>Road Safety</u>-There needs to be other exits from the Osco operations looked at other than using the Little Dyke Road at either ends. There needs to be a plan put in place to monitor the road safety, and the impacts the heavy machinery are having on the road. A plan needs to be in place to ensure longevity of our roads and who is accountable in fixing them, should Osco strain them and they need</p>

restrictions, that Osco doesn't consistently abide by. Increased road traffic means more vehicles and more potential for accidents. The Little Dyke Road entrance by the church is already a hazardous place for turning and has seen accidents in the past. This means the increase in heavy trucks will put a tremendous amount of strain on our rural road leading to increased road vulnerability and road degradation. An expense, I am sure the government does not want to incur in road maintenance if it is not necessary.	repair. More speed limit signs should be posted on the road.
---	--

I am not disillusioned thinking that we can stop such a powerful company as Osco which is owned by Irving, however, the extension needs to at least be halted so these concerns can be investigated further by an independent study. It is my understanding we have 30 days from the date of the Environmental Assessment to put in our concerns, which means that the time is crunching near and this needs to be acted upon immediately.

When/if Osco moves forward there needs to be a high level of accountability and compliance in keeping the surrounding community safe while they adhere to strict compliance to health and safety regulations. The government also must start enforcing this non-compliance and making Osco accountable to not only the surrounding community, but to the government regulations.

With tremendous concern,

CC: Hon Tim Houston-Premier  
Zach Churchill-Leader of Opposition  
Tom Taggart-MLS Colchester North  
Victoria Lomond-District 10 Councillor, Colchester County  
Geoff Stewart-Deputy Mayor

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** OSCO Proposed Expansion of Pit #4  
**Date:** June 26, 2024 10:04:57 AM

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**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

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Dear Minister of Environment and Climate Change,

I am a member of the Little Dyke Community and I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of OSCO Aggregate Pit #4. I am asking you to seriously consider the impacts that this expansion will have on my beautiful community. This is an industry giant who has already taken so much from this community and now wants to extract the rest. We are in the middle of a rock quarry and as these expansions are approved by our province's Department of Environment we are losing our once peaceful and beautiful neighborhood. The profits for this industry monster are at the expense of a community that wants peace and safety for our members. The health and safety of my children, my husband and myself are among my top concerns. My family and I walk, bicycle and drive on the Little Dyke road and we have to endure clouds of quarry dust, noise pollution and heavy equipment traffic that is often disregarding road safety rules. I fear that someone will be seriously injured or worse with this expansion and I think about the unknown long-term effects of living in this kind of environment. I believe in supporting local and I spend my time living, working and playing in this area but OSCO Aggregate is an industrial conglomerate that is taking away a community one piece at a time and this is something that I cannot support. Our property has been in my husband's family for generations and our dream has always been to continue this legacy. Please do not approve this expansion without diving into what the true environmental impacts will be with the consideration of a community that's at risk at the forefront.

Sincerely,

Osco Aggregates EARD, Pit #4 Extension  
Community Consultation Comments  
June 27, 2024

I am a **resident and long-time property owner** on Little Dyke Road, Glenholme NS. I live in a community that is being **environmentally disfigured**, and where my family and neighbours are being put at serious personal risk by an industrial undertaking of monstrous proportions.

As my community struggles to respond and put its concerns on the table, it is met, at best, with **indifference** from the government authorities and elected officials that should be there to protect the environment from abuse and the community from blatant threats to its **health and safety**.

I have learned the Environment Act is written to give an unassailable preference to industrial growth. It is dangerously out of balance in weighing the pros and cons of an environmentally sensitive project. Rather than setting a framework for sustainable growth in our province, it sets the stage for a battle of David vs Goliath. And there is no recourse for addressing a poor decision. In this scenario **David always loses**.

The community of Little Dyke has become a **"SACRIFICE ZONE"**. Our politicians have done the math, and concluded we are dispensable. It's not a good feeling. I wouldn't recommend it to anybody. Clearly, we don't have enough votes to matter, or are there other undisclosed reasons to explain the sacrifice? We are left to wonder. That alone should be worth an investigation of sorts.

I have 2 specific concerns for which there are practical solutions:

1. **PROBLEM:** Little Dyke Road has become a danger zone. The volume of truck traffic, the size of the heavy trucks, and the aggressive behavior of some of the drivers present a serious threat to pedestrians and drivers. Someone is going to get hurt, and it's all avoidable.

**SOLUTION:** It is feasible to construct a road from the Osco property directly to Highway #2, avoiding Little Dyke Road altogether.

2. **PROBLEM:** The crushing of granite produces **Crystalline Silica dust which is widely known to be carcinogenic, and comparable to ASBESTOS**. This is a serious health issue for employees and residents, and it's preventable.

**SOLUTION:** Enclose the processing operations (crushing and wash plant) in a new facility on site. This allows for maximum control of the Silica as well as management of noise levels. Practical, doable and necessary. And there is precedence for this elsewhere in the province. Lafarge Canada, in Brookfield, for example.



June 27, 2024

## To Whom It May Concern

The purpose of this letter to express our opposition to the proposed expansion of OSCO Aggregates' Pit 4. We have been members of the Little Dyke/ Glenholme community for 24 years and have watched as a small local gravel pit developed into a multi-million dollar corporate company, OSCO. We feel it is a David and Goliath situation with two giants to battle, OSCO and government inaction.

We are very concerned about the irrevocable environmental impact on our community, and our province

- the devastating **physical changes** to our beautiful greenbelt ( despite knowing how this affects our climate, government continues to approve the rape of our lands)
- the destruction of **habitat** (such as large old growth trees for bald eagles to nest, safe nesting for loons who no longer producing their usual 2 chicks due to OSCO encroachment, the violent removal of a fox den and its inhabitants and so on and so on)
- the **noise pollution** ( the constant daily barrage of noise greatly affects our quality of life as well as that of wildlife)
- the **air quality** ( we are dealing with dust and exhaust produced by crushing and hauling aggregate , of even more concern is the silica exposure, other provinces have recognized this danger and are taking steps to protect their people
- the **land reclamation** ( this usually isn't done until the pit is depleted, maybe 30 years from now)

We have been reading Nova Scotia's Climate Action Plan . To quote the Honourable Timothy Halman. We need "Actions to protect more land, the air we breathe..." "The climate is changing and all Nova Scotians are feeling the effects of it. We need to act, and we need to act now."

**Will you act** now and support our community in rejecting or slowing down or the approval of OSCOs Expansion and help us find practical solutions to this ongoing problem? For example enclosing the crusher to help with noise pollution and silica dust. Other provinces and companies are doing this.

In the EAR (regulatory framework section, column entitled Approval/Permit Anticipated) there are 13 NO's. **Will you act now** and ensure the proper permits are indeed needed and regulations followed?

Thank you for taking the time to read our concerns and continue to listen to the concerns of the rest of our community. **Will you act now** in beginning the process to revamp outdated pit and quarry regulations(from 1967) to regulations that are relevant to the large scale exaction that is common today? As you say, " We have an opportunity to make positive change and work together to protect each other and all that we value"

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Little Dyke NS

**From:** [ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:ns.sympatico.ca)  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments  
**Date:** June 29, 2024 6:51:15 AM

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**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: This is a travesty. Other companies are expected to meet conditions. The people living and vacationing in this area have put up with this long enough. Have you visited the site? Have you talked to these people? Please do not torture them further by approving this massive gouging of good land. Name:  
Email: @ns.sympatico.ca Address: Municipality: Wolfville  
email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 91 y: 18



**From:** [Geoff Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Cc:** [Minister, Env;](#) [Premier;](#) [tom.taggartmla@gmail.com](mailto:tom.taggartmla@gmail.com); [Ian MacFadden](#); [Amy Hutt](#)  
**Subject:** OSCO Environmental Assessment  
**Date:** July 2, 2024 8:15:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[Little Dyke Support.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [gstewart@colchester.ca](mailto:gstewart@colchester.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom it May Concern; Please find attached a copy of a letter of concern and support for the citizens of Little Dyke regarding the OSCO operations and tentative expansion that is being sought. As stated in the letter we are not against business but feel there needs to be regulations and conditions attached for reasons we have laid out. We trust the right decisions will be made for all involved, thanks

Geoff S



[Geoff Stewart](#)

Deputy Mayor, District 3

[Municipality of Colchester](#)

1 Church St, Truro, NS, B2N 3Z5

Phone: 902-899-6312

[f](#) [in](#) [t](#) [Colchester.ca](http://Colchester.ca)

July 2, 2024

Honorable Tim Halman  
Minister of Environment  
Province of Nova Scotia  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Minister Halman;

This letter is to express concern and to add voice on behalf of the citizens of the community of Little Dyke. Like the citizens of Little Dyke we have concerns with the proposed expansion and its long term affects on the people who call this home and many have for a very long period of time.

We are in no means trying to see the closure of OSCO, in fact we want to see growth of local businesses but not at all costs. We certainly would expect regulations and operating permits in place that reflect what will be best for all concerned. Environmental concern and quality of life should be taken into account especially with the current state of health and wellness as we know it today. Mental health, cancers, and a magnitude of other environmental induced diseases must and should be reduced or eliminated from the lives of all Nova Scotian's.

Having worked in the mining industry for 30years and knowing what was expected in those years with dust, noise and traffic, it would be my expectation that regulations have not been relaxed to any major extent, if anything made more stringent. We had an enclosed crusher system with dust collectors throughout, water-controlled dust suppression on the haul roads and dust collectors throughout the entire operation with constant maintenance to maintain an environmentally controlled emission level. Would this not be a reasonable step to enforce and mitigate both short and long term affects of noise and dust in particular?

Silica sand was present and it was clearly mandated to keep it covered from becoming airborne from the wind and elements, silica fume which was also stored under a protective cover, for the same reasons knowing either could potentially cause long term affects or worse life ending diseases. It should be determined if there is silica present in the materials of the OSCO operations and proper steps taken to capture and reduce the possibility of exposure to employees and the surrounding community.

Noise control was another aspect of the operation that was a constant and operations had to be maintained at certain levels within the operating permits. There needs to be parameters in place to control this and monitored on a regular basis for compliance that is enforced. Are berms or vegetation such as trees being put in place around the perimeter of the proposed expanded properties to alleviate the noise and other conditions that come from the operations? Should citizens have continuous ongoing background noises that hinder or decrease their quality of life? Municipality of Colchester led by example on this with some of the most stringent noise levels implemented into our Wind Turbine bylaws that were passed and accepted by regulators!!

Another point is the continuous truck and equipment traffic on a public road that is the access to the properties of the residents. Would it not be reasonable that a separate road be established from Highway 2 to the operations to alleviate this issue, in doing this it will also help to keep the current public road from deteriorating at a much faster rate, reduce traffic flow and dust emissions? Especially on a road that was never designed or built for such heavy traffic.

Why can't the hours of operation be more in line with more standard business hours to give the community quality of life for rest and relaxation? Could the operation not increase production during those hours and allow for this time buffer?

Colchester County Council sent a letter dated June 30, 2017 expressing concern at that time, many of us were part of that Council and our concerns remain today, those signed here not part of that Council today express the same.

We thank you for your consideration of our requests and concerns and trust you, and this government will make the right choice and decisions that will be in the best interests of all concerned.

Respectfully submitted;



Geoff Stewart Deputy Mayor  
Municipality of Colchester

Supported by:



Laurie Sandeson  
District 2 Councillor



Lisa Patton  
District 8 Councillor



Wade Parker  
District 11 Councillor



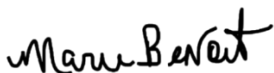
Mike Cooper  
District 4 Councillor



Michael Gregory  
District 7 Councillor



Eric Boutlier  
District 1 Councillor



Marie Benoit  
District 9 Councillor

Cc: Premier Tim Houston  
MLA Tom Taggart  
Little Dyke Citizens Group

July 2, 2024

Honorable Tim Halman  
Minister of Environment  
Province of Nova Scotia  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Minister Halman;

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Colchester County Council sent a letter dated June 30, 2017 expressing concern at that time, many of us were part of that Council and our concerns remain today, those signed here not part of that Council today express the same.

We thank you for your consideration of our requests and concerns and trust you, and this government will make the right choice and decisions that will be in the best interests of all concerned.

Respectfully submitted;



Geoff Stewart Deputy Mayor  
Municipality of Colchester

Supported by:



Laurie Sandeson  
District 2 Councillor



Lisa Patton  
District 8 Councillor



Wade Parker  
District 11 Councillor



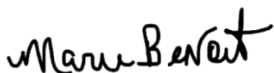
Mike Cooper  
District 4 Councillor



Michael Gregory  
District 7 Councillor



Eric Boutlier  
District 1 Councillor



Marie Benoit  
District 9 Councillor

Cc: Premier Tim Houston  
MLA Tom Taggart  
Little Dyke Citizens Group

**From:** @icloud.com  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** Expansion of OSCO Aggregates" Pit 4  
**Date:** July 2, 2024 8:27:06 AM

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Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
P.O. Box 442  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2P8

Via -mail: [ea@novascotia.ca](mailto:ea@novascotia.ca)

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Little Dyke, Nova Scotia and I am writing to express my concerns over OSCO Aggregates' application to your department for an expansion of # Pit 4 near the western end of the Little Dyke Road in Glenholme, Colchester County.

I am concerned about how the expansion will influence the life I have built here in Little Dyke. I am most worried about the effects on my health and the health of all community members. The consequence of Crystalline Silica, a known carcinogen (cancer causing agent) and its toxicity when inhaled. I don't believe enough weight is being placed on the effects on our health and safety and appropriate measures need to be put in place for the residents of this community.

What measures are being put in place to be up to date on the effects of Crystalline Silica and protect the residents of Little Dyke?

I am also concerned with the environmental destruction and the potential impact on local wildlife, including species at risk. How will the expansion affect our water tables? What kind of monitoring program will be implemented and who will do the monitoring so both water tables and the species and their habitats are protected?

From what I understand OSCO Aggregates' history of non-compliance and the need to strict enforcement is an issue. The Truro office appears to be understaffed. Just how will the Truro office monitor compliance, report it and share it? If non-compliance is an ongoing issue how will compliance be enforced?

I have experienced an increase in road traffic, a shift in the spring road signage, increased noise and lots of rocks on the road. I have had my windshield nicked by rocks. I am interested to know what measures are in place to ensure road safety and longevity.

As a resident of the community, for which you are making decisions, I urge you to reject the proposed expansion to protect our community's health. To protect our environment and quality of life. Thanking you in advance for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Little Dyke, NS

----- Original Message -----

**From:** @outlook.com>;

**Received:** wed Jun 19 2024 14:53:23 GMT-0300 (Atlantic Daylight Time)

**To:** PNS Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Tom Taggart  
<[taggart@gmail.com](mailto:taggart@gmail.com)>; Premier <[premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of  
Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment  
<[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
of Environment and Climate Change <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister  
of Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; ECC Minister  
<[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; PNS Environment & Climate Change

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<[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister Environment and Climate Change  
<[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; ECO/OP Premier  
<[premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)>;  
**Subject:** OSCO quarry expansion

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<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

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Dear Sirs,

I recently attended a community meeting concerning the possible ramifications the planned OSCO quarry expansion will have on my community of Little Dyke in Col.Co.,N.S. The issues discussed were most concerning. The existing pits have made one end of the Little Dyke road virtually off limits to pedestrians and bicycles due to the volume of truck traffic, dust, and flying gravel. Now, with the proposed expansion, the other end will soon be the same. Noise levels and poor air quality are two other important things to be considered. The one hundred ninety plus page assessment put forth by OSCO rates these and other concerns as 'insignificant'.

My question to you is as follows: Does the Nova Scotia Department of Environment have any jurisdiction over how this New Brunswick owned company conducts operations or does OSCO have 'carte blanche' to operate as they see fit? I recognize their right to conduct business in this area but with your support I am hopeful it can be done with as minimal an adverse impact on the community and the environment as possible.

Thank you in advance for your concern. Signed,

Sent from my iPad



From: @gmail.com  
To: Environment Assessment Web Account  
Subject: Proposed Project Comments  
Date: July 2, 2024 10:10:01 PM

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**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: The OSCO Pit 4 Expansion proposal must be suspended. After pouring over the 193 page Environmental Assessment Registration document submitted on June 6, a number of SIGNIFICANT concerns must be addressed: Air Quality - The presence of the known cancer causing crystalline silica, a product of quarry fracking, underlines the weakness in air quality testing parameters. Not only is this contaminant not mentioned or tested, equally problematic is 1 the lack of included air quality data 2 the lack of NS air quality standards for particulate matter, and 3 the reliance on Northern Zone baseline data from Pictou. Crystalline silica, often referred to as the Asbestos of 2024, is a known carcinogen with links to lung cancer, kidney disease, and autoimmune disorders. Stringent regulations in the US and in British Columbia should be sounding the alarm for action in Nova Scotia. If the severity and long term damage is not well known then that is exactly the reason why current practices must be examined, altered, and strengthened. Water Quality - Aside from the shocking acknowledgment by OSCO that 54 of the wetlands within the project development area will be altered and a possible 30 decrease in run-off volumes in the hyper-sensitive McCready Watershed, a head shaking farcical conclusion is drawn in the registration report. Yet on page 85 it is clearly stated the project's possible effects are both the direct loss and indirect loss of wetlands because of changes in surface hydrology. Unacceptable. In addition two other alarming outcomes of careful report reading are the disruption of the water table and the included well water testing data. There is absolutely no chance the water table will not be disrupted by heavy equipment digging for the next 30 years with a 0.5 m buffer zone. Past experience in Pit 4 for the last 7 years is the proof. Well water analysis is alarming to say the least. Nearly 25 of the well water testing 7/32 tests failed to meet standards with respect to high concentrations of manganese or iron and/ or low pH. But assurances are offered without any proof that exceedances are NOT LIKELY a result of OSCO operations. Unacceptable. Noise- It has been clearly shown through social media that current noise pollution is unacceptable. Both a NS Resource committee meeting and a Colchester County monthly meeting attendees could not tolerate an excavator sound bite for more than a minute. Yet residents in the Little Dyke community are assured that similar exposure during current operations 12-14 hours per day, 5-6 days per week year round with peak season 22-24 hrs/day is NOT SIGNIFICANT. 3 meter berms change little as all know how sound is amplified over open farm fields and lakes. Hearing damage and loss clearly is not just a function of sound levels but exposure time and a 25 year operational timeline is NOT an occasional nuisance? p 115 as concluded by OSCO. Unacceptable. Road Safety - Little Dyke Road should be renamed Osco Avenue. Current Pit #4 operations and purposed Pit #4 expansion would see at least 150,000 tonnes of gravel extracted per year for the next 25 years. Local estimates would then predict meeting a dump truck every 52 seconds on a narrow county road to meet this demand. Putting aside the obvious destruction of the road over time, which the community is all too familiar with in the past, the frequency of dump truck traffic and other heavy equipment is putting us all at risk. The segment of Little Dyke Road between Pit #2 and Pit #4 has become unsafe for walkers and pets, cyclists, children, and cautious drivers. Again

past experience is a great predictor of future compliance. It has been a constant occurrence to encounter significant quantities of loose gravel at the entrance/exit of all pit properties. Cement bibs have finally been completed this year as part of the 2017 pit compliance but the safety issue remains. Recent infractions concerning proper tarping of gravel truck loads gives hope that monitoring will be consistent and long lasting. The safety of residents traveling on Little Dyke Road has been compromised for decades by pit operations and now an additional 32 years is being sought - Unacceptable. . Regulations and Compliance - A final concern for the community of Little Dyke solely places responsibility at the feet of the DOE and more specifically the minister, Tim Halman. Mr. Halman has the opportunity to be on the right side of the continual emergence of our Sacrifice Zone. The minister, despite the Auditor General's scathing criticism of DOE practices in 2017, can reset the balance between aggregate industry growth and protecting the environment of Little Dyke. He has many tools at his disposal to ensure two wrongs don't make it right in Little Dyke. Minister Halman can he save Little Dyke for generations to come or he can aid in its destruction - never to be the same again. Protect our safety, protect our sensitive environment, and protect our future.

Name: Email: @gmail.com Address: Municipality: Little Dyke email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 38 y: 0



**From:** @gmail.com  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments  
**Date:** July 3, 2024 12:48:10 PM

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: As a Little Dyke resident I am very concerned with the extension of Oscoâ?Ts pit #4. We are a very active community with lots of walkers and bikers. Little Dyke has 2 roads into the lake. The first one goes by Oscoâ?Ts present operation. This road needed to paved several years ago due to deterioration. Walkers and bikers do not access this road because of big trucks,dust and flying rocks. Cars are also reluctant to use this route. The other road is a chip seal road we use daily for these activities. I ask that Osco have NO access to this road for the safety of our residents. The new washer,screener and crusher should definitely be housed in a building to help control dust and noise. It needs to be determined if silica is being emitted from this operation and if it it how far into the community it can travel. Silica causes cancer, COPD, kidney disease, autoimmune disease and heart disease. It may take 15-20 years after exposure before problems arise. The deadly effects of silica has been known for over 100 years. A building will also assist with noise pollution as this has adverse effects on both humans and animals. In humans it can cause heart disease and animals are at a much higher risk of death because they may not hear their predators. Noise also interferes with reproduction and navigation in animals. We have owned our property for 27 years and the time is coming for us to consider our next phase in life. We are very concerned about our property values drastically dropping if this quarry is allowed to operate any way it desires. My last concern is the lake itself. It has never been determined where the lake is fed from. What happens if they hit a spring and this lake drains?? Thank you

References [http://archive.org/details/stop\\_silicosis](http://archive.org/details/stop_silicosis) Noise Pollution  
en.wikipedia.org Name: Email: @gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Little Dyke email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 45 y: 23

----- Original Message -----

**From:** @gmail.com>;

**Received:** Sun Jun 30 2024 17:56:48 GMT-0300 (Atlantic Daylight Time)

**To:** PNS Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Environment and Climate Change <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; ECC Minister <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; PNS Environment & Climate Change <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister Environment and Climate Change <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Environment Minister <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; [timhalmanmal@gmail.com](mailto:timhalmanmal@gmail.com);  
**Cc:** [timhalmanmal@gmail.com](mailto:timhalmanmal@gmail.com)>; Geoff Stewart

**Cc:** [@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.stewart@gmail.com)>; Geoff Stewart

<[gstewart@colchester.ca](mailto:gstewart@colchester.ca)>; Premier <[premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)>;  
[vlomond@colchester.ca](mailto:vlomond@colchester.ca); [office@liberal.ns.ca](mailto:office@liberal.ns.ca);  
**Subject:** Stop the Uncontrolled Expansion of OSCO

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Dear Hon. Tim Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

We are reaching out to you to add our voices to residents of the Little Dyke and Glenholme communities regarding the proposed expansion of OSCO Aggregates' Pit #4. By now we expect that you are well aware of the significant threats to the well-being of our communities if this expansion moves forward and we hope that you will choose to support the residents when a decision is made regarding the proposed expansion.

We have lived in Glenholme for 35 years. We feel fortunate to have been able to raise our family in this rural community. We continue to be appreciative of the many outdoor activities available to us from our doorstep, including cycling, walking, swimming, gardening, and cross-country skiing. With the proposed expansion of OSCO Aggregates' Pit #4 the increased heavy truck traffic impacting road safety, increased noise and dust pollution, and potential contamination and depletion of our water supply would severely and negatively impact the quality of life and well-being of all residents of our community. Furthermore, it has come to our attention that the mining and crushing of gravel causes Crystalline Silica, a known carcinogen, to become airborne and therefore it is not just the proposed pit expansion that must be considered but current mining and crushing practices in our communities.

We respectfully ask for your support of our community and deny OSCO Aggregates' Pit #4 request for expansion that threatens the environment and the well-being of the residents. Furthermore, given the current information on Crystalline Silica, a thorough review of current practices in mining and crushing gravel must be completed and mechanisms put in place to ensure adherence to regulations.

Sincerely,

Concerned Residents of Glenholme, NS

July 4, 2024

Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
PO Box 442  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2P8

**To the Attention of:** Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

**Re: Environment Assessment Registration of Pit #4, Osco Aggregates LTD, Glenholme, NS.**

**Submitted June 6, 2024**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I am writing you to express my concerns with the proposed expansion to Pit #4.

We live in a beautiful home in a beautiful area we decided to settle down in after working very hard to be able to afford. I have many concerns with what we worked so hard to achieve in life is slowly being ripped away from us, mainly our Home.

I have concerns with the entire 193-page document submitted by Dillon Consultants on behalf of Osco. The entire application process is antiquated and unfair to small communities such as ours. However, I will focus my main concerns on the following:

**Dust.** My concern is the long term and short-term effect of the dust we breathe in every minute of every day while the existing pits are in operation. We don't know what is in this dust and with recent studies and data it is **highly possible** the air we are forced to breathe being so close to this operation contains **Crystalline Silica** a known CARCINOGEN. To expand Pit #4 to the size as proposed would be lethal. Osco also states that they want to bring in products from "outside" Pits and Quarries to process... Are you kidding me! Even if we get testing on the product that is being processed from Osco Pits at Glenholme, what contaminants do these "outside" product contain? **Absolutely not!**

**We are concerned and you need to be concerned for us!**

**Road Safety.** My concern here is obvious to anyone who has ever walked or driven in or around Little Dyke. This is currently a very, very dangerous situation with the amount of dump truck traffic that already exists whenever the pits are operational. The proposed expansion will only magnify an already dangerous situation. Not only is it absurd that Osco proposes that the truck traffic will decrease with the proposed expansion, but it is also a lie! A blatant lie!

**Size and Scope.** When you live, drive or walk in and around Little Dyke, you are very much aware that you are within close vicinity of an Industrial Operation. Not only can you see this operation all around you, but you can also hear the noise the equipment causes when the Pits are operating. Aerial views currently taken show how much this operation has already engulfed the surrounding residential neighborhoods, it is visually astonishing and shows you how much land Osco already has **RAVISHED** already. The proposed expansion will absolutely allow the Osco operation to **SWALLOW** the residential neighbourhood.

**Noise.** The noise this operation currently creates is at unacceptable levels. Osco continuously operates outside of the current operation schedule outlined and governed by You. As residents very close to this operation we are frequently awoken (well before the operation is supposed to start) by early morning equipment operation of crushers, loaders and truck traffic. Hard to get proper rest most days.

In the evenings as we sit outside to rest and relax after our day, you constantly hear this operation in the background. This makes it hard to relax and enjoy life in general. Osco proposes to operate the Pits and the entire Operation during expanded hours from current schedule.

Once again, I state that this proposed expansion to Pit #4 will only **amplify** noise levels that are already excessive and outside of the current and allowed schedule.

In closing I would like to recognize that the products that are produced at the Osco Pit in Glenholme are important to the infrastructure in Nova Scotia, but at what costs?

I believe that Osco has overstayed their welcome and sacrificed too much from the land in the Glenholme location already. Time to move this operation to a location away from the residential area that they have harmed enough already.

If you so sadly approve the expansion of Pit #4, I will say that the very least you can do is accommodate a few solutions to minimize the effect it will have on our community.

**Enclose the crusher operation.** This will allow for dust control and noise control.

**Re-direct truck traffic directly to HWY #2**

**Controlled and enforced days and hours of operation.** This to reflect and respect the lives of the people that this operation encompasses.

We live in a time where anything that effects the environment is scrutinized, as it should be. This is why you have jobs. This is why we are all able to live and breathe on this planet. It is our duty to be good citizens to mother earth and each do our part. Here in the Little Dyke community, we do our part.

**NOW DO YOURS!!!**

Respectfully,

Resident of Little Dyke





**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** OSCO proposed expansion of pit #4 in Little Dyke  
**Date:** July 3, 2024 5:11:24 PM

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Dear Minister Holman,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I have been a part of the Little Dyke Community my whole life. My property has been in my family for multiple generations and my wife and I have two teenagers. We always hoped our legacy would continue in Little Dyke. I am writing to voice my concern and outrage on yet another OSCO (Irving) expansion. There are many issues like Crystalline Silica (Silicosis), road safety, heavy truck traffic and noise pollution that are very much a concern for me. There are also other issues that I want to point out and hope you will take into serious consideration before any decisions are made. It is well known that OSCO has been guilty of several infractions with the DOE. I am assuming these are documented with the DOE and available for your review. I would like to point out some that are quite troubling for myself. They have had illegal burns, diesel spills, working outside of approved operation hours, digging into the water table and using explosives to destroy fox dens on their property. With this history, I feel that providing more rules and regulations from the DOE is NOT enough for this corporation. This operation needs to be suspended indefinitely not expanded. Since the Little Dyke pit has been taken over by OSCO Aggregate the community has seen first-hand that it cannot be trusted. Their lack of transparency and accountability has left our community concerned for the future. They are not responsible operators and it needs to stop. When is enough, enough for a small community?

Sincerely,

(Sick and tired of being sick and tired)

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**From:** [@gmail.com](#)>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 4, 2024 7:40 AM

**To:** Halman, Tim <[HALMANT@novascotia.ca](mailto:HALMANT@novascotia.ca)>; [OAA.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:OAA.Minister@novascotia.ca) <[OAA.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:OAA.Minister@novascotia.ca)>; [LAE.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:LAE.Minister@novascotia.ca) <[LAE.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:LAE.Minister@novascotia.ca)>; [DMA.min@novascotia.ca](mailto:DMA.min@novascotia.ca) <[DMA.min@novascotia.ca](mailto:DMA.min@novascotia.ca)>; [Communities.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:Communities.Minister@novascotia.ca) <[Communities.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:Communities.Minister@novascotia.ca)>; Minister, TAT <[TATMinister-Old@novascotia.ca](mailto:TATMinister-Old@novascotia.ca)>; [AGR.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:AGR.Minister@novascotia.ca) <[AGR.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:AGR.Minister@novascotia.ca)>; Natural Resources and Renewables <[NaturalResourcesandRenewables@novascotia.ca](mailto:NaturalResourcesandRenewables@novascotia.ca)>; [Energymail@novascotia.ca](mailto:Energymail@novascotia.ca) <[Energymail@novascotia.ca](mailto:Energymail@novascotia.ca)>; Health and Wellness Minister <[Health.Minister@novascotia.ca](mailto:Health.Minister@novascotia.ca)>

**Subject:** URGENT! Your help is needed regarding GLENHOLME OSCO Pit #4 EXPANSION

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To: Hon. Timothy Halman Minister of Environment and Climate Change

CC:

- Hon. Michelle Thompson, Minister of Health and Wellness
- Hon. Chuck Porter, Minister of Energy and Mines
- Hon. Tory Rushton, Minister of Lands and Forestry
- Hon. Greg Morrow, Minister of Agriculture
- Hon. Kim Masland, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
- Hon. Pat Dunn, Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
- Hon. John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs
- Hon. Jill Balser, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education
- Hon. Karla MacFarlane, Minister of Indigenous Affairs

Dear Minister Halman,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed Glenholme OSCO Pit #4 Expansion in Little Dyke, as outlined in the Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD) submitted on June 6th. As a resident of this community, I am alarmed by the significant potential impacts this project poses to our environment, health, and overall quality of life.

The local council has already expressed their concerns for the health and safety of our community. The EARD lacks long-term data monitoring and fails to provide a comprehensive understanding of the potential adverse effects and significant environmental impacts this expansion could bring. The strength, comprehensiveness, and value of any environmental assessment conducted under the Nova Scotian process depend largely on the quality of the information provided by proponents. In this case, the EARD is insufficient and does not adequately address the community's concerns or the potential risks.

Our community is deeply worried about the history of non-compliance associated with the company proposing the expansion. The current assessment does not provide enough assurance that OSCO will adhere to environmental standards or effectively mitigate the risks associated with increased quarry activities. Additionally, the absence of robust long-term monitoring plans raises serious doubts about the sustainability and safety of this project.

Local residents, including myself, have experienced firsthand the disruptions and health concerns caused by the existing quarry operations. Expanding these operations will only exacerbate these issues, leading to increased noise, dust, and traffic, which will significantly impact our rural lifestyle and wellbeing. The potential risks to our water sources, air quality, and the natural habitat of various species cannot be overlooked.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge you to require the proponent to provide additional information through a Focus Report. This supplementary study should offer

a detailed analysis of the predicted adverse effects and environmental impacts, ensuring that all potential risks are thoroughly evaluated and addressed. Only then can an informed decision be made regarding the feasibility and safety of this project.

Moreover, the recent request from our Mayor and local council to put a hold on operations until health and safety risks can be thoroughly analyzed underscores the urgent need for a more comprehensive review. It is imperative that the Minister, advised by departmental staff, exercises discretion to require this additional information to protect our community and environment.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that the decision on this project be postponed until the necessary studies are conducted and more detailed information is provided. The health, safety, and quality of life of our community depend on a rigorous and thorough environmental assessment process.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response and to a decision that prioritizes the wellbeing of our community and environment.

Sincerely

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** Little Dyke Destruction  
**Date:** July 4, 2024 4:31:37 PM

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This was copied from an Ontario newspaper. It is wonderful to see an Environment Minister standing up for our future generations.

It is time the same was done here in Nova Scotia, especially the Little Dyke and Glenholme areas.



conservation.

ro- "Our government is supporting  
isk the Nature Conservancy of Can-  
as ada's conservation work to help  
st- fight climate change by protecting  
l). old-growth forest, wetlands and  
r- karst along the Moira River near  
nd Belleville. These natural wonders  
h are carbon storehouses and biodi-  
at versity hot spots that offer a home  
to several species at risk. With each  
y investment in the Nature Smart  
n Climate Solutions Fund, we con-  
a tinue to build a more sustainable,  
- healthy future for ourselves, our  
- children and our grandchildren,"  
said Steven Guilbeault, Minister of  
Environment and Climate Change,  
in a news release.

"We are thrilled to see the pro-  
tection of the Moira River Karst  
nature reserve come to fruition

July 4, 2024

To Tim Halman and other related parties

I am writing this letter with grave concern for the proposed expansion of the OSCO operations in Little Dyke/Glenholme, Nova Scotia.

I strongly feel that there is not enough information contained in their proposal to make an informed decision on the impacts to date, and future impacts to our community. I am strongly urging you as Minister of **Environment**, to consider our **environment** and hold off on a decision until a Class 2 Environmental Assessment can be done by an **independent third party**.

Once this assessment is completed the decision made with a non-partisan committee comprised of all government parties with industry and environmental professionals.

I purchased my property in September of 2017, it was a dream come true. I had been working and living in Halifax and my biggest dream was to have a place on the lake near my parents. I had been coming to my parents Little Dyke Lake property since they purchased it in 1997.

At that time there was a small family operated gravel pit operation. Not long after purchasing my property, I received a notice in my mailbox that the pit was expanding by 70 acres. At that time it was understood that there was enough gravel for 20 years, and here we are 7 years later looking at a request to increase this by 190 acres. What is our community going to look like in 20 years??

This report is compiled by Dillon Consulting, which I feel is a conflict of interest due to its direct relationship to Irving owned companies. How much of their revenues are derived from Irving projects and how would that business be impacted if they no longer had that work? There is no incentive to identify very clear issues, rather they consider it "occasional nuisance" or little significance. It is also noted that Jonathan Oliver is not registered as a P.Geog in the province of Nova Scotia.

Here are the many reasons why I am opposed to the huge expansion, along with some recommendations for consideration.

1. It is known that **Crystalline Silica** is a known carcinogen. It is an abundant mineral found in the earth's crust that becomes a health hazard when disturbed. This can impact individuals for many km's in the surrounding areas. This causes 570 occupational deaths in Canada each year.

The crusher needs to be in a contained building with full PPE and dust collection enforced.

2. **Noise levels** regularly exceed approved limits now in the operating agreement signed in 2017 now. I have measured the noise on my property, and they are over the approved limits and I am



2000 ft from the property, and submitted to Department of Environment for their review. The sound levels we are experiencing are similar to a vacuum cleaner operating in the next room in your house. Imagine that 24 hours a day/7 days a week for the next 30 years, and justify how that is an 'occasional nuisance'. We are asking for larger berms, contained electric crusher within a noise buffering building, updated back up beepers on equipment. Hours of operation to be 8am – 5pm Monday to Friday. With a crusher on site for continuous crushing, there should be no need for extended hours. Their reasoning for extended hours in the past was because they had certain productivity thresholds to maintain with the rented crusher.

3. **Road Safety** – The Glenholme operations generate huge amounts of industrial traffic on a rural country road. Approximate 30 vehicles per hour. This creates huge amounts of gravel on the road, which is unsafe for through traffic. We have had to advocate for this to be swept daily. The pit manager recently told us that he was short staffed, so this is why it wasn't done. I have had several near misses with large vehicles pulling in front of me from all 3 access points on Little Dyke Road. The residents had to request stop signs from the pit operations. Personally, I feel this should be tablestakes for operating an industrial site, an effective operator and strong health and safety compliance would identify these issues and have them mitigated before the residents of the community had to put in complaints.

Many residents in our community are active walkers, bikers etc. It has become unsafe to walk on the end of Little Dyke Road, where the pits are located. The new expansion will now encompass the other end of Little Dyke Road, which will make it unsafe for recreational activities as well.

Just last evening (06/03/2024), I observed a loader driving down the public road with a motorcycle unsecured in the bucket of the loader driving from the pit to his personal residence at \_\_\_\_\_, passing many parked vehicles where people were enjoying the public swimming area.

There needs to be an access point to the pit from Highway 2, and take all OSCO traffic off of Little Dyke Road. There are landowners willing to work with OSCO to provide this access point.

4. **Reclamation of Land** - there needs to be a robust plan and clear timelines and consequences for land reclamation. There has been very little reclamation of the land for any of the aggregate pits. We are asking for diversified species to be planted.
5. **Well water protection** – is 0.5 metres enough to truly protect our water resources? How is this enforced and measured by OSCO?
6. **Wildlife protection** – in the assessment there was 2 10 minute bird counts by people that could identify by sound, and the wildlife would just move if it disturbed them? This is vague and unscientific for an important part of our ecosystem. There is new technology that can identify

birds in the area by sound for ongoing periods of time. I would like to see this implemented and included in a larger environmental assessment. For several decades we have had a breeding loon pair on our lake. They typically nest on the Ducks Unlimited Pond and move to Little Dyke Lake to raise their young. In the last 2 years we have not had any loon chicks, is it due to pit operations and sound impacting their nesting environment?

7. **Ducks Unlimited Pond and Little Dyke Lake protection** – we need additional studies and reassurances that these operations will not affect these important areas in our community.

These are rural properties and we choose to live in the country, however these properties are truly unique in that they can not be replicated anywhere else in rural Nova Scotia. It is nothing like Montebello, Colby Village....and I could go on and on. Most of the families have been there for decades, have invested in their properties and are hoping their legacy lives on for their next generations to enjoy and create their own memories. There is a risk that our residents will get cancer, and die from local business operations, our lake will be impacted by improper management of resources, and even dried up. Our drinking water is at risk, our roads are unsafe! I plead with you and your team to take our considerations seriously to ensure our community is not swallowed up by a large industrial operation.

@hotmail.com

**From:** [Tutty, Bridget R](#)  
**To:** [Fitzpatrick, Allison](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Little Dyke  
**Date:** July 4, 2024 2:48:59 PM

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**From:** @gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 4, 2024 10:49 AM  
**To:** Tutty, Bridget R <Bridget.Tutty@novascotia.ca>  
**Subject:** Little Dyke

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[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ibEiLQVQ0FyVml\\_jw\\_T1rXfGAW8HPG0w/view?usp=sharing\\_eil\\_se\\_dm&ts=6678d4bc](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ibEiLQVQ0FyVml_jw_T1rXfGAW8HPG0w/view?usp=sharing_eil_se_dm&ts=6678d4bc)

Bridget. I hope you are well. This is a 10 minute video our community prepared in 2017, which we believe is still relevant. We ask that it be taken into account in the Minister's decision.

Thank you

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** video from my front deck  
**Date:** July 4, 2024 5:33:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [F0E935C1-AAC1-4EE1-9989-010026D40514.MP4](#)

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July 4, 2024

To Tim Halman and other related parties

I am writing this letter with grave concern for the proposed expansion of the OSCO operations in Little Dyke/Glenholme, Nova Scotia. I've been a homeowner in the area for 25 years, and have raised my family here. I have watched the pit grow from a small family owned business to an industrial giant that is gobbling up woodland, agricultural land and natural habitats.

I would like to see the devastation slowed down and the land reclaimed before they move to expand into more mature woodland.

The reclamation needs to have diverse species and not to be reharvested for pulp wood later on.

I used to spend many hours with my children biking these roads and have watched it become unsafe for recreational use....its now a gravel truck race track.

The operation needs larger berms and more setbacks from property lines.

I understand that aggregate is needed in our province for development, however how come it all has to come from our community? Is this because it is accessible and cheaper to mine here? Has their been research done to open operations in less residential areas.

@gmail.com

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** OSCO Expansion  
**Date:** July 4, 2024 8:21:12 PM

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July4,2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express extreme concern to the expansion of OSCO Pit4. I know I share these concerns with many members of our small community.

1. Environmental Impact on wetlands and habitat 2. Noise levels 3. Air pollution from increased traffic and crushing Very concerned about silica 4. Road conditions and safety 5. Lack of land reclamation

Sent from mv iPhone

Little Dyke

**From:** @hotmail.com  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments  
**Date:** July 4, 2024 8:40:45 PM

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: We are writing this with great concern. Being a resident of Little for 38 years, and knowing in time we will be completely living in the middle of a gravel pit is so disappointing and very frustration. We tell people it was a great place to raise our kids, and we are so grateful for that, but it is not going to be a good place to retire. We do understand gravel is needed, but why does a big corporation feels they have to dig for it in the middle of a residential area ?? We have many concerns. Here are just a few, silica dust which could cause health issue to the people living here, traffic, noise, dust, water level, property value, how can someone sell their home in good faith knowing this? This 100 needs to carefully be look into before giving Osco the green light. This area has been enjoyed by many for so many years. Name:

@hotmail.com Address:  
email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 72 y: 29

Email:  
. Municipality: Little Dyke



**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Cc:** [Minister, Env; Premier](#)  
**Subject:** OSCO Aggregates Pits 4 Expansion  
**Date:** July 4, 2024 9:40:50 PM

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My name is [redacted]. I am one of many residents living in dread of what will become of our rural homes. Shortly after we purchased here in 2015, approval was given to OSCO in 2017 for expansion. It was a relatively small operation. Seven years later they want to expand the expansion and remove protected wetlands to make their project work. There are alternatives.

This company has not demonstrated strict adherence to its previous approvals. Only through community monitoring and calls to the correct officials are results achieved, to reign them in. Having spent most of my working life in construction I realize and understand the need for materials to grow our province and economy. The goal of the community is to regulate the company and maintain our way of life. As our elected representatives, our government should be there to help us. I feel this is often lost on them and big business wins.

One of my main concerns is noise impact on our area. Times of crushing and excavation need to be restricted. Officials appear more able to assist urban residents in this area. Our homes are in residential areas and we should be afforded the same rights. No work should start before 7 AM on any day for any reason. Late end times as OSCO suggests should not be allowed. It is medically known that people who have their environment altered by noise will suffer. We must be allowed to have some kind of life where construction noise and its side effects don't interfere with our enjoyment of our property.

Enclosed breakers or crushers will help alleviate some noise. They will also help control silica dust which governments have known for over 90 years to be as deadly as asbestos.

In the noise zone we also have alternative safety measures instead of back up beepers. These need to be put in place by the operator to cut back on unnecessary noise pollution.

I have neighbours who will be within 30 meters of this active pit. Archaic laws allow this, it must change.

Carrying on we come to the environmental impact. This expansion is in the middle of wetlands. One small wetland area is in the midst of the last approval. They are looking to disrupt this as indicated in their proposal, for benefits to their plan. Leaving it as protected in one approval and having it relegated unprotected in a later assessment does seem anti protective to me.

I am worried about air quality as I have stated and am deeply concerned with dust particles so small they can float wherever the wind is blowing, in this case into our houses, children, pets and gardens. Silica dust needs to be addressed in any approval.

When it comes to Compliance and Accountability. Where does that come from? Our little DOE is understaffed and lacks direction from officials to keep control of giant corporations. Why not institute a fee for tonnage removed and have our local crushing businesses in NS remit monies to NS Finance Dept. so that we will have funds to monitor the operator. As a



hunter, retired, I paid to buy a license, to fund game wardens. Consider this a warden fee for operators. This is happening in some other Canadian provinces and American states.

There are two lakes and many homes near the proposed expansion. Brooks and or creeks appear to be drying up near the pit. Why? What happens, I say when, not if, the operator interrupts or destroys our water supply with silt from their wash operations and excavations. They have dug below the water table before. It's just a matter of time. Dry lakes and no well water, who pays for that? Government for approving the proposal, the operator or the poor little bankrupt and defeated resident of a once vibrant community.

What about food insecurity in Nova Scotia. This new expansion and recent purchases not yet included but to come in the future, for sure the next expansion, is surrounded by farmland. Our government should be worried and concerned about lost farmland potential. If not in this assessment but at a later date our provincial government needs to address this, province wide. You just have to live a day in our shoes when the crusher is running full bore and the wind is driving the noise onto your back deck as your family gathers. No doubt there are many in the community that would lend our homes to you for a day, a weekend if we thought it might wake you up to our concerns.

Aerial views on the vastness of this expansion leave us sleepless at night.

Thank you and I hope you can find an answer for the province, the operator and the residents. We may be small but we deserve you and your government's consideration.

June 28th, 2024

Re: Osco Pit 4 Expansion

As a seasonal resident of Little Dyke lake since 1996 and most recently a permanent resident since 2023, I question our very thorough plan of two teachers retiring at "Colchester's Best kept secret".

My husband and I are both retired science teachers from Cobequid Educational Centre and have 64 years of teaching experience between the two of us. My father acquired our property in 1996 because he had the foresight to provide a piece of paradise to his three granddaughters during their summers off. my father was elected and maintained his Colchester North MLA title for two terms. He passed away in 2020 and would be devastated with the changes that have been made to our piece of heaven. My mother still resides at Little Dyke Lake.

As I have poured over this environmental assessment prepared by Dillon Consulting, I have decided to mention the obvious reasons why this expansion project should not be approved and challenge the data collection or lack thereof that is contained in this report.

The Obvious reasons why this expansion project should not be approved are:

- Noise Pollution ( Hours of operation are ridiculous) - a measure of 86 dB was recorded today.
- Water Pollution ( Ground water, well water)
- Osco Accountability and Compliance
- Wetland Destruction
- Quality of Life
- 150,000 tonnes of aggregate for the next 30 years! Is it really necessary? In the last 1 year approval has been given to 7 quarries that will total 350,000 tonnes of aggregate pilfered yearly from Nova Scotia's land. This doesn't include the quarries that are operating presently or include the 150,000 tonnes that Osco is looking for.

If you do not agree with the obvious reasons then I would like to point out the lack of data collection in this report. I have organized my comments section by section and have highlighted in red what stands out to me as poor data collection technique and bolded the conclusion that Dillon Consulting has made based on poor data collection. How is it possible for conclusions like **"not significant with a high level of confidence"** be based on such poor data collection?

Section/Title	Questionable Information	Summary
6.1/Atmospheric Environment	<p>There is one ambient air monitoring station in the Northern Air Zone, Pictou.</p> <p>No Air Quality data collection All numbers are from Desktop Analysis</p> <p>What about particulate matter? An air monitoring station needs to be used on site and public needs access to “real time” data.</p>	<p><i>In light of the above, and in consideration of the nature of the Project, its anticipated environmental effects, and the implementation of mitigation and best practices that are known to reduce environmental effects, the residual environmental effects of the Project on the atmospheric environment during all phases of the Project are rated <b>not significant, with a high level of confidence</b>. No follow-up or monitoring is proposed. (page 55)</i></p>
6.2/Acoustic Environment	<p>There are approximately 60 residences within 500 m of the proposed Project boundaries. For the purposes of this assessment, we focus on predicted noise levels at the closest residential receptors (i.e., six residentially zoned properties located adjacent to the east of the PDA area along Little Dyke Road), with the assumption that Project-related interactions with the acoustic environment at other locations would be of similar or lesser magnitude.</p> <p>Sound Receptors are about 1 m above the ground, most people’s ears are at least 1.5 to 2 m from the ground.</p> <p>**Noise levels have been very high as of late and they were so high that they stopped a meeting in Halifax. A recording of 86 dB was made today. Technology is available for this type of monitoring to take place on a real time loop and the public should have access to these recordings. This data should not be collected when Osco decides to do so.</p>	<p><i>In light of the above, and in consideration of the nature of the Project, its anticipated environmental effects, and the implementation of mitigation and best practices that are known to reduce environmental effects, the residual environmental effects of the Project on the acoustic environment during all phases of the Project are rated <b>not significant, with a high level of confidence</b>. No follow-up or monitoring is proposed. (page 61)</i></p>

<p><b>6.3/Water Resources</b></p>	<p>Only data available, no other data in appendices.</p> <p>Off-site potable well #1 contained higher iron in March 2023;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off-site potable well #3 contained higher iron and manganese in March and June 2023; as well as a low pH in June 2023;</li> <li>• On-site MW3 contained manganese and a low pH in March and June 2023; and</li> <li>• On-site MW4 contained manganese and a low pH in March and June 2023.</li> </ul> <p>50% of the data collected in this small sample size report elevated levels of magnesium and iron.</p> <p>More wells need to be accessed and this data needs to be public.</p>	<p><i>Based on the above, with planned mitigation and environmental protection measures, the residual environmental effects of the Project on water resources during each phase of the <b>Project are rated not significant, with a moderate level of confidence.</b> Groundwater monitoring will continue as it does for the existing Pit No. 4 operation, including water level and quality of the perimeter monitoring wells, and quarterly potable well sampling.</i></p> <p><i>Details of monitoring will be provided in the EPP and groundwater monitoring plan. (Page 72) (There is no plan as part of this report).</i></p>
<p><b>6.4/Fish Habitat</b></p>	<p>Some data from one day of testing; September 19, 2023</p> <p><b>Desktop Analysis for species of fish.</b></p> <p>DFO aquatic species at risk mapping (DFO 2023) identified the McCurdy Creek watershed (including the DUC pond and unnamed tributaries that intersect the PDA) as <b>critical</b> habitat for <b>Atlantic salmon</b>.</p> <p><b>No salmon found on Sept 19th, I wonder why? Really?</b></p>	<p><i>In light of the potential residual effects outlined above, and with the implementation of other mitigation measures aimed at reducing or minimizing environmental effects on fish and fish habitat, the residual environmental effects of the <b>Project on fish and fish habitat during all phases are rated not significant, with a high level of confidence.</b> No follow-up or monitoring is proposed. (Page 80)</i></p>
<p><b>6.5/Wetlands</b></p>	<p>The Project is expected to interact with wetlands throughout each phase (i.e., construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning and reclamation). The primary possible effects to wetlands include <b>direct loss of wetland area or function for those wetlands</b> within the PDA that will be subject to Project activities such as site clearing, grubbing, and construction of infrastructure,</p>	<p><i>Based on the above, with planned mitigation, authorization (with compensation), and environmental protection measures, the residual environmental effects on the Project on wetlands during each phase of the Project are rated as <b>not significant, with a moderate level of confidence.</b> <b>How can a direct loss of wetlands not be significant?</b></i></p> <p><i>The implementation of water</i></p>

	<p>access roads, and extraction of aggregate materials. In addition, <b>indirect loss</b> of wetland area or <b>function</b> of wetlands may occur on other wetlands located outside the PDA but within the LAA (e.g., wetlands on adjacent properties to the Project site) through changes in surface hydrology within the PDA as a result of the development of the Project site and the presence of the open pit.</p> <p>Over 50% of wetlands will be destroyed.</p>	<p><i>management features, water quality monitoring, groundwater level monitoring, wetland function monitoring, and other follow-up and monitoring measures to be implemented to monitor changes to wetland function arising from the Project, with adaptive management measures implemented as necessary to address those changes, will <b>improve the confidence</b> of this prediction. (Page 87)</i></p> <p><i>**No monitoring plan in print.</i></p>
6.6/Vegetation	<p>Desktop Analysis provides most of the data collection. According to the Ecological Landscape Analysis for the Minas Lowlands Ecodistrict (NSDNR 2015), two species at risk were documented for the Minas Lowlands Ecodistrict as follows: • <b>**Black ash</b> (<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>), a SAR, is currently under consideration for SARA schedule 1 and were identified within the LAA during the field surveys conducted in August 2023 and COSEWIC. This species is ranked by the AC CDC as S1S2 (Imperilled to Critically Imperilled within the province of Nova Scotia); and • <b>Eastern white cedar</b> (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>), an SAR, is currently listed under the NS ESA as <b>Vulnerable</b> and ranked by the AC CDC as S2S3 (Imperilled within the province of Nova Scotia)</p> <p>2 site visits to collect some data; August 1 and 3, 2023</p> <p>***Black Ash is used by our Mi'kmaq community and are involved in this recovery program that was implemented in 2015. Black Ash thrives in poorly</p>	<p><i>Based on the above, with planned mitigation, authorization (with compensation), and environmental protection measures, the residual environmental effects on the Project on vegetation during each phase of the <b>Project are rated not significant, with a high level of confidence. No follow-up or monitoring is proposed.</b> (Page 93)</i></p>

	<p>drained soils like wetlands.</p> <p><a href="https://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/pdf/Black_Ash_Recovery_Plan_Nova_Scotia.pdf">https://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiversity/pdf/Black_Ash_Recovery_Plan_Nova_Scotia.pdf</a></p>	
6.7/Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction activities may alter or <b>destroy</b> migratory bird habitat;</li> <li>• Activities may <b>destroy or alter</b> habitat for bird SAR or SOCC;</li> <li>• Noise from Project activities may deter birds from migrating into and using the Project area;</li> <li>• Vegetation clearing and grubbing activities may <b>destroy bird nests and breeding habitat</b> (including SAR/SOCC), and result in habitat fragmentation; and</li> <li>• Noise from Project activities may result in the abandonment of nests or increased rates of predation and exposure of hatchlings and eggs during temporary abandonment.</li> </ul> <p>Most data collected is from desktop analysis. There is some field data. No mention of brown bats which were very prevalent about 10 years ago and are starting to make a comeback.</p> <p>Little Dyke Lake is a known Common Loon nesting lake and we have had a pair of loons each summer for the past 50 years. Each summer we have had the joy of watching and protecting their 2 babies. There have been no babies born the last two summers.</p>	<p><i>Assuming application of the mitigation measures described above, including conducting vegetation clearing activities outside of the ECCC recommended timing window for the Project location to facilitate compliance with the MBCA, the residual environmental effects of the Project on wildlife and wildlife habitat during each phase of the Project are rated <b>not significant, with a high level of confidence.</b> Based on a consideration of existing conditions and likely residual effects of the Project, <b>no monitoring programs are currently recommended for wildlife and wildlife habitat.</b> No follow-up or monitoring is proposed. (Page 106)</i></p>
6.8/Socioeconomic Environment	<p>Land and resource use refers to current and future uses of public and private land and resources. It includes uses such as industrial, commercial, and residential use, property ownership (including potential nuisance effects), and the use of land and resources for</p>	<p><i>Considering the above, and in consideration of planned mitigation and best practices aimed at reducing environmental effects, the residual environmental effects of the Project on the socioeconomic environment during all phases of</i></p>

	<p>recreational purposes.</p> <p>Employment and economy refer to the labor market and availability, employment, employment income, business income, and their aggregate influence on the local, regional and provincial economies.</p> <p>As stated previously, the existing facility has made a significant contribution to the local economy with employment of approximately 15 people (full-time and seasonal) on an annual basis  <b>How is employing 15 people a significant economic contribution?</b></p> <p>Effects on property values are more difficult to determine, since the literature relating property values to proximity to industrial facilities is uncertain. Some studies suggest that proximity to an industrial facility may result in <b>a decline in property values due to nuisance effects and potential damage</b>, whereas others suggest that property values may increase if present near an industrial operation because workers tend to wish to live near where they work.</p> <p><b>There are only 15 seasonal employees at this site.</b></p>	<p><i>the Project are rated <b>not significant</b>, and in the case of employment and economy, are rated as <b>positive</b>. These predictions are made with a <b>high level of confidence</b>. No follow-up or monitoring is proposed.</i>(Page 115)</p>
<b>6.9/ Archaeological/Cultural Historical Resources</b>	<p>On August 3, 2023, the CRM Group conducted archaeological reconnaissance within the LAA. This included conducting four exploratory shovel tests across the Project area to investigate the depth and composition of sediment stratigraphy, and to evaluate the surficial geology and archaeological potential. These shovel tests concluded that the PDA contains upper strata of</p>	<p><i>In summary, the PDA is unlikely to harbour significant archaeological, cultural, or historic resources based on the ARIA conducted. Considering the above, the residual environmental effects of the Project on archaeological, cultural, and historic resource during all phases of the <b>Project are rated not significant, with a high level of confidence</b>. No</i></p>

	<p>Podzolic Order soil profiles that were either stripped or intermixed. This indicates that the land has been heavily impacted due to forestry or farming activity. Shovel Tests 3 and 4 resulted in the identification of intact soil profiles but did not provide evidence of on-site Pre-contact cultural resources (CRM Group 2023).</p> <p>4 Shovel tests done on the same day! Wow!</p>	<p><i>follow-up or monitoring is proposed.(Page 122)</i></p>
<p><b>6.10/Traditional Land/Resource Use</b></p>	<p>The development of the Project will not result in the permanent loss of access or use of land or resources, as the site will be returned to near-natural conditions following decommissioning and reclamation. Engagement with Indigenous communities about the Project has been initiated and is intended to support an improved understanding of the traditional land use of the PDA. Ongoing engagement with the Indigenous communities will continue to take place, and they will be provided the opportunity to support the development of management and reclamation plans and/or to support reclamation activities at the site. Nonetheless, a reduction in the use of land or the resources on the land within the PDA is unavoidable throughout the life of the Project.</p> <p>Site will not be returned to its natural environment until 2056! What is the definition of permanent and temporary?</p>	<p><i>In light of the above, and with the careful implementation of environmental protection and mitigation measures, including accommodation, where reasonable, for demonstrated infringements of Aboriginal or treaty rights that might arise as a result of the Project, the residual environmental effects of the Project on traditional land and resource use during each phase of the Project are <b>not anticipated to result in significant</b> environmental effects on the use of land or resources by the Mi'kmaq that may 6.0 Environmental Effects Assessment 128 OSCO Aggregates Limited Environmental Assessment Registration – Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme, Colchester County, Nova Scotia June 2024 – 23-6113 practice traditional activities in the LAA, subject to confirmation by Indigenous communities through engagement. <b>This prediction is made with a moderate level of confidence due to the limited engagement of Indigenous communities conducted to date and the lack of specific information about potential</b></i></p>



		<p><i>traditional land and resource use activities that might be occurring (or have occurred) in the PDA. (Page 128)</i></p> <p><i>Limited engagement with indigenous communities? How hard did they try to contact these communities?</i></p>
<p><b>7.0/Effects of the Environment on the Project</b></p>	<p>For the Project, long-term environmental management, and Project longevity (approximately 30 years) are inherent considerations in the best management practices of the design and associated Project risk management. Equipment and materials that can withstand severe weather and other influences will be used. Environmental stressors, such as those that could arise because of climate change, severe weather, or other factors would more than adequately be addressed by good planning, materials selection, best practices, and engineering foresight. As will be demonstrated, while there is potential for natural forces to affect the Project, it is not likely to have a substantive effect due to planned mitigation and design.</p>	<p><i>OSCO will continue to monitor changing information regarding climate change and design, and operations will be managed adaptively so that the effects of the environment on the Project will be mitigated if new situations develop. Accordingly, the effects of the environment on the Project are considered <b>not significant, with a high level of confidence</b>.(Page 138)</i></p> <p><i>These consultants are so good they are predicting the effects of climate change over the next 30 years!</i></p>
<p><b>8.0/Accidents,malfunctions,unplanned events</b></p>		<p><i>Accidents, malfunctions, or unplanned events that are not identified with a checkmark in the table above are not expected to result in an interaction with a specific VEC or VECs. For those accidents, malfunctions, or unplanned events, the residual environmental effects of the Project with the VECs for which an interaction was not identified in the above table during each phase are not significant, with a high level of confidence.</i></p> <p><i>An accidental fire may occur with</i></p>

		<p>any project. Mitigation measures, contingency planning, emergency response procedures and best practices will be implemented during the Project to reduce the environmental effects. The potential residual environmental effects of a fire on the socioeconomic environment, atmospheric environment, vegetation, wetlands, water resources, fish and fish habitat, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and traditional land and resource use during all phases of the <b>Project are expected to be not significant, with a high level of confidence.</b> (Page 148)</p>
<p><b>9.0/Potential Impact to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia</b></p>	<p>The potential impacts that this Project may have on Aboriginal rights are illustrated in Table 9.2 below and are based on desktop research and findings on potential environmental effects. Levels of impact have been classified as low or medium, depending on geographic factors such as anticipated environmental impacts, distance from the Project site, and the potential presence of traditional activities around the Project site. It is important to note that, despite efforts to engage with nearby Mi'kmaq communities and relevant Indigenous organizations, no feedback or insights have been received to date. <b>How hard did they try to contact the Mi'kmaq community?</b> The absence of this input presents a gap in OSCO's understanding of how Indigenous peoples interact with the land in or near the Project area, and therefore how their rights could be affected by the Project. This highlights the need for continued outreach and collaboration for a comprehensive understanding of</p>	<p>• <b>Low Impact:</b> Classifying an impact as low indicates that the Proponent is not aware of concerns or interests by an Indigenous group but does not imply that the impact is zero or does not exist. A low impact to rights is determined by the following criteria: o distance of the community from the Project site (over 100 kilometers); the absence of known practicing of ceremonial rights; and 9.0 Potential Impacts to the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia 152 OSCO Aggregates Limited Environmental Assessment Registration – Pit No. 4 Extension, Glenholme, Colchester County, Nova Scotia June 2024 – 23-6113 o the absence of known practicing of hunting or gathering rights. • <b>Medium Impact:</b> Classifying an impact as medium does not mean that an impact is severe or should result in a pause of Project activities. Impacts are considered medium if they arise during conversations with Indigenous communities and</p>

	<p>potential impacts to Aboriginal rights.</p>	<p><i>require discussion, collaboration, or mitigation where reasonable by the Proponent in collaboration with the Indigenous communities. <b>A medium level</b> of impact to rights is determined by the following criteria: proximity to the location of the Project, generally if a community has land that is closer than 100 kilometers; the practicing of ceremonial rights near the Project site; the practicing of hunting or gathering rights near the Project site; and o feedback shared by Indigenous communities relevant to the project (involvement of marginalized groups, employment, economic, environmental effects, etc.). (page 152)</i></p> <p><i>We have a Mi'kmaq community within 100 km of this project site. There has been no contact but a low to medium impact has been predicted?</i></p>
<p><b>10/Potential Cumulative Environmental Effects</b></p>	<p>The geology of the region in which the Project is located has resulted in a long of history of aggregate extraction operations in the area. <b>There are approximately five other aggregate extraction pits within 1 km of the Glenholme area. The Glenholme Pit No. 4 Extension will be concurrent with the operation of existing Pit No. 4</b> operations; however, the total annual production between this facility will remain the same. The Pit No. 4 Extension aggregate source will extend the life of the operation but will not increase production at this facility as existing aggregate sources become depleted. The other common industry in the region is agriculture</p>	<p><i>In following the Nova Scotia Pit and Quarry Guidelines (Nova Scotia Environment and Labour, 1999), combined with the mitigative measures outlined within the assessment carried out in this EARD, <b>no significant cumulative effects are anticipated as a result of this Project in combination with other reasonably foreseeable future projects or activities in the area.</b> (page 156)</i></p> <p><i>Why are there only Guidelines in Nova Scotia for Pits and Quarries, why aren't there any regulations?</i></p>

Respectfully submitted,

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Cc:** [premier@novascotia.com](mailto:premier@novascotia.com); [Minister, Env](#); [Tom Taggart](#); [councillors@colchester.ca](mailto:councillors@colchester.ca); [stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** Osco Aggregates EARD June 6/24  
**Date:** July 5, 2024 6:58:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [OSCO EARD JUNE 2024COMMUNITY COMMENTS.docx](#)  
[EA Community Comments 2017.pdf](#)  
[Map of Osco footprint in Little Dyke Community.pdf](#)

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We submit these comments on behalf of the community of Little Dyke, Glenholme.

Please find attached:

- Comments of the 2024 EARD
- Comments on the 2017 EARD
- map of gravel pits illustrating footprint of operations
- info sheets on the dangers of Crystalline Silica. (Submitted in follow up email.)

Co-Chairs  
Little Dyke Community Coalition

**LITTLE DYKE COMMUNITY COALITION**  
**COMMENTS ON OSCO AGGREGATES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**REGISTRATION DOCUMENT “EARD” FILED JUNE 6, 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Little Dyke Community Coalition (LDCC) is an assembly of approximately 60 households in the Glenholme/Little Dyke area that has been formed with a mandate to preserve and protect our community’s environment, health, safety and way of life. Based on community engagement, attendance levels at our community meetings and a door-to-door survey, we are satisfied we represent the majority of all residents.

**We and our many supporters consider the aggressive growth plans of Osco Aggregates to be an existential threat to our community and possibly others. As can be seen from the growing media coverage, strong support from Mayor Blair, and others, and an increasingly worried and upset community, your decision on this EARD will be seen far and wide and closely scrutinized.**

We want to ensure you have “all the information necessary to make a reasonable decision” and so are doing our best to make a meaningful contribution to the EARD process. We do, however, need to point out we are being hampered significantly by the following factors, which we expect the Minister will take into account:

1. Tim Halman, Minister of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, has declined and ignored multiple invitations to visit our community. Not having seen the community in person on a matter so critical is unacceptable to us. We believe it impairs his ability to make a proper decision.
2. Your regulations provide for a 30-day period from the date the EARD is filed for the public to submit comments. This can only be seen as unduly restrictive and one of many examples of how **the regulations as designed, disadvantage our community.**
3. Our community lacks the financial resources to find and engage the services of experts and consultants. It simply lacks common sense to expect our community, any community, to read, interpret and adequately critique the EARD – a highly technical and lengthy document at 193 pages. Another example of how **the regulations, as designed, disadvantage our community.**
4. Fortunately, we have received support from the Ecology Action Centre and they are studying our situation.
5. In critiquing the EARD it is essential to have in hand certain information that is only available by way of FOIPOP. This is a lengthy and, sometimes, expensive proposition. At the time of this submission, we are still waiting for information that could have significant impact on the EARD.

**LITTLE DYKE COMMUNITY COALITION**  
**COMMENTS ON OSCO AGGREGATES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
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6. We were first advised by Osco of the EARD’s imminent registration just before Christmas, 2023. The timing was clearly an effort to catch the community off balance over the holiday season and at a time Osco’s operations were at a standstill. Now they are trying to use the summer season to their advantage. A window of 30 days does not take into account the many variables that can impact a fair and judicious review of the EARD

**Despite these restrictions and the “pro-industry” bias built into the environment act, we will make our case in the hopes sanity and common sense will prevail.**

GLENHOLME/LITTLE DYKE (“Little Dyke”)

BACKGROUND

Little Dyke is a rural community in Colchester County 20 minutes from Truro by car. Principally, an agricultural area it has evolved over the years to have 3 constituents: active farm lands, permanent and seasonal residents, and a ~600-acre sand and gravel extraction and processing operation.

On Cobequid Bay, it is a unique community, once known for its beautiful beach, and a small spring-fed lake, all of which were frequently enjoyed by residents as well as visitors from surrounding communities and tourists. It was also known for its robust environment, including a variety of bird species such as at-risk shore birds, eagles and loons, to name a few. Also in the area were bear, fox, deer, coyotes, rabbits, beaver, porcupine, bear, and skunks. **The animal habitat is, of course, quickly disappearing** as the foot print of the mine exceed 400 acres.

The mining operations started as a small family business which over time drew the attention of the Irving construction conglomerate, Ocean Capital. The alarm went off in the community when in 2017, the operator, now Osco Aggregates, registered an EARD proposing the opening of Pit#4. **The attached map** shows the position of past, existing and future operations. As can be seen, the mining operations now dominate the community landscape, threatening its very existence.

**Our response to the 2017 EARD is attached.**

**LITTLE DYKE COMMUNITY COALITION**  
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**GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE EARD**

**1. Dillon Consulting Limited**

- a. The relationship between OSCO and Dillon Consulting is a clear **conflict of interest** and brings the credibility of the EARD into question, potentially undermining the entire process. **Under no circumstance should the proponent in an EARD be able to choose the consultant and enter into a commercial contract.**
- b. We have reason to believe Jonathon Oliver, Project Manager for Dillon and author of the EARD, was not licensed to work in Nova Scotia at the time the report was prepared. We have made an enquiry with the governing body of Professional Geologists in Canada and await a reply. He does not appear on the Association Website.

**IF THIS IS THE CASE IT WOULD FOLLOW THAT THE EARD MUST BE REJECTED.**

**2. Misinformation:** there are instances of misinformation in the EARD that bring its overall credibility into question:

- a. We believe the number of employees include Glenholme Ready Mix, a separate entity from Osco which has been there for many years.
- b. The EARD includes minutes from the most recent Liaison Committee Meeting that we strongly disagree with. They have not been approved by the Committee as required. One example: during the meeting we requested that Osco host a community meeting where they could present their plans and the community members could ask questions. Mr. Bancroft agreed to do so, but after the EARD was filed. Subsequently we were advised, without discussion, the meeting would not be held because **they felt it wasn't necessary.**

**3. Conclusions drawn with no support or rationale:**

- a. The economic argument is flawed in a number of ways. There's no evidence OSCO will maintain employment levels. In fact, the increased “efficiency” of the operations will lead to layoffs. Some employees come from other jobs in Colchester – what is the net gain?
- b. A true case for economic benefits must be based on a cost/benefit analysis. What is the cost of lost farm land, disruption to resident's lives and health, environmental damage, increased road maintenance?

**4. Cumulative impacts not factored in:**

- a. The EARD does not address the cumulative impact of the mining operation on the physical and mental health of this community. The size of the operation is not only overwhelming, it is destined to keep growing for many years.

**5. Dysfunctional relationship.** The community relationship with Osco management is dysfunctional. There is a degree distrust that comes in part from the management of the CLC. Osco claims to care about this community, yet there is no evidence to support that. In fact, **Little Dyke derives no benefits from having Osco in its midst.**



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**COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES**

**Health and Welfare of community:** The toxic carcinogenic properties of Crystalline Silica, an airborne biproduct of crushing materials such as granite, is widely know and understood. It has been described as the "next asbestos" Please refer to Attachments. This potentially affects the health and safety of employees that work on site as well as nearby residents and farms.

We have observed employees on site in Pit #2 and 3 to wear no protective gear, such as masks, gloves, or even hard hats and safety vests. Coincidentally, we've observed in recent days that Osco has addressed these issues. This in indicative of an arrogant management's disrespect for the regulations and their own employees.

**THIS PROJECT CANNOT GO AHEAD UNTIL PROFESSIONAL, INDEPENDENT STUDIES ARE COMPLETED TO DETERMINE RISK LEVELS**

**Road Safety:** The heavy traffic from Osco operations has made our main access road unsafe for both pedestrians and vehicles. We have conducted an initial traffic study from 6:30 to 9:30 that concluded;

- 123 vehicles on the road 32 residents and 91 from Osco
- 3 vehicle infractions
- 2 near accidents.

We are recommending that a private road be constructed from Pit #4 to Highway 2 as a reasonable alternative. Osco has dismissed this alternative with no credible rationale.

**Compliance:** Osco is known for having a poor compliance record. They push the limits to see what they can get away with. We are currently waiting on a FOIPOP request regarding the company's compliance record. Obviously, you have access to that, and understand the situation. In the absence of an adequately resourced compliance office, we are relied upon to spot and report infractions, which we do. Pit #4 is out of sight from the public as will be the expansion site so we are trusting DOE to regularly inspect the site for infractions, such as **breaching the water table**.

**Reclamation:** Meaningful attempts at reclamation are not in evidence. In Pit#2 the plant manager installed a horse paddock for personal use. Otherwise, all we can see is grass being grown on a base of silt from the settling ponds. A number of trees were planted around Pit#2 last summer; however, it was noted it took place during a draught and the species of tree chosen was not characteristic with the area.

A berm located on little dyke road should have been removed years ago. We have been bringing this up at the CLC meeting for 2 years with no success. We noticed 2 days ago the work has started, obviously in a rush to protect their EARD from criticism. Again, evicence of a very disrespectful and cynical management cultured.

**LITTLE DYKE COMMUNITY COALITION**  
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**Operating Hours:** The hours proposed in the EARD are as follows:

Washing and screening – 5AM to 10PM on Weekdays. 7AM to 6PM on weekends

Crushing – 7AM to 10PM weekdays, 7AM to 6PM on weekends

Such hours would disturb sleep patterns, morning and evening activities of the residents. This would not be acceptable for any residential area. And Little Dyke is very much residential in makeup.

We were told at a CLC Meeting the new work plan would increase productivity and reduce hours of operation.

**Public engagement:** Osco has not taken the trouble to foster a good relationship with the community. They are seen as a poor corporate citizen:

1. Not responding to issues put before the CLC committee
2. Clearance of gravel from road, inconsistent and poorly executed.
3. Broken commitments – removal of berms.
4. Reneging on promise to hold community meeting.
5. Reckless driving of trucks and heavy equipment. Multiple reports from residents of aggressive driving, near misses, having to take evasive action to avoid collisions, damaged windshields.

The following statement in section 3.4 of the EARD does not translate into our actual experience. OSCO provides no support for this assertion, and being the community in question, we can attest to the opposite. We trust DOE can see through this nonsense.

*“Comments, concerns, and issues raised through the engagement efforts are summarized in Appendix B. OSCO is interested in understanding issues or concerns related to the Project and commits to working directly with these communities and organizations to mitigate and/or accommodate issues”*

**Minister Halman, this EARD is incomplete in many ways and I expect your team will come to a similar conclusion. We urge you to hold Osco to account and delay approval until these many issues are resolved.**



Municipality of the  
County of Colchester

www.colchester.ca

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Mayor@colchester.ca

E-MAILED  
July 4/17

mayor's letter  
sent 4/17

1 CHURCH STREET  
TRURO NS B2N 3Z5

(902) 897-3160

FILE COPY

June 30, 2017

The Honourable Iain Rankin  
Minister of Environment  
Nova Scotia Environment  
PO Box 442  
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Rankin:

Re: Glenholme Pit No. 4 Aggregate Extraction Project

The Council of the Municipality of the County of Colchester, at its June 29, 2017 meeting, considered correspondence received from the Little Dyke Residents Association (LDRA) expressing their objection to the registration of Glenholme Pit No. 4 Aggregate Extraction Project.

Our Council shares many of the concerns of the LDRA. Although we are ardent supporters of business activity in our County, it must never grow at the cost of either environmental harm nor quality of life for our residents. In our view, the Environmental Assessment prepared by Dillon Consulting, does not adequately account for these community factors.

Aside from a proposed Sunday operations closure, few measures are proposed by either the proponents or the assessment consultant to mitigate nuisances impinging of residents' enjoyment of daily life. Before new activity is approved, the project's hours of operation need to align with standard daytime business schedules. Noise restrictions need to be developed, monitored, and enforced to ensure that conditions for adequate sleep are protected in the community.

The proximity of the proposed extraction areas to residential, recreation, and green spaces used by the community do not seem to have been considered even though the nature of a gravel extraction operation is such that air and water quality, visual appeal, increased heavy vehicle traffic, and sound levels can negatively affect quality of life for area residents.

2

For these reasons, our Council wishes to voice its lack of support for the Glenholme Pit No. 4 Aggregate Extraction Project as currently proposed. Should you wish clarification about our specific concerns or any assistance from our staff with steps to address them, I invite you to contact our CAO, Rob Simonds at 902-897-3184.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Blair".

Christine Blair  
Mayor

c. Little Dyke Residents Association ✓

2

Little Dyke Resident's Association meeting - June 29, 2017

The Peg, Masstown, NS

Attendees –

### **Incorporation**

presented the option of incorporating as an association.

The advantages of incorporation

- protects name

- Public record on Joint Stocks of NS

- Formal structure guided by by-laws which would give the group discipline and formal records and a voting system to make decisions

- Protects against personal liability if we were to be sued

Unanimous decision to move forward with this. Initial directors will be -

Agreement that annual membership fee will be \$20 per person moving forward. Please bring this to the next meeting.

The name of the association will be the Glenholme Little Dyke Resident's Association

### **County of Colchester Council Meeting update**

County council was meeting at the same time as our meeting and the Osco expansion was on their agenda. In conversations with \_\_\_\_\_ we have asked for Council to recommend a full environmental review and full public consultation of the project to take place before a decision can be made to move forward. We will await the results of this meeting and will update the group accordingly. There will be a media release associated with the results of this council meeting, depending on the direction that was taken.

\_\_\_\_\_ also has a meeting booked with Karen Casey to present our comments and lobby for additional environmental studies.

### **Public comments on the Department of Environment website**

We have received all public comments in regards to this proposed expansion. There are comments missing that were not presented. Please review the attachments and advise if your comments are not reflected.

We are also sending these comments along with our 19 pages of notes and pictures to each bureaucrat that has commented on the project to ensure that they have the whole picture of information.

Ian has had several conversations with Helen McPhail who will head the decision making team and she claims we did not receive the final copy of comments and will send it along. It has not been received to date and was promised earlier this week.

### **Department of Environment**

met with Charlotte Sullivan, local Department of Environment Inspector on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Charlotte has responded to their concerns. See below.

At this time these complaints are first time offenses from the Nova Scotia Environment perspective, therefore fines were not levied. If you have any concerns about the **current practices** by Osco in regards to the environment please ensure that you take personal responsibility to report it. She has suggested that it is best to stop into their office to complete a form. They are located at 22 Inglis St. Her email is [charlotte.sullivan@novascotia.ca](mailto:charlotte.sullivan@novascotia.ca) ; office hours number is 902-893-5880 and after hours emergency number is 1-800-565-1633.

**From:** Sullivan, Charlotte A <[Charlotte.Sullivan@novascotia.ca](mailto:Charlotte.Sullivan@novascotia.ca)>

**Sent:** June 29, 2017 4:05 PM

**To:**

**Subject:** NSE response to complaints against OSCO pit in Little Dyke

This e-mail is a follow up to our phone conversation earlier in the week when I contacted you to provide an update on your complaints against the current operation of the OSCO pit in Little Dyke. During our conversation you had requested I provide the information we discussed in an e-mail.

On June 20, 2017 the Regional Engineer, Kathleen Johnson, and myself conducted an inspection at the OSCO to address the list of concerns you had brought forward to NSE during the meeting I had with you on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Below is a brief summary of our findings at this point:

1. Complaint: pond below the water table in pit#1 is being used to wash out equipment. Response: The company indicated they will stop using this pond and make plans to rehabilitate this area.
2. Complaint: washing out concrete trucks in the pit #1. Response: NSE has requested an alternate location, which is acceptable to NSE, be identified and used

3. Complaint: vehicle junkyard leaking fluids Response: Several vehicles were observed in pit #1. Some minimal staining (i.e. <1m<sup>2</sup>) was observed. NSE will be following up.
4. Complaint: waste oil burning on site Response: waste oil is picked up by a third party contractor and taken off site on a regular basis. No further follow up by NSE required at this time. If burning is observed please contact NSE immediately so it can be investigated.
5. Complaint: receiving concrete tailings from other companies and dumping in pit#2 Response: Concrete is a material which currently does not require disposal at an approved C&D site. The use of concrete tailings in pit#2 as fill was acceptable (at the location currently being used) as long as no foreign materials are present in the tailings.
6. Complaint: on-site system for mobile home at 52 Folly Point Road. Response: No Approval/ Notification was received for the installation of this system. NSE will be following up.
7. Complaint: wetland infill at the end of Folly Point Road. Response: This is not land owned by OSCO so NSE will be following up with the property owner.
8. Complaint: Road grubbing on Lafarge property. Response: NSE is still gathering information
9. Complaint: OSCO working on PIDs not included in the original EA document. Response: NSE is still gathering information

I hope this satisfies your request.

Cheers,

Charlotte

Additional comments/updates –

is looking to present to the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Colchester Council, focus will be on Little Dyke past and present.

Wanda Henwood has a meeting booked with

Meeting with upcoming

has been in contact with the Cobequid Salmon Association – they will be coming out this summer to see if they want to take on McCurdy's Creek as a project.

Next meeting will be Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup>. Location to be determined.



June 13, 2017

Ms. Helen MacPhail  
Environment Assessment Division  
Nova Scotia Environment  
P O Box 442  
1903 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

**Re: Public Comments on the Registration of Glenholme Pit No.4 Aggregate Extraction Project**

Dear Ms. MacPhail:

The Little Dyke Residents Association reviewed the Registration document and request that the document be rejected for the following reasons:

- Incomplete Registration information: under Section 9(1a) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations subsection (b) subsections (vi), (ix), (x), (xiii), (xiv), and (xv). The LDRA can only assume that the Nova Scotia Environmental (NSE) staff must not have reviewed the OSCO Aggregates' submission prior to release to the public for comment.
- OSCO Aggregates mislead the NSE and the public in their statements that they conducted public consultation – of which they cannot provide evidence.
- Only partial baseline information on the environment has been collected.
- OSCO Aggregates has demonstrated a lack of adherence the environmental protective measures and conditions stipulated in the 2007 approval for their existing operations, as well as other regulatory restrictions on activities. The Operation Manager was unaware of environmental conditions imposed on their current operations, clearly demonstrating a lack of environmental management systems in place and best practices. As they cannot operate their gravel pits in such a manner, and without legal permits, the LDRA is of the opinion that they will ignore any conditions imposed on their application for Pit No. 4.
- OSCO Aggregates commenced with road construction not shown on the Registration document mapping; without project approval; on lands they do not own; and have infringed upon the buffer zone for watercourse crossing on a salmonid bearing watercourse.
- Statements of "no significant impact" are made with assumptions and speculation on incomplete baseline data collection; the absence of significance criteria; the absence of sound or air quality modeling to predict sound attenuation, particulate dispersion or efficacy of sound barrier berms– both are issues occurring now at their existing quarry which are farther than proposed for Pit No. 4.
- The socio-economic aspects addressed were in two sentences and solely to the benefit of OSCO Aggregates and incomplete as an assessment.



The LDRA submits specific comments in the attachment for the NSE Environment Assessment Division review. We expended considerable effort in the review of the Registration document and compilation of evidence and welcome dialogue with the NSE staff and other regulatory agencies that NSE consults with in the determination of such projects.

Sincerely,

Spokesperson  
Little Dyke Residents Association

@gmail.com

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### Comments by Little Dyke Residents Association

**Exec. Summ. para 2:** *The Project will be operated by OSCO Aggregates personnel who have been operating pits in the area for 30 years and live in the community.* The timeframe is vague and needs proper definition. Define the area identified as "the community".

**Exec. Summ. para 2:** *The Glenholme facility has made a significant contribution to the local economy, with employment of approximately 15 people (full time and seasonal) on an annual basis, and has paid over 2.5 million dollars in wages, royalties, fees and taxes over the last 5 years, and more previously.* Provide details of the number of jobs that are full time and part time. A proper economic impact analysis must be presented as this sentence implies local benefits – which are not described. There are two full time jobs and 13 seasonal jobs. These jobs will still exist with the active pits, so the expansion does not result in job creation. Royalties do not benefit the local economy. Fees is an ambiguous term. The 100+ residential value is in the order of \$50 million and property taxes paid far exceed the roughly \$3000 in property taxes paid by OSCO. Information has not been provided to make the statement that the facility has made any significant contribution to the local economy.

**Exec. Summ. para 2:** *"providing continued employment in the area."* An economic impact analysis was not undertaken to verify this statement and define the boundaries of "the area".

**Exec. Summ. para 3.** *Most of the Project study area was also historically cut-over.* Almost all of Nova Scotia has been cut over historically. Very little old growth forest exists. Regeneration occurs and mature forest exists on the study area. The significance of this statement is undefined.

**Exec. Summ. para 3:** *The pit excavation will remain at least 0.5 m above the ground water table.* There is no description on how this metric is measured to ensure that break through does not occur. There is no description to record changes in the groundwater table.

**Exec. Summ. para 4:** *Progressive reclamation will occur in stages as aggregate removal is completed from sections of the Project area.* This commitment requires detailed information on stages as reclamation has not occurred on the vast majority of the existing pits over the past 30 years.



**Exec. Summ. para 4:** *Final reclamation will be completed following regulatory requirements.* This requirement is defined by the NSE and requires clear definition. Mining is an environmentally-responsible industry that makes temporary use of land, and then reclaims it for other purposes, such as natural space, recreational areas and commercial and residential development.

Reclamation is key to ensuring future generations will continue to enjoy an area after taking the materials. Mining and quarrying companies are committed to minimizing environmental impact while working on a site, and then to reclaiming it in ways that maximize its use for communities.

The government requires that all new mines, quarries and pits post a reclamation bond – at least \$2500 per acre used - and submit a rehabilitation plan that addresses key issues such as surface contouring, proper drainage and re-vegetation. This ensures that there is a proper plan in place, and funds available, to prepare former mines and quarries for their next use.

Reclamation is done on an ongoing basis as areas of mines and quarries are completed, which limits the size of the area in actual production, and ensures that environmental considerations are a daily concern for companies, not just an afterthought. Total reclamation of a site must be completed within a year of an operation ending.

**Exec. Summ para.5:** *Pit development activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Nova Scotia Pit and Quarry Guidelines (Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour (now NSE) 1999) and other applicable provincial and federal regulatory requirements.* Why has the current OSCO operations at the existing Pits 1,2 and 3 have been non-compliant in the 2007 NSE approval.

**Exec. Summ para 6:** *Surface water drainage features are present downgradient of the existing pit and along the access road ditching.* Erosion and sedimentation have occurred in an adjacent watercourse to McCurdy Creek, of the current OSCO active pits, that support Atlantic salmon spawning and rearing habitat as is evidenced by the presence of salmon smolts.

**Exec. Summ para. 6:** *No Species at Risk (SAR) listed by the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) or the Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act (NSES) were observed in August to October 2016 field surveys.* The baseline surveys are incomplete and such statements are not valid until all appropriate surveys are conducted.

**Exec. Summ para 6:** *No SAR or priority plant species were observed in August 2016 field surveys or are anticipated based on habitat identified. Based on habitat identified, priority plant species are not expected at the property.* Spring vegetation surveys were not conducted to groundtruth modeling of habitat.

**Exec. Summ. para 6:** *A wide variety of bird species may nest at the property including potential SAR birds. No clearing activities will be undertaken during the bird nesting season.* This sentence contradicts the statement above. Clarify if SAR bird species and habitat exists. Habitat loss for all birds, common or otherwise, is a well noted growing threat for bird populations. No spring breeding bird surveys were conducted. Nighthawks, swallows, Bald Eagles and owls nest in the area.



**Exec. Summ. para 6:** *There is limited potential for SAR animals (monarch butterfly, mainland moose, bats, snapping turtle and wood turtle) and other priority butterflies to occasionally use the property; however, the habitat identified is not a key component of overall habitat requirements or critical for populations. Moose, bats, barn swallows, bank swallows, nighthawks, and snapping turtles are found in the immediate area of Little Dyke and the proposed expansion area. Such statements indicate incomplete site evaluations and certainly a lack of communication with local residents and consideration of their traditional ecological knowledge.*

**Exec. Summ. para 6:** *Potential receptors for noise and dust are located at least 200 m from the Pit. Clarify the term "receptor". The closest residence is 80 m with others closer than 200 m. Eagle nests are closer than 200 m. A proposed road route, not illustrated in the report, is described such that an eagle's nest may be destroyed. In fact, this proposed road and right of way has been cleared and grubbed, and encroached into the McCurdy Brook channel – where salmonids were observed on June 7, 2017. American eels also inhabit the area watercourses. The Bald Eagles nest may have been destroyed in this process.*







**Exec. Summ. para 7:** *The setting is within an area used extensively for aggregate extraction and Project effects will not change existing conditions for traffic except for the 700 m along Little Dyke Road between the Project and the Glenholme Wash Plant. This sentence is awkward. Project effects were not explained on traffic with the increase in truck traffic. Residents believe existing conditions will change with a substantial addition of truck traffic to transport aggregate from the production site to the wash plant and return.*

**Exec. Summ. para.7:** *Based on responses and comments from local residents additional consultation was completed. OSCO staff met with and discussed residents' concerns on multiple occasions during the course of the EA. A Project update newsletter was distributed to the local community to provide an update the EA. Additionally, a residents meeting was facilitated by MLA Karen Casey. Residents initiated all meetings with OSCO reps to gather information. Limited project information in the form of a hand out was provided to selected residents. Public meetings were not advertised nor held. Concerns were not recorded and what is listed is incomplete. No meeting was facilitated by MLA Karen Casey, she invited several residents to a closed meeting with pre-defined time limits.*

**Exec. Summ. para 8:** *OSCO will implement best management practices and standards applicable to pit development. The existing pit operators have failed to comply with: hazardous materials storage and disposal; erosion and sediment control; truck traffic on seasonally closed roads; road safety rules; reporting on petroleum spills and clean up; progressive reclamation; extraction exceedence of property boundary, noise control, illegal burning, excavating into the groundwater to create ponds for washing material at the screening plant,, and semi-annual community meetings.*

Such operational behaviour demonstrates a lack of environmental and safety management systems in place or dismissed.







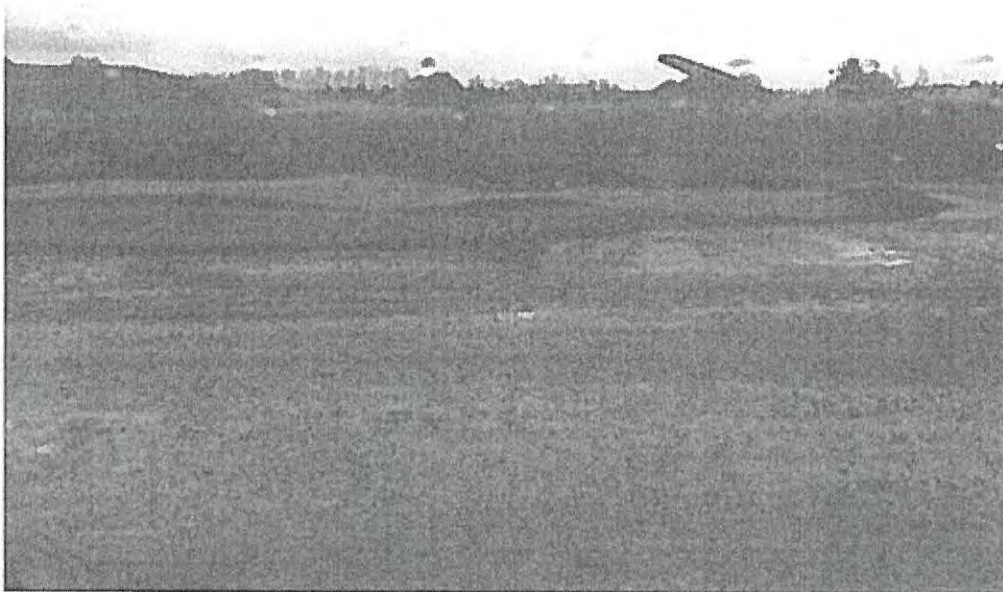
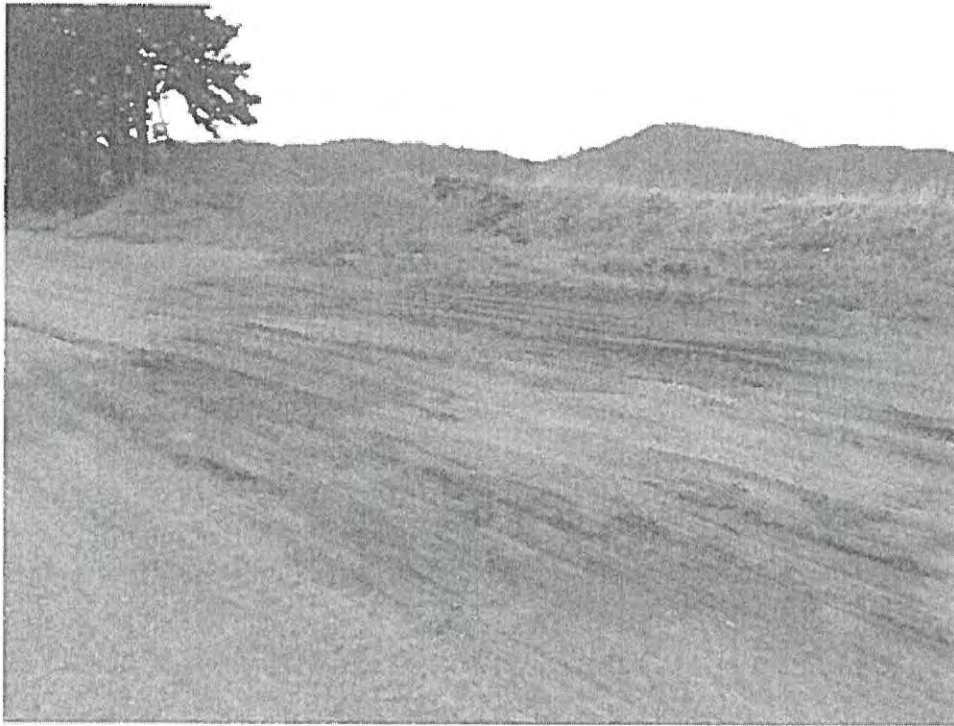
**Exec. Summ. para 9:** *The Project is not predicted to result in significant environmental impact with the implementation of the identified mitigation measures.* There is a lack of adequate public consultation, a lack a formal socio-economic analysis, incomplete baseline ecological surveys and no definitions of significant effects on any socio or ecological components to make this statement with any confidence. There are certainly no positive effects discussed other than profits and taxes paid of some unknown amount to the municipality. The proponent has demonstrated over many years how stipulated conditions in their 2007 approval for the current pits are not applied.

**Section 1.1, para 3:** The proponent does not have extensive experience with environmentally responsible aggregate extraction, as witnessed by local residents. This claim is misleading.

- Neighbouring salt marsh filled in.
- House built in 1867 on OSCO's 2007 acquired property known as the former Jackson Property was burned to the ground as a means of demolition on March 25, 2014. Toxins from this type of activity may have been airborne. This form of demolition is illegal.
- Burning oils and other materials causing black smoke under cover of rainy days. Following a complaint, OSCO arranged for a home to be washed of soot.
- MSDS for the hazardous chemicals POZZUTEC 20 Plus and Calcium Flake 77% list proper safety precautions which are not followed as containers for both products are found around the site in ditches.
- Trucks observed emptying residue on side of the road.
- A spill of hydraulic fluid occurred on Little Dyke Road, provincial property, as one of the trucks was leaving the pit. When the spill happened, OSCO put sand on it and said they called the Department of Transportation to report the spill. Nothing was done to clean up the contaminated soil. The spill was once again brought to the attention of OSCO management at a meeting in April 2017. OSCO's initial response was that it wasn't their responsibility to clean it up. They said they would call DOT again and if they didn't clean it up then OSCO would because they admitted that if it wasn't for them, the trucks wouldn't be there. According to OSCO, the DOT said they weren't going to send anyone out to clean up the spill so OSCO ended up doing it in May of 2017, the morning of the day manager David Bancroft met with the members of the Little Dyke Residents Association, at the residents' request.
- Numerous noise complaints.
- Home value reduction.
- Fear of retribution for complaining.









**Section 2.3, para 2:** The years of operation in the document vary from 30 years to 25 years. Provide an accurate period of operation. The various operators of the pit over the time periods are not described (Lafarge, MSD Enterprises).

**Section 2.3, para 3:** The description of the existing pit reclaimed areas is awkward .."Additional historic aggregate removal occurred throughout the property in areas that are currently vegetated". The figures used to illustrate these areas show only a boundary of an unvegetated pit. Pit 3 is not included in either of the figures. Pit 1 appears to be unvegetated, yet the statement wrongly confirms that Pits 1 and 3 are reclaimed to the satisfaction of the NSE.

**Section 2.3, para 4:** No details are provided to explain the means used to determine proximity to the groundwater table and how fluctuations in groundwater table will be assessed.

**Section 2.3, para 8:** Changes to the existing OSCO operational boundaries were exceeded which is a trigger under the EA process and not approved.

**Section 2.4, para 6:** There is a claim of making a significant contribution to the local economy which is unsubstantiated by any economic analysis by qualified persons to support such statements. Significant is not defined. This claim is a guesstimate at best. Statements on economic benefit to the local community are not defined nor analyzed in a methodical manner. "and more previously" are not evidence of economic benefits. It is hearsay. A large portion of the earnings are expected to go directly back into the economy...expectations are often not met and not the basis for a proper socio-economic analysis.

Socio-economic impacts are potential changes caused direct, indirect or induced, in whole, or part, for better or for worse, by industrial development activities. This registration document has



not clearly assessed the social, economic and cultural valued components of this project. There is no mention of health and well-being, sustainable wildlife harvesting, land access or land use, protecting heritage and cultural resources, population sustainability, adequate services and infrastructure or adequate sustainable income and lifestyle.

**Section 2.5:** Alternatives to the Project have not been adequately considered. Alternatives to the Project are defined as functionally different ways of achieving the same end - Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (1997). The one alternative to the proposed pit expansion is the 'do nothing' scenario. The 'no-go alternative' would mean that OSCO would pursue opportunities elsewhere in the province. The 15 jobs remain in the area as the active pit is still operational. The relative of the OSCO manager who owns the proposed property would not receive financial benefit. Environmental implications of a gravel pit in another area were not considered nor assessed in the Registration document. There is no information, analysis or data provided to substantiate the statement that *"more extensive development disturbance and conflict with other land uses (e.g., forestry, agriculture) would be anticipated."* The OSCO representatives told area residents that another suitable aggregate source exists in the Portapique area, about a 15 minute drive from the Glenholme property, but this location was not presented in the Registration document as an alternative.

**Section 2.5:** *"In order to find a comparable resource to the high quality Glenholme aggregate, significantly increased transportation routes to both processing facilities and markets would be required;.."* The markets have been identified as "northern Nova Scotia corridor, Halifax, various local markets and road building" thus the markets are quite far ranging and somewhat undefined. In order to find high quality aggregate requires geological investigation. The statement is not a valid alternative argument and appears to show reluctance of investment. As an economic analysis is lacking, the assessment of alternatives is incomplete.

**Section 2.6, para 2:** This project is deemed a Class I undertaking and this document is a registration of that proposed project. Refer to Section 9 (1) of the Environmental Assessment Regulations. Depending on the quality of the information submitted at that phase, the Minister may require a focus report, a terms of reference or an environmental assessment. Refer to Section 11 (1) of the Environment Assessment Regulations. At the Registration Phase, the proponent has the opportunity to provide additional information to assist with the assessment of the registration. The proponent and their consultants have chosen to use the "environmental assessment" scope, where none is required at this stage of the regulatory review. The environmental assessment content is incomplete.

**Section 2.6, para 2:** Air quality is defined as a measurement of pollutants in air. *Air quality* is the degree to which *air* is suitable or clean enough for humans, animals, or plants to remain healthy. *Noise pollution* or *noise* disturbance is the disturbing or excessive *noise* that may harm the activity or balance of human or animal life. By lumping in noise with air quality demonstrates a lack of understanding of the differences in these parameters. Socio-economic considerations were largely omitted.

**Section 2.6.1, para 1:** Missing from the boundaries are definitions of regional and local study areas; local air quality; noiseshed; visual view planes; ecological boundaries; regulatory boundaries (existing impacts on salmonid habitat is under federal jurisdiction) and temporal boundaries.

**Section 3.0, para 1:** The Glenhome operations manager responsible for operations of associated pits is vague and requires clarification.

**Section 3.1, para 1:** *A description of the proposed Pit No. 4 Project and pending EA, were distributed to homeowners and local businesses within approximately 1 km of the proposed Project on November 10, 2016. Information sheets were hand delivered to each of the homes along Little Dyke Road and to the houses on Highway No. 2 between Little Dyke Road and Highway 4. This statement contradicts the following. During the distribution of Project information on November 10, 2016, seven property owners were spoken to directly by the Glenholme Operations Manager. All responded positively to the Project and did not identify any concerns.*

**Section 3.1, para 2&3:** *"A description of the proposed Pit No. 4 Project and pending EA". On Nov 10, 2016, seven residents received a flyer, the first time any information on the proposed project was disseminated. Some residents who received this flyer made it very clear to Mr. Putnam of their concerns and did not endorse this project. To state otherwise is misleading and self serving. The residents were so concerned that on November 25, 2016, they took the initiative by inviting the OSCO representative to one of the homes to explain a flyer distributed by OSCO. Following that discussion, two pages of much the same project information was provided to residents in February 2017 claiming that an environmental assessment was underway and was to be registered and only then was the project available for public review and comment. Obviously OSCO and its consultants, Dillon Consulting, are confused on the EA process, where the project is first registered, then an EA may be prepared based on a terms of reference. Not the other way around. A meeting organized by MLA Karen Casey on April 21, 2017 was held for area residents of which about ten attended. OSCO set a short time limit of the meeting, which consisted of heralding the Irving holdings, followed by a brief overview of the intended project. This did not constitute a public consultation and the meeting host specifically stated so in writing. The tone of the evening was dictatorial and the project was established as a done deal. Not a single concern was documented.*

**Section 3.2, para 1:** *OSCO spoke to only seven property owners. There are 109 property owners in Little Dyke, not including Glenholme and surrounding area who use the lake and roads. The comments that opposition to the project was not expressed is false and egregious. OSCO is misleading the regulatory authorities.*

**Section 4.0:**

*Fisheries Act, SAR Act - OSCO states that "there is no fish habitat in the footprint"; however, McCurdy's Creek is fish habitat and supported salmonids of varying age classes. The creek receives drainage from the active pits and the proposed pit. Atlantic salmon of the Bay of Fundy stock are endangered. A significant portion of McCurdy Creek's watershed has been or will be altered by the gravel pit industry in that surface water drainage in those areas has been removed from the watercourse. Cumulative effects were not considered in the Registration document.*

*Activities Designation Regulations - Wetland alteration may occur as report in this document.*

*Contaminated Sites Regulations - Petroleum spills occurred on site and left.*

*NSEA and Wildlife Act - Ecological surveys are incomplete.*

**Section 4.0, para 2:** *No federal environmental assessment triggers have been determined. This may not be the case as salmonid habitat has potentially been harmed from the active pit runoff and developments and the proposed pit. The proposed access road is currently under construction, albeit not approved. Clearly there is no respect for environmental laws.*

**Section 5.1, para 1:** *No trees will be removed within the buffers as outlined in the Pit and Quarry Guidelines active area separation buffers, or from within wetlands or their buffers (except where authorized by NSE). Despite the Nova Scotia Pit and Quarry Guidelines for separation from ecological resources, OSCO appears to likely seek authorisation to reduce or eliminate the required buffers. Therefore, the project boundary is not established at this time.*

**Section 5.1, para 4:** OSCO representatives told residents that there was to be no fueling onsite, therefore why is onsite fueling an activity.

**Section 5.2, para 1:** Residents were told that the water table level would be determined by excavation until groundwater was found. This method is crude and contradicts the commitment to remain above the water table. Current pit practice is to dig down into the groundwater table to create ponds for industrial use on site. It is doubtful that groundwater is protected.

**Section 5.2, para 1:** Site runoff has resulted in sedimentation of McCurdy Creek. This evident contradicts the OSCO assumption that the material on site is not easily mobilized in runoff. Stormwater runoff is not controlled by OSCO at this time, so commitments to do so now are somewhat dubious.

**Section 5.2, para 3:** OSCO is seeking to operate up to 24 hours a day, year round. This is contradictory with assertions made that seasonal crushing operations will be made in consultation with area residents.

**Section 5.2, para 4:** OSCO is non-compliant with DOT weight restriction on the road with the current operation. It is highly likely that they will continue this practice.

**Section 5.2, para 5:** An inactive pit needs to be defined, as progressive reclamation has not occurred to date on many pit areas owned by OSCO, and that that has been done has largely only occurred in the past year in preparation for this new submission.

**Section 5.2, para 6:** Clarity on the application of road salting – not anticipated implies road salt may be used.

**Section 5.4, para 1:** OSCO has demonstrated that they do not follow best practices and responsible environmental management.

**Section 5.4, para 4:** OSCO has stated that they may not maintain the required setbacks from watercourses and wetlands. Inconsistency in project design at this time.

**Section 5.4, para 5:** Dust control on stock piles is a "maybe" at this stage, with no definite commitment to management.

**Section 5.4, para 6:** Noise control is estimated to be managed to Nova Scotia Pit and Quarry Guidelines using a partial berm without the evidence of any noise modeling effort to determine noise levels at the property boundary of any equipment or the adequate dimension and materials of such a proposed berm with small (unidentified species) trees. Such small trees will take decades to be effective until they grow. Noise modeling is required by professional acoustic specialists.

**Section 5.4, para 7:** Hazardous materials were found improperly stored on the active site. Spills of petroleum were left untreated. It is doubtful that OSCO will now act responsibly in environmental management of the proposed Pit 4. OSCO should be put on probation for operation of their current pits to demonstrate compliance with the 2007 approval before being granted approval for another operation.

**Section 6.1, para 1:** The Project footprint is referred to as "potential ultimate disturbed area"; however, there are many caveats that infringement on watercourse and wetlands is likely to

occur. Regional boundaries are not delineated on a figure. Ecological boundaries are not addressed.

**Section 6.2:** Atmospheric Emissions are different than Noise Emissions and must be addressed differently. There is no rationale provided for the 5 km boundary for atmosphere.

**Section 6.2.1:** Only regional, albeit undefined in the Registration Document, air quality parameters are provided. Baseline air quality data collection was not conducted in the local area to make any qualitative assessment of potential impacts. Air quality was a main concern of the residents due to proximity of the Pit 4 to residences. At present the homes are about 1 km from the active pits and there are adverse effects. The proposed pit boundary will be 80 m from the nearest home.

**Section 6.2.2, para 2:** The nearest home at 80 m from the boundary was not included in the baseline noise survey. The survey on November 5 to 8, 2016 failed to mention if the existing pit was operating at that time. The noise limits of the Nova Scotia Pit and Quarry Guidelines are for boundary readings related to operation of the pit, not the residence activities. OCSO has not taken into account that these residences are located about 1 km from the current active pits. The proposed pit #4, encroaches much closer, to within 80 m of homes and it is disingenuous of OSCO and its consultants to state that noise levels will not change and not significantly adversely impact the wellbeing of residence. Sleep deprivation is an occurring issue at this time.

Sound levels in a rural area are different from a resource development area and not suitable to deem them to be the same in the vague manner as addressed for baseline. Noise levels from existing aggregate pits can be obtained from NSE and the proponent could collect this data for their current operation or other pits in the province.

**Section 6.7, para 3:** Runoff from the proposed pit site is acknowledged, yet the mitigation states that no runoff occurs. This statement is a contradiction.

**Section 6.7.1, para 2:** The confidence level in describing water quality appears to be low as rationale for exceedances are only guesses. A detailed characterization of water quality is very limited.

**Section 6.8, para 4:** Information of priority species relies, in part, on ten year old environmental assessment data.

**Section 6.8, para 1:** Moose were observed by residents on their properties as late as 2016. Proper consultation would have revealed such pertinent information. Mainland Moose are endangered in Nova Scotia. Systematic surveys are not completed for all species.

Residents have observed several active Bald Eagle nests in their area. The baseline surveys are deficient as there is a question if Bald Eagle nests are active or not. The survey was conducted in October when the nests are empty. Bald Eagle nesting has historically been used in the forested area surrounding Symphony Pond. Accommodations for the nest site state that the nest will be given a berth of 200 feet. Bald Eagle Nest sites based on the information available, dictate safe set back distances as outlined below. The registration document states that these set back distances will be respected unless they interfere with production. Such statements demonstrate the focus on financial benefits over ecological concern.



There is also no mention of the breeding loon population in the area lakes and Symphony Pond.

**Section 6.10, para 4:** The presence or absence of fish species was not confirmed by any active sampling methods. Atlantic salmon are reported by local residents to occur in McCurdy Creek. Salmonids of varying age groups were observed on June 6 2017. McCurdy Creek is a receiving watercourse for active pit drainage and likely drainage from the proposed Pit 4. McCurdy Creek will be virtually surrounded by gravel pits and its watershed significantly terraformed such that surface water runoff is eliminated. Sedimentation has occurred from the active pits due to uncontrolled runoff. Proper fish censusing is required to produce an accurate characterization of the local fish resources.

**Section 6.13.1:** The presence or absence of Potential Priority/Species at Risk Wildlife was determined by OSCO employees who are not competent wildlife ecologists.

**Section 6.13.1, para 5:** Mainland Moose are reported by residents to occur on their properties.

**Section 6.13.1, para 7:** Snapping turtles are reported by residents to occur in Symphony Pond.

**Section 6.13.1, para 8:** The presence or absence of wood turtles has not been determined on site by any surveys.

**Section 6.14:** Socio-economic component was limited to land use and aboriginal, traditional, archaeological, heritage land use. The Department of Environment approach to sustainable environment is based on three principles: 1) Environmental protection is essential to the integrity of ecosystems, human health, and the socio-economic well being of society; 2) Managing the environment is a shared responsibility involving all citizens in Nova Scotia; and 3) An integrated approach that addresses environmental, social, and economic considerations is the most effective way to deal with environmental issues. The Department of Environment, MLAs, MPs and County Councilors need to uphold these principles on this proposed project, day in, day out. If such foundation principles are ignored, the entire system is weakened and department credibility harmed. Review comments for Section 2.4, para 6.

**Section 7.0:** Environmental assessment methodology chapter is not a formal component of the Registration phase under the Environmental Assessment Regulations in the *Environment Act*.

**Section 7.1, para 1:** *VECs were chosen based on provincial guidance, the regulatory framework and on the existing condition of the study area determined from publicly available documents related to the area and from data collected by the proponent and consultants.* There is no consideration for socio-economic valued components. Stakeholder consultations are not listed.

**Section 7.2, para 1:** *The approach to identifying Project activities, including environmental management and monitoring, is based on knowledge gathered on similar projects.* There is no reference to any other aggregate operation in Nova Scotia for comparison. OSCO has demonstrated repeated non-compliances with mitigation measure commitments and the conditional approval imposed on August 3, 2007, on the active pits when MSD Enterprises Limited owned them. The OSCO reps were not familiar with the NSE approval conditions which raises a concern that the Minister of Environment was not made aware of the property transfer, as stipulated in the 2007 approval. The 2007 conditions were that the approval was not part of any land transfer.

**Section 8.0, para 3:** Socio-economics is omitted as a VEC and completely absent for consideration of impacts and effects.

**Table 8-1:** Habitat identification was acquired largely from databases and not ground truthed for current conditions. Socio-economic components are deficient.

**Section 8.1.** Air quality is defined as a measurement of pollutants in air. *Air quality* is the degree to which *air* is suitable or clean enough for humans, animals, or plants to remain healthy. *Noise pollution* or *noise* disturbance is the disturbing or excessive *noise* that may harm the activity or balance of human or animal life. By lumping in noise with air quality demonstrates a lack of understanding of the differences in these parameters. Air (dust, particulates and GHG) and noise are not resources.

**Section 8.1, para 1:** *Noise at some locations may be generated at levels at or less than current noise generation at the pre-existing extraction pit.* "Some locations" are not defined. As the pre-existing extraction pit was not in operation and sound levels at a few residence locations were collected when there was no operation at the proposed Pit 4 nor at the active OSCO operation – in November. The conclusion that noise at the expanded quarry may be at sound levels equal to or actually less, yet operations are closer to residents (with <100 m), is unfounded by any evidence, literature review, sound modeling or adequate sound monitoring of existing operations at OSCO and residences.

Potential noise sources are not identified. Sound levels are available in literature and must be recorded on site at the following sources: scrapers, front-end loaders, haul trucks, power plane, wash plant, crusher plant, screening plant, conveyor, cement plant, water pump and engine, etc. There are no sound data collected at the existing pit boundaries to make any extrapolations about current conditions.

**Section 8.1, para 2:** Significant is a term that is undefined by any criteria. There is an omission of the definition of significant adverse effects or positive effects on each receptor. Residual effects analysis is used before any mitigation is applied to the impact. Complaints have been made to OSCO on excessive dust and noise at current pit operations. Pro-active management of dust and noise is absent. NSE conditions of approval are not followed.

The most recent complaint was noise from exploration drilling at Pit 4, in close proximity to one resident that significantly adversely affected their well being for several days. Exploration was not included in the Registration document is a project phase that involves noise and dust generation. There was no notification to residents of such activity.

**Section 8.1, para 4:** *Appropriate mitigative measures will be taken when required to ensure noise limits are met and nuisance dust levels are controlled.* There is no criteria defined as to what "when required" means. To date, this criteria is by a metric of complaints, as opposed to monitoring, or meeting NSE Conditions of Approval. This approach by OSCO does not reflect an established environmental management culture.

**Section 8.1, para 4&5:** *It is unlikely that emissions will exceed Nova Scotia or federal air quality standards. Operational impacts on GHG and emissions are negligible contributions to overall atmospheric quality.* Evidence has not been provided to make this conclusion.

**Section 8.2, para 1:** No interactions are anticipated with groundwater resources from construction or operational activities of the Project as the pit floor will be maintained 0.5 m above the groundwater table. This statement is erroneous as OSCO representative told residents that the method to detect groundwater level is to dig down until found. Therefore, there will be interaction with groundwater, and likely on a repetitive basis. This practice does



not reflect the use of best management practices in the operation of the proposed pit and existing pits. OSCO uses groundwater to clean material on the existing pit operation. The installation of groundwater monitoring wells was not mentioned in this Registration document; as it is the only logical means to assess groundwater table levels.

**Section 8.3, para 2:** *Significant residual effects on groundwater resources would be identified if a potable water supply was significantly depleted or the water quality was degraded beyond existing conditions or the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines.* Significant is not defined. OSCO has not collected background samples of groundwater, and there is no description of methods used to meet this statement. Section 12.2 commits to monitoring groundwater table level but not quality.

**Section 8.3, para 2:** Construction and operational both have the potential to affect surface water quality. This section lacks any analysis of effects and is at best guess work. Surface waters have been adversely impacted at the existing OCSO pit operations.

**Section 8.3, para 3:** *Significant residual effects relate to degraded water quality with long-term Project related (above existing background range) exceedance of FWAL guidelines or recreational guidelines or degraded water quantity to the level that fisheries habitat is affected.* There is no explanation of long-term Project related exceedances nor short-term exceedance and the implications of either. A short-term (single) storm event can move sufficient site runoff to destroy fish habitat. Recreational guidelines are not defined nor referenced. The sentence is awkward as "degraded water quality with exceedance of degraded water quality"... is not a logical statement. Water quantity has not been assessed.

**Section 8.3, para 4:** bullets 1&2 are not mitigation measures.

**Section 8.4:** The Project was defined as local and regional, yet this statement regarding project footprint is ill defined and the conclusion is unsubstantiated without evidence of an understanding of the potential influences.

**Section 8.5:** The activity of Bald Eagle nests were not identified as spring bird surveys were not conducted. August and November site surveys would have missed all breeding birds. Therefore mitigation measures are not completely aligned with the Special Management Practices for Bald Eagle Nests (NSDNR 2012) for active or inactive nests. These management practices were not referenced in the Registration document.

Essential habitat at each nest site is generally considered to encompass a minimum of 260 hectares (640 acres) including aquatic and terrestrial habitat used for foraging and breeding. In potential nesting habitat, four to six over mature but wind-firm living trees (especially white pine, hemlock and large-toothed aspen) should be preserved for each 130 hectares (320 acres) within 400 m of a lake or river.

Additionally, eagles require dead, partially dead or living perch trees that project above the canopy within 400 m of each nest site. Buffer zones should be established around all nest trees within a breeding area regardless of activity status, as alternate nests are sometimes used for nesting, feeding or roosting sites. Nest trees should be allowed appropriate vegetation to provide a visual screen and wind protection. Roost trees, tall old-growth trees (preferably dead or with dead tops) within 50m of water, should be left to be used for hunting and roosting.

Breeding season is February to July. The temporal mitigation proposed is insufficient.

The registration document wording for activities at 400 m from the nest is not complete. For an active nest, the tertiary zone extends 400 m (one-quarter mile) from the nest.

- a. Land clearing, road construction or any major construction should be minimized as much as possible and should be avoided during the breeding season.
- b. Forest harvesting and silviculture should be conducted outside of the breeding season. At least 1 mature wind-firm tree per 5 ha should be retained in this zone as alternate nest/roost trees. Wind-firm pine, hemlock, spruce and Aspen that project above the canopy will be favoured when available.
- c. Restrictions at other times should be addressed on a case by case basis.

The conclusion that no significant adverse impact is not substantiated by a seasonally appropriate breeding bird survey. The default is to move the nest and the impact of that effort was neither considered nor assessed.

**Section 8.6:** The proposed road route is not shown on any maps. The road, as described, and associated traffic, may interfere with the Bald Eagle nest. The 100 m exclusion zone for Bald Eagle nests is likely violated. The road is currently under construction and the McCurdy Creek bank and channel has been cleared and rutted from equipment.

The statement that hydrology will be maintained is not substantiated as hydrology studies were not conducted nor have the inclusion of any monitoring wells or monitoring plan been noted. The "existing" hydrology has not been established.

Sediment and erosion control of groundwater is an impossible feat – groundwater is underground. This mitigation measure is baseless.

The anticipated encroachment of the buffer zones is not assessed nor is mitigation via compensation addressed for the loss of wetland habitat. The areas anticipated to be lost are not depicted on any figures/maps in the registration document.

**Section 8.6, para 4:** *Wetland alteration is not proposed within the Pit No. 4 footprint. If required, work within 30 m of wetlands, will be undertaken within the context of NSE approval requirements.* The circumstances that "work is required within 30 m of wetlands" is not explained. Test pitting is currently underway that includes wetland habitat.



**Section 8.6, para 5:** *Monitoring and follow-up will be required to ensure conditions of approvals are met.* To date, OSCO has not followed the conditions of approval for the existing pits. Therefore, the LDRA has no confidence that OSCO intends to follow NSE conditions of approval going forward.

**Section 8.7** This section is incomplete without a spring flora survey to confirm species. This section of the report is for the assessment of impact, yet there is no impact analysis completed. Table 8.1 checks an impact on flora from an accidents and malfunction, albeit accidents and malfunctions are not described. If there are no priority plants to impact, then how can there be an impact from an accident or malfunction?

**Section 8.8 para \*, bullet 1:** *Bird nests including priority species are expected throughout the Project footprint.* This sentence is a descriptive statement and not a mitigation measure.

Nighthawks, great horned owls, bank swallows and barn swallows are known to nest and inhabit the area and the proposed project area. A spring bird survey was not conducted and the impact assessment not accurate at this time. There is the potential for other species that are of priority to have been missed.

**Section 8.9, para 3, bullets 1-4:** These suggested mitigation measures are not feasible for a pit operation. Inspection of the existing pit and lack of environmental management practices clearly demonstrates habitat degradation, there is no revegetation and observed sedimentation of adjacent watercourses.

**Section 8.9, para 3, bullet 8:** Turtle surveys were not conducted. Statements of no significant adverse impacts are not valid at this time.

**Section 8.11:** It is premature to state with any confidence that there are no aboriginal concerns without feedback to that effect. The local community has not been consulted properly and their

concerns are not addressed. The omission of any noise and dust/particulate modeling demonstrates an unwillingness to understand the true ramifications of this proposed operation. The zones of impact have been poorly described and there is no basis to conclude that there will be no significant adverse effect – which in itself is undefined. Waiting for complaints is not sufficient pro-active management of operations. The Community Liaison Committee was never formed as a required condition of 2007 approval. OSCO has clearly defied the 2007 NSE approval on many counts and has no interest in being a corporately responsible neighbour.

**Section 9.1:** This section addresses occupational health and safety opposed to environmental impact assessment. There is no mention of a corporate safety management system nor a formal risk assessment to make the concluding statements.

**Section 9.2, para 1:** No discussion on how contaminants may impact terrestrial and aquatic habitats and migratory birds. No discussion on how air quality is impacted and to what the effect on receptors. If that aspect is not understood, then the interactions are unknown and a prediction on impact is not possible.

A spill contingency plan is unlikely to exist for the proponent on their existing pits considering spilled contaminants and lack of contingency and cleanup are present and documented by residents.

The risk of spills should be predicted to be high, as the events appear common at the existing pits. No risk assessment has been conducted to make this conclusive statement.

**Section 9.3, para 2:** *Contingency may also include temporary pumping of surface water back into the pit.* Statements claim to capture all surface water in the pit, so where is this surface water that is to be pumped into the pit?

**Section 9.4:** There is no mitigation for migratory birds or wildlife which is identified as a hazard. They do not read posted speed signs. Appropriate barriers are not described. Who determines what is appropriate? Very vague mitigation.

**Section 9.5:** OSCO burned an old house on their property as a demolition method - possibly without a permit. The local fire department is unaware of any permit application for that activity. Burning of petroleum products occurs on the existing pit with impacts to residents. Therefore the mitigation commitment is unlikely to be followed, as OSCO does not adhere to such best practices.

**Section 11.0:** *The relative contributions of this Project to noise are anticipated to be within regulatory criteria and local in extent.* There is no basis for this conclusion in the Registration document.

Cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the Project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out." A critical step in the environmental assessment, therefore, is determining what other projects or activities have reached a level of certainty (e.g., "will be carried out") such that they must be considered in an environmental assessment. Other industries (agriculture and forestry) and traffic have not been cumulatively assessed.



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**Section 12.0:** LDRA is dubious that OSCO will follow any such monitoring or follow up commitments as they do not adhere to the 2007 conditions of approval for the existing operation. OSCO has described their operation concepts to LDRA that contradict these commitments. Noise monitoring has been omitted.

**Tutty, Bridget R**

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**From:** @live.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 6:36 AM  
**To:** Environment Assessment Web Account  
**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments

Project: glenholme-pit-no4-aggregate-extraction Comments: Very concerned about how a huge quarry will effect wild life in this area. Approval of such a vast pillaging of an environmentally sensitive area surely should require an extensive study! What is the purpose of a DOE if it doesnt postpone this approval until a study takes place Name:

Email: @live.com Address: Municipality: Little Dyke Postal-Code:  
Fax: ### ## - #### email\_message: x: 65 y: 31

**Tutty, Bridget R**

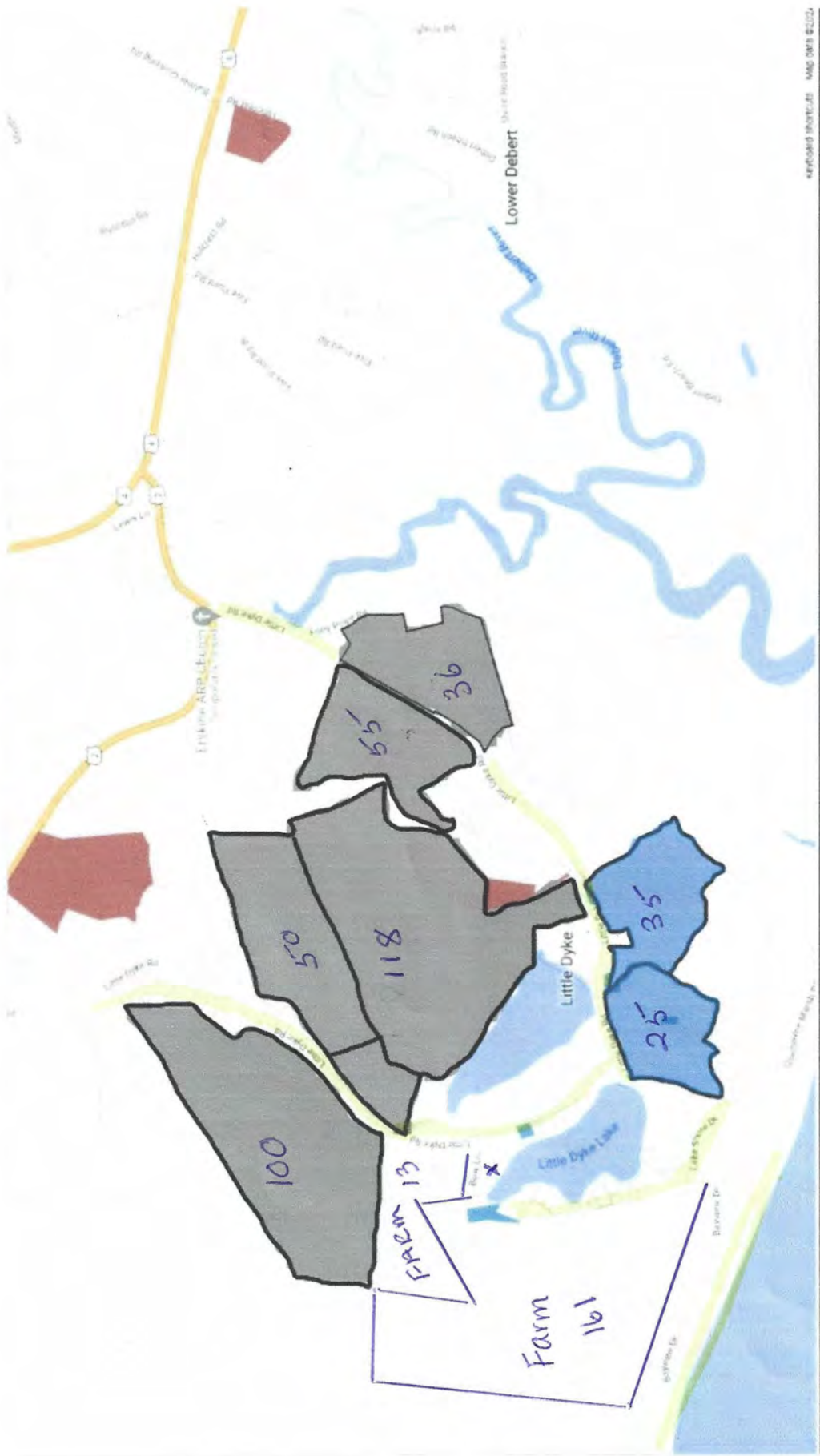
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**From:** @gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 1:16 AM  
**To:** Environment Assessment Web Account  
**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments

Project: glenholme-pit-no4-aggregate-extraction Comments: As a resident of the Glenholme- Little Dyke area for over a quarter of a century, I can bear a personal witness of the destructive consequences of the numerous gravel pits in this area. I have watched as homes and families have been uprooted and destroyed rolling pastures and open fields reduced to ugly holes in the ground and streams once flowing and full of fish now a lifeless trickle of water. I understand the value of the gravel but I believe there has to be some enforcement of regulations to protect residents, wildlife and their environment. History has proven that a number of different companies including WillKare, MSD and OSCO have all raped and pillaged the land leaving behind a footprint of disaster. Mass amounts of gravel have been profitably removed and nothing has been done to return the sites to their natural state. One need only visit the various pits that have seized operations to view the carnage left behind- garbage, derelict buildings, chemical buckets and abandoned machinery. Responsible Resource Recovery or the gravel Vikings need to Rape and Pillage??!! I believe it is time to stop further operations until the present sites can prove to be responsible to the environment, wildlife and the residents concerns. Stop OSCO from further damaging an already fragile environment Name: mail: @gmail.com Address: Municipality: Great Village Postal-Code: email\_message: x: 48 y: 20



GLENHULME ~ 60 HOUSEHOLDS.



# LEGEND.

- Grey areas are existing pits and pits under development.
- Blue areas are farm lands available for sale.
- Numbers in pits represent acreage.
- Yellow highlights represent roads + residences.



# Crystalline Silica

## Burden of Occupational Cancer Fact Sheet



### WHAT IS SILICA?

Crystalline silica is a **naturally occurring mineral found in soil, sand, and rocks**. Work processes such as breaking, grinding, or sawing these materials releases crystalline silica dust into the air. Workplace exposure to crystalline silica is common in several trades due to its presence in many handled materials such as concrete, mortar and brick.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies crystalline silica as a **known carcinogen (IARC 1)**.

### WHAT ARE ITS HEALTH EFFECTS?

- Lung cancer
- Silicosis (thickening and scarring of the lungs)
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Tuberculosis

### THE BURDEN OF LUNG CANCER FROM WORKPLACE EXPOSURE TO SILICA IN CANADA

The term 'burden' refers to the human impact (deaths, illness, years of life lost) and the economic costs (health care, productivity) associated with a cause or group of causes of disease.

**570**

Lung cancers due to workplace silica exposure

Approximately **570 lung cancers** are due to occupational exposure to crystalline silica each year in Canada, based on past exposures (1961-2001). This amounts to **2.4% of lung cancer cases** diagnosed annually.

### WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT?

Work-related silica exposure resulted in approximately **\$562 million in costs for newly diagnosed lung cancer cases** in 2011.

This includes approximately:

- 66% in health-related quality of life losses
- 7% in direct costs including health care, out of pocket expenses, family care giving, and workers' compensation administration
- 27% in indirect costs including output and productivity losses

**\$562 million**

Estimated yearly cost of lung cancer due to workplace silica exposure



# Inhaling Silica Dust Can Cause Deadly Lung Disease



**Crystalline silica is found in granite, artificial/engineered stone, and other stone products.**

When workers cut, grind, drill, or polish these materials, very small particles of crystalline silica dust get in the air.

Breathing in these very small (respirable) crystalline silica particles can cause irreversible scarring in the lungs, trouble breathing, permanent disability, and death.

Crystalline silica dust can also cause lung cancer, kidney damage, and autoimmune disease.

## Employers Must Ensure that Workers are Protected from Exposure to Crystalline Silica

**Minimize exposures** through effective engineering controls and work practices.



**Provide and ensure proper use of respirators** until exposures are reduced below the PEL or if exposures cannot be reduced with engineering controls and work practices.

**Provide initial and periodic medical examinations** to exposed workers.



**Assess employee exposures** to crystalline silica dust to assure they are not above the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permissible exposure limit (PEL) of  $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , averaged over an 8-hour work day.

**Train workers** on the health hazards, workplace exposures, measures implemented to protect workers, and their roles in protection.

**Learn more** about worker exposures to silica at the [NIOSH Crystalline Silica web page](#).

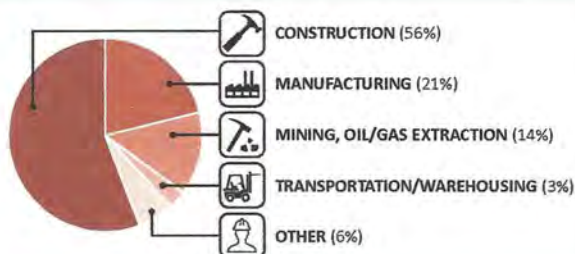
Go to [www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/](http://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/silicacrystalline/) for more information.



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

## WHAT WORKERS ARE MOST AFFECTED?

Most occupational lung cancers associated with crystalline silica occur among workers in the **construction sector** (see pie chart on right). These cancers also occur among workers in the manufacturing, mining and oil and gas extraction, and transportation and warehousing sectors. Some of the other sectors affected include wholesale trade, public administration, and utilities.



## CAREX CANADA ASSESSMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO SILICA

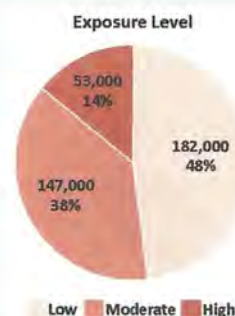
Inhalation is the most important route of occupational exposure to silica. Approximately 380,000 Canadians are exposed to silica at work.

Industries with the largest number of exposed workers in Canada include:

- **Specialty trade contractors** (141,000 people exposed)
- **Building construction** (65,000 exposed)
- **Heavy and civil engineering construction** (31,000 exposed)

Occupations with the largest number of exposed workers include:

- **Construction trades helpers and labourers** (105,000 exposed)
- **Heavy equipment operators** (41,000 exposed)
- **Plasterers and drywallers** (34,000 exposed)



Results show the majority of workers exposed to crystalline silica are in the low exposure level category, with a significant number at risk for moderate to high exposure (see pie chart above). To learn more about how these exposure levels are defined, visit the CAREX Canada website.

## HOW CAN EXPOSURE BE REDUCED?

For some applications, silica can be replaced with safer materials. For example, garnet or high pressure water can be used instead of sandblasting with silica. Other control strategies include eliminating processes that generate silica, implementing local exhaust ventilation, and using wet sweeping, cutting, and drilling methods. For more details, visit the OCRC exposure controls webpage.

## ABOUT THE BURDEN OF OCCUPATIONAL CANCER STUDY

The Burden of Occupational Cancer Study quantified the number of cancers that are caused by exposure to carcinogens in the workplace in order to identify priority areas for prevention. It was a collaboration between researchers at OCRC, CAREX Canada, the Institute for Work & Health (who led the economic analyses), University of British Columbia, Université de Montréal, Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail, and Imperial College London.



For more information, please visit OCRC at [www.occupationalcancer.ca](http://www.occupationalcancer.ca) or CAREX Canada at [www.carexcanada.ca](http://www.carexcanada.ca).

This fact sheet was produced by CAREX Canada in partnership with OCRC. The Burden of Occupational Cancer Study is led by OCRC and is supported by the Canadian Cancer Society. CAREX Canada is hosted at Simon Fraser University and supported by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. Acknowledgments for header photos: Chris RubberDragon, Wyliepoon.





**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Addenda to EARD Comments for LDCC  
**Date:** July 5, 2024 7:33:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [Little Dyke Road - Traffic Study - June 28, 2024 \(1\).xlsx](#)  
[Osco traffic study - July 2nd.xlsx](#)

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Attached are data files for 2 traffic surveys on Little Dyke Road that support comments in the Community Comments.

Thank you

Little Dyke Road - Traffic Study - Friday, June 28, 2024 - 6:30am - 9:30am		Observatio
Time	Description	2 near miss
6:31am	Tri-Axle leaving wash plant	3 vehicle in
6:36am	1 car into community	123 vehicle
6:38am	1 car to OSCO pit	
6:46am	1 car to OSCO concrete	
6:51am	1 car to OSCO concrete	
6:52am	school bus	
6:54am	1 car to OSCO concrete	
6:57am	1 truck out of community	
6:58am	1 Car entering OSCO pit	
7:07am	1 car into community	
7:08am	Tandem into Pit 4	
7:09am	1 car to OSCO concrete	
7:10am	1 car out of community	
7:14am	1/2 ton truck into OSCO concrete	
7:14am	pumper leaving concrete plant	
7:15am	1/2 ton truck leaving community	
7:18am	Wash plant starts	
7:20am	1 car out of community	
7:22am	1 car out of community	
7:25am	Tandem leaving pit 4	
7:26am	Concrete truck leaving (Pulled in front of vehicle)	
7:26am	Car from community	
7:31am	1/2 ton into community	
7:31am	Tandem to pit 4	
7:34am	Car from community	
7:35am	Tandem from Pit 4 to Pit 2	
7:37am	1/2 ton from Pit 1 to Pit 4	
7:40am	Tandem leaving pit 4	
7:43am	Cat Loader leaving - NO PLATE	
7:44am	1/2 ton truck leaving community	
7:44am	1 car into community	
7:45am	Tandem Hwy 2 - Pit 2	
7:46am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
7:52am	Concrete truck Pit 1 - Hwy 2	
7:53am	1 car leaving community	
7:54am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
7:55am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
7:56am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
7:56am	1 car leaving community	
7:58am	Tandem & Excavator plus 1/2 ton - Hwy 2 - Pit2	
8:00am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
8:03am	Tri-Axle from from 6:30am returns	
8:06am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:06am	Bus out of community	

8:08am	1/2 ton Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:11am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:12am	Tandem Trailer Hwy 2 - Pit 2 Engine Brake
8:13am	Car from community
8:13am	Cement truck leaving Hwy 2
8:14am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:15am	1 car into community
8:15am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:19am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:22am	Tandem trailer to Hwy 2
8:25am	Tandem to Hwy 2
8:26am	School bus into community
8:26am	Tandem to Hwy 2
8:28am	1 car leaving community
8:29am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:30am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:30am	1/2 ton out of community
8:32am	Tandem in from Hwy 2
8:34am	1 car leaving community
8:34am	1 vehicle leaving community
8:34am	Tandem to Hwy 2
8:36am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:37am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4 (pulled in front of vehicle)
8:37am	Car into community
8:38am	Car into community
8:40am	Truck into community
8:40am	1/2 ton out of community (Nick offered me a coffee)
8:41am	Triaxle leaving onto Hwy 2
8:43am	Tandem onto Hwy 2
8:44am	1/2 ton to pit 1
8:47am	1/2 ton to the community
8:48am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:50am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:51am	1/2 ton into community
8:54am	1/2 ton from OSCO to hwy 2
8:54am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:55am	1/2 ton back to pit 1 (Nick with coffee)
8:56am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:56am	1/2 ton from Pit 1 to Pit 4
8:56am	1 ton from pit 4 to hwy 2 - Johnny pumper truck
8:57am	vehicle leaving community
8:58am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:58am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:00am	Tandem Hwy 2 - Pit 2
9:04am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:04am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:06am	1/2 ton to pit 1 with small trailer



9:07am	van to hwy 2
9:09am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:10am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:10am	1/2 ton Pit 1 to Pit 4
9:12am	Tandem to Hwy 2
9:14am	Tandem to Pit 1 from Hwy 2
9:14am	1/2 ton from Pit 1 to Pit 4
9:15am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:16am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:16am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:16am	Tandem Hwy 2 - Pit 2
9:17am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:19am	Tandem Pit 1 to Pit 2
9:20am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:20am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:23am	Cement truck returns to Pit 1
9:24am	Tandem Pit 1 to Pit 2
9:26am	1/2 ton with trailer leaves Pit 2 to Hwy 2
9:27am	Tandem Pit 1 to Hwy 2
9:28am	vehicle leaving community
9:29am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:30am	Resident to Hwy 2
9:31am	Tandem to Hwy 2
9:32am	Cement truck returns to Pit 1
9:32am	Tandem to Hwy 2
9:33am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:34am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:35am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:36am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:38am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:38am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit4

# Little Dyke Road - traffic study - July 2nd, 2024

Time

## Observations

112 vehicles in 3 hours

84 Related to OSCO op  
2 issues identified

6:10am	Tri-axle in	
6:25am	Loader loading first truck	
6:27am	Car to pit 2	
6:28am	1/2 ton truck in pit 4	
6:28am	1/2 ton truck in pit 4	
6:34am	Tri-axle to Hwy 2	
6:36am	Car into pit 2	
6:37am	1/2 ton truck in Pit 1	
6:37am	Truck out	
6:40am	1/2 ton from pit 1 to pit 4	
6:40am	car into Pit 1 then to Pit 2	
6:44am	Resident out of community	
6:48am	1/2 ton truck into Pit 1	
6:48am	Wash plant started	
6:48am	1/2 ton truck to hwy 2	
6:49am	1/2 ton truck to Pit 1	
6:49am	Car to pit 2	
6:58am	Car to pit 2	
6:58am	1/2 ton truck out of community	
7:00am	Car in from hwy 2	
7:04am	car into Pit 1	
7:09am	Car into Pit 1	
7:09am	1/2 ton into Pit 1	
7:09am	Resident out of community	
7:12am	1/2 ton to pit 2	
7:15am	loader Pit 1 to Pit2	
7:15am	B-train to Pit 2	
7:19am	Car to Pit 1	
7:19am	1/2 ton truck from Pit 2	
7:21am	1/2 ton from Pit 4 to Pit 1	
7:23am	Resident to Hwy 2	
7:23am	Resident to Hwy 2	
7:25am	B-train to Hwy 2	Parked on road - no vest or hard hat
7:25am	Tri Axle in Pit 2	
7:26am	Loader Pit 2 to Pit 4	No plate
7:28am	Tandem Pit 1 to Pit 4	
7:30am	Tandem Hwy 2 to Pit 4	
7:34am	Resident out of community	
7:35am	1/2 ton Hwy 2 to Pit 1 - community resident	
7:35am	Resident out of community	
7:37am	Motorcycle to Pit 2	
7:38am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	

7:40am	Tri-axle to Hwy 2	
7:40am	Resident into community	
7:40am	Resident out of community	
7:41am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
7:43am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	No Tarp
7:48am	Tandem from Hwy 2 to Pit 2	
7:49am	Loader Pit 1 to Pit 4 plated	
7:49am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
7:54am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
7:55am	Resident into community	
7:57am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
7:57am	1/2 ton to pit 2	
7:57am	Resident out Hwy 2	
7:59am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:02am	Resident out of community	
8:03am	1/2 ton Osco to Pit 2	
8:05am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
8:06am	Contractor to Osco Pit 1	
8:07am	Resident to Hwy 2	
8:08am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:10am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
8:11am	Farm Tractor	
8:11am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:11am	Tandem Hwy 2 to Pit 2	
8:17am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:22am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:23am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:24am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
8:25am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
8:27am	Resident out of community	
8:27am	Resident into community	
8:28am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4	
8:28am	Tandem Hwy 2 to Pit 4	
8:29am	Tandem Hwy 2 to Pit 2	
8:29am	Resident out of community	
8:31am	Resident out of community	
8:32am	Osco 1/2 ton - Pit 1 to Hwy or home	
8:36am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:37am	Tandem Pit 2 to Hwy 2	
8:38am	Resident out of community	
8:38am	Tri-axle Hwy 2 to Pit 2	
8:39am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:39am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2	
8:39am	1/2 ton Pit 2 to Pit 1	

8:40am	Resident into community
8:40am	Resident out of community
8:40am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:42am	Resident into community
8:43am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:43am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:46am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
8:47am	Tri-axle Hwy 2
8:51am	Resident into community
8:52am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:53am	Resident out of community
8:56am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:57am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:57am	1/2 ton Pit 1 to Pit 2
8:57am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
8:59am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:03am	Tandem Pit 2 to Pit 4
9:04am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:07am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:08am	Resident out of community
9:08am	Tandem Pit 4 to Pit 2
9:08am	Tandem Pit 2 to Hwy 2
9:08am	Tandem Hwy 2 to Pit 2
9:09am	Resident out of community
9:10am	Tandem Hwy 2 to Pit 2
9:10am	Courier out of community

From: @gmail.com  
To: [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
Subject: Proposed Project Comments  
Date: July 5, 2024 8:08:07 AM

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: I am a member of the Little Dyke Community and I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of OSCO Aggregate Pit #4. Please seriously consider the impacts that this expansion will have on our community. This is an industry giant who has already taken so much from this community and now wants to extract even more. We are in the middle of a rock quarry and if these expansions continue to be approved by our province's Department of Environment we will lose our once peaceful and beautiful neighborhood. We are already experiencing the negative side effects of the previous expansion that was approved in 2017. The profits for this industry monster are at the expense of a community that wants peace and safety for our members. The health and safety of my children, my husband and myself are among my top concerns. My family and I walk, bicycle and drive on the Little Dyke road and we have to endure clouds of quarry dust, noise pollution and heavy equipment traffic that is often disregarding road safety laws. I fear that someone will be seriously injured or worse with this expansion and I think about the unknown long-term effects of living in this kind of environment. I believe in supporting local and I spend my time living, working and playing in this area but OSCO Aggregate is an industrial conglomerate that is taking away a community one piece at a time and this is something that I cannot support. Our property has been in my husband's family for generations and our dream has always been to continue this legacy. Please stop this expansion and dive in to what the true environmental impacts will be with the consideration of a community that's at risk at the forefront. Name: Email: @gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Little Dyke email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 55 y:

**From:** @gmail.com  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments  
**Date:** July 5, 2024 8:26:27 AM

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: Please refer to the lengthy letter that I sent to  
ea@novascotia.ca Name: Email: @gmail.com Address:

Municipality: Great Village email\_message: Privacy-

Statement: agree x: 69 y: 22



**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** OSCO Aggregates Ltd. Pit 4 Extension  
**Date:** July 5, 2024 10:17:57 AM

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I acknowledge decisions regarding this application for OSCO Aggregates Ltd. Pit 4 Extension must meet environmental and climate change criteria. I, respectively, ask that my environmental and climate change observations - conducted over 54 years as a Little Dyke community member - counterbalance the few desktop visits by EA consultants. Anyone not familiar with the significant environment and climate changes impacting this **watershed area** during the past 54 years could never accurately document nor should presume to professionally address those occurrences.

The small communities of Glenholme and Little Dyke are located within the **McCurdy Creek Watershed**. Glenholme has had most of the gravel resources vastly excavated from it by various proponents. OSCO Aggregates Pit #3 is located in Glenholme. In the very heart and centre of Little Dyke are OSCO's large Pits #1, 2 and 4. In total, upwards of 11 known gravel quarries have been mined here throughout the history of these 2 small rural communities sustained by the **McCurdy Creek Watershed**.

Observations I've made of environmental impacts over a span of 50+ years, lead me to believe warmer climatic temperatures have contributed significantly to slow eutrophication of this vulnerable small McCurdy Creek. At one time, a full size canoe could navigate the length of that creek - an endeavour which could not successfully be repeated today. Eutrophication, in conjunction with years of industrial-sized gravel quarries operating in close proximity to that small waterway and surrounding aquifers, has severely compromised the integrity of future community water needs. Many aquifers are naturally-occurring springs providing water to Little Dyke Lake and a large Ducks Unlimited Pond, as well as keeping the surrounding carbon-absorbing, ecologically-sensitive wetlands saturated. Further gravel excavations will substantially increase risk of ground water contamination and occurrences of irreparable environmental stress!

CBC News drone images (*included below*) of June 27, 2024 captured the overall enormous size of OSCO's current Pit #4 operations. OSCO has applied to expand that excessive operation by another 70 acres. Because it is not visible from the road, I believe many of us living here didn't even truly comprehend the huge land mass it now encompasses until viewing those aerial photos. McCurdy Creek meanders through those trees in the wetlands.





With daunting and ever-occurring climate changes currently challenging the entire planet, **protection and conservation of existing watershed areas** now is more critical than it ever has been! Water is a life-sustaining element necessary for all existence. Future generations are depending on us to make conscientious decisions today which will ensure they also continue to have necessary/adequate water supplies - a growing world wide concern!

The Irving family which owns OSCO Aggregates Ltd. has other acreage options available with similar quality gravel and sand properties as the gravel sourced in Little Dyke. It would seem logical that OSCO could realise continued progress at an alternate, less environment-damaging location.

Sound knowledge of practical water conservation and protection commitment must consciously factor into your decision. We trust provincial leadership is strong enough to step up and “walk their talk”... not simply continue to just talk **environmental protection** talk.

Thank you for your favourable consideration of my final e-mail submission in this regard.





## Glenholme Pit 4 Quarry Expansion Project Environmental Assessment Registration Document (EARD) - Comments from Ecology Action Centre

July 2024

The Ecology Action Centre is an environmental charity based in Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia. We have a leadership role in working on critical environmental issues from biodiversity protection to climate change to environmental justice. We strive to equip human and ecological communities for resilience and build a world where ecosystems and communities are restored and not just sustained.

Ecology Action Centre staff have only been able to comment on some aspects of this EARD. This is in part due to the limitations of our expertise – we only hold knowledge in certain subject areas and have commented on those. Our limited ability to comment is also caused by the 30 day public comment period being too short to comment completely on any EARD, including this one. Public comment periods for EARD should be 60 days, minimum. Additional time would have allowed us to hone our comments further and make additional, relevant comments.

### Overall comments

Overall, this EARD is not complete. In every section the proponent states conclusions without supporting rationale or any other evidence to justify their conclusions. This is especially disappointing because the existing quarry and years of operation provide ample opportunity to gather data about how the site's operations have been affecting wildlife, water quality, residents, and more. This information could have contributed to a more complete EARD. We believe the proponent should gather and analyze relevant data that has already been collected about the project site and apply their findings to produce a useful EARD.

**Since the EARD does not meet the minimum requirements for suitably analyzing Valued Ecosystem Components (VEC) for their potential to be impacted, and because relevant, site-specific data has not been incorporated, we believe the Minister will not have the information in front of him to make a determination about the project.**

## Specific comments

Sections from the EARD are underlined.

Pages numbers refer to the page numbers in the EARD.

Direct quotes from the EARD are in quotation marks.

### 2.4 Consideration of alternatives

Pg. 19 – The project proposes to build a new access road, where the new proposed access line may also be built. The proposed new access road would be 10m wide and be 275m long, extend from Pit No. 4 to Little Dyke Road, and could cross 1 wetland and 1 “ephemeral” stream where a culvert will be installed. The proponent then downplays an alternative route, which was requested by the community, heading to the north from Pit 4 directly to Highway 2. This would reduce noise and dust impacts to residents on Little Dyke Road. The proponent states that this alternate route would impact a different wetland and watercourse, and have other impacts. The proponent should map and describe in more detail the alternate route, including calculating impacts to wetlands and watercourses if the alternate access road was built. The power line connection can instead be brought in from a different point, such as the proponent’s Pit 2 property. **Without this genuine analysis of an alternative access road heading directly to Highway 2 the proponent is failing to truly examine a viable alternative that could reduce impacts to the environment and the community.**

Another alternative means of carrying out the project that was not fully considered by the proponent is to put some of the quarry infrastructure and activities indoors. The proponent proposes to more consistently crush rock at Pit 4, which both creates additional dust and noise at the site, impacting the nearby environment and residents. This activity and other quarry activities proposed to increase at the property could be done inside a purpose-building facility or building, as is done at other quarry and processing sites. This is especially important because the proponent is proposing (outside of this EA) to bring in rock from other sites to process at their crushing facility at Pit 4. **Without examining the viability of having crushing and other process activities inside a facility instead of out in the open, the proponent has not considered a reasonable alternative means of carrying out the project that could reduce impacts to the environment and the community.**

### Figure 2.4

Pg. 21, Figure 2.4 – Project Setbacks – The legend has an error; it does not show what the features delineated with green hashmarks represent in the map. This should be corrected, like to state that they are Field Delineated Wetlands.



## 2.7 Environmental Management

Much of this section should have included findings from the proponent's own environmental management at the site.

Pg. 24 – Dust and Noise Control – What is presented in the report is too simplistic and lacks any substance. This section could have been and should have been informed from the proponent's direct experience of attempting to control dust and noise pollution at the site. The proponent could have included actual noise level readings at the site, or descriptions of complaints about fugitive dust from the site. **Additional Information from the proponent regarding specific dust reduction and noise reduction measures that have proven successful at the site should be provided,**

## 4.2 Environmental Assessment Methods

Pg. 40 – "Cumulative environmental effects are also assessed for those VECs for which a residual environmental effect was predicted (whether significant or not)."

Cumulative environmental effects were actually not assessed at the VEC level, or really examined at all.

## 5.1 Project Interactions with the Environment

Pg. 42, Table 5.1 – Project-VEC Interactions – **This table should have scoped in the VEC Fish and fish habitat, Vegetation, and Wetlands as having the potential to experience Project interactions during the Operation and Maintenance Phase.** In the rationale section below the table, the proponent notes that: "Emissions of particulate matter (particularly dust), light, and combustion gas, related to project activities may occur during construction activities (site development) and operation and maintenance activities (resource extraction and processing) and affect the atmospheric environment or adjacent receptors."

Dust, light, and gas could impact fish, vegetation, and wetlands during operation and maintenance. Other operation and maintenance activities leading to noise could also impact fish. Dust is also known to impact vegetation, and dust will be created during operation and maintenance. Also mentioned later: "During operation, there will be a reduction in surface water drainage toward a wetland to the south of the PDA."

Pg. 43 – This section states that the construction phase "will require the loss of up to 5.4 ha of wetlands." However on page 86 of the EARD the proponent states that "The Project will result in the direct loss of 2.43 ha of wetland within the PDA." **The EARD should be more clear and consistent in stating and mapping the location and area of wetlands that may be altered, and wetlands that may be completely removed.**





Pg. 48 – 6.1.1.3 – Spatial boundaries – “For the atmospheric environment, the LAA includes an area consisting of a 2 km radius centred on the PDA and includes the PDA and adjacent areas where Project-related environmental effects could be expected to occur. Beyond this radius, based on experience with similar facilities and professional judgment, emissions of air contaminants and noise from the Project would not likely be distinguishable from background levels.” **The proponent should provide at least some evidence, from their own site, or from the peer-reviewed literature, that effects on the atmospheric environment are limited to a 2km radius.** There are surely peer-reviewed articles or reports on air quality testing near quarry sites.

Pg. 49 – Ambient Air Quality – “The Northern Air Zone has a ‘yellow’ management level, meaning management actions are focused towards preventing air quality deterioration.” **The proponent should describe how the additional dust created by continuing and expanding the quarry does not deteriorate air quality in the Northern Air Zone.**

Pg. 52 – 6.1.2.3 – Light – More work should be done to describe the impacts of light pollution on birds and insects. There are actions that can be taken to reduce these impacts, but they are not discussed in the EARD. **The proponent should describe their own efforts to reduce light pollution at the existing site that have proven to be helpful.** The proponent should discuss if residents around the project have complained about light pollution and what the proponent did about these concerns. The proponent should elaborate on how “occasional night-time operations” lighting differs from the usual lighting at the site.

Pg. 53 – 6.1.3 – Potential Environmental Effects – **The proponent should describe how light during night-time operations can also affects bats and insects.** This is done in other EARD in Nova Scotia – the information is out there.

Pg. 53 – “Monitoring of airborne particulate emissions (dust) is being conducted for current operations at the existing Pit No. 4 at the request of NSECC and in accordance with the Nova Scotia Pit and Quarry Guidelines.”

**The proponent should describe whether they have been successful in meeting all air quality related maximum permissible levels over the years of monitoring at the site.**

Pg. 54 – 6.1.5 Residual Environmental Effects – “With the application of mitigation measures, the effects of combustion gases are not expected to be substantive.” **The proponent has not provided any rationale to support this statement.** No predicted level of emissions of combustion gases from the fossil fuel-powered heavy equipment and vehicles at the site are provided, and there is no comparison to what “substantive” emissions would be.

The same baseless assumption is made for greenhouse gas emissions.



Pg. 55 – 6.1.6 Summary – “In light of the above, and in consideration of the nature of the Project, its anticipated environmental effects, and the implementation of mitigation and best practices that are known to reduce environmental effects, the residual environmental effects of the Project on the atmospheric environment during all phases of the Project are rated not significant, with a high level of confidence.”

**Again, the proponent has provided no basis for these assumptions, including why the proponent has a “high level of confidence” ‘in their estimation of no residual environmental effects.**

#### 6.4 Fish and Fish Habitat

Pg. 74 – 6.4.2.2 Desktop Analysis – Was Ducks Unlimited Canada contacted as a neighbour, stakeholder, or knowledge holder? They may have information about the fish and fish habitat in watercourses.

Pg. 75 – 6.4.2.3 Fish Habitat – Which fish species were observed in WC1?

#### 6.5 Wetlands

Pg. 84-85 – 6.5.2.2 Assessment of Wetlands of Special Significance – Black Ash found in W8 (no alterations planned), Canada Warbler in W7 (no alterations planned). **These wetlands should definitely be upheld as Wetlands of Special Significance and should not be altered, including as a result of further expansions of the quarry, or through any wetland alteration permit.**

Pg. 85 – 6.5.3 – Potential Environmental Effects – “The construction and operation and maintenance phases of the Project will result in the alteration of approximately 5.4 ha of field-delineated wetlands within the PDA” conflicts with the statement on page 86 that “The Project will result in the direct loss of 2.43 ha of wetland within the PDA.”

Which portions of wetlands will be lost versus which portions will be altered?

Pg. 89 – 6.6.2.2 – Desktop Analysis – There are multiple records of Blue Felt Lichen within 5km of the centre of the PDA. This is a Species at Risk. **Why wasn't a lichen survey conducted for the property?**

#### 6.7 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

##### 6.7.2.1 Birds

Pg. 98 – Table 6.11: Bird SAR Screening withing the LAA – Bank Swallow and Common Nighthawk (both SAR) could nest and forage in the PDA. These species do nest at other quarries. The proponent should describe any wildlife monitoring at the existing site that resulted in the observation of these species. **It is possible to put in Terms and Conditions of**





**a potential EA Approval, or in the Industrial Approval, the requirement to survey for nesting Bank Swallow and Common Nighthawk at the site, during the appropriate time of year.**

#### 6.7.2.3 Herptiles

Snapping Turtles and/or Eastern Painted Turtle can nest at quarry sites. These species were observed just outside of the 5km radius of observations provided by ACCDC. Local residents have seen these species near the quarry property. **Any Terms and Conditions of a potential EA Approval, or in the Industrial Approval, should include the requirement to survey for nesting Snapping Turtle and Eastern Painted Turtle, at the quarry site, at the appropriate time of year.**

#### 6.8 Socioeconomic Environment

Pg. 112 – 6.8.3 Potential Environmental Effects – “Construction of the Project and extracting activities during operation have the potential to affect nearby residences as a result of light, noise, and dust generated by equipment operation. The Project may have a negative effect on residential property values due to elevated noise levels as well as perceived effects on aesthetic value of the area. Effects on the single home-based business (if in existence) are expected to be similar to those on residences in that vicinity. It is not anticipated that the effects from the proposed Project will be significantly higher than the effects from current operations. With the addition of an on-site electric plant, the Project may lead to a reduction in truck traffic which would have a net benefit effect on nearby residences.”

There will be changes associated with the expansion of the quarry which could effect residences and home-based business in new ways. Quarry operations would be closer to residences on the west side of Little Dyke Road. Also, a new access road is proposed for the west side of Little Dyke Road. Both of these activities would predictably increase the light, noise, and dust pollution received from the quarry operations, and from trucking. This could have effects on people, and property values. **The proponent should use actual data to predict effects, and commit to mitigation actions, for the increase in light, noise, and dust pollution that the west side of Little Dyke Road would experience.**

Pg. 113 – 6.8.4 Proposed Mitigation and Management Measures – “Truck drivers will adhere to posted speed limits and warning signage and adjust driving to meet weather and road conditions.”

Speeding and unsafe driving has repeated occurred along Little Dyke Road involved trucks going to the site, including with tickets being issues to drivers. **The proponent should commit to new management measures to address this existing problem. Clearly existing management measures are not working.**

Pg. 114 – 6.8.5 Residual Effects – “Effects on property values are more difficult to determine, since the literature relating property values to proximity to industrial facilities is

uncertain. Some studies suggest that proximity to an industrial facility may result in a decline in property values due to nuisance effects and potential damage, whereas others suggest that property values may increase if present near an industrial operation because workers tend to wish to live near where they work. As such, given this and the fact that the Project represents a continuation of current conditions, the anticipated effects of the Project on property values are described as neutral."

**The proponent should do the work and refer to some of the actual research and local data on this topic.** The proponent could also examine local property values close to the quarry, and at a set distance away from the quarry. The assumption that increased use of the Pit 4 site is a "continuation of current conditions" is not accurate, and the conclusion that effect on property values are "neutral" are baseless.

Pg. 115 – "The Project may result in a modest decrease in traffic volumes on the preferred transportation route during operation. Residents located along the preferred transportation route may notice truck traffic at times, but since the highways are rated for such purposes and trucking has occurred and continues to occur on these roads, measurable impacts on transportation are not expected."

**The proponent should discuss the impacts on local roads as a result of their operations.** Have the local roads used frequently by the proponent been repaired or repaved as a result of their operations?

Pg. 156 – 10.0 Potential Cumulative Environmental Effects – **The proponent has not completed a cumulative effects analysis.** This is one of the most lacking sections in the EARD.



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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: Little Dyke was a little gem of a community beside the Cobequid Bay. It was quiet there - only the singing of birds and the lapping of water. In summer, hundreds of sandpipers and plovers would stop there to fatten up in preparation for their long trip south. They would put on amazing air shows. There was a gravel pit. It made an ugly mess of prime farmland but it was a living for a couple of locals so no one complained. Then they sold it to a Big Company who expanded it, breaking many environmental rules but the government forgave them because they were a Big Company. Now they are planning further expansion with more noise pollution, air pollution and water pollution. Can they not be stopped? Name: Email: @gmail.com  
Address: Municipality: Truro email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x:  
1741 y: 780



# Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council



The Maritime Regional Aboriginal Leaders  
Intergovernmental Council of Aboriginal Peoples  
Continuing to Reside on Traditional Ancestral Homelands

## Forums

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- ☐ Leaders Congress
- ☐ MAPC Commissions/Projects
- ☐ MAARS Secretariate
- ☐ IKANAWTIKET SARA
- ☐ MAPC Administration

MAPC Regional  
Administrative Office  
80 Walker Street, Suite 3  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 4A7

Tel: 902-895-2982  
Fax: 902-895-3844  
Toll Free: 1-855-858-7240  
Email: [frontdesk@mapcorg.ca](mailto:frontdesk@mapcorg.ca)

Governmental  
APRO Councils

Native Council of  
Nova Scotia  
P.O. Box 1320  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 5N2

Tel: 902-895-1523  
Fax: 902-895-0024  
Email: [chiefaugustine@ncns.ca](mailto:chiefaugustine@ncns.ca)

New Brunswick Aboriginal  
Peoples Council  
320 St. Mary's Street  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E3A 2S4

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Native Council of  
Prince Edward Island  
6 F.J. McAuley Court  
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C1A 9M7

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Environmental Assessment Branch  
P.O. Box 442  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2P8

## RE: Pit No. 4 Extension Project

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS), the Maritime Aboriginal Aquatic Resources Secretariate (MAARS) is providing comments to the Environmental Assessment Branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change regarding the Environmental Assessment Application for the Osco Aggregates Ltd. Pit No. 4 Extension proposed undertaking.

MAARS has plans to meet directly with the project proponent, OSCO Aggregates Limited to discuss the project and raise any questions or concerns directly with the proponent. Some of the areas of interest as it relates to this project include;

- More details around the fuel storage/waste oil tanks on site: What is the reasoning for these being needed at this site? What changes will be made to the Industrial Approval to accommodate for this addition?
- Settling ponds: Are these going to be standalone ponds? Section 2.5.2.2 states that wastewater will not be discharged, is this just for the washing plant or inclusive of the settling ponds?
- Wetland impacts: We have significant concerns over the impacts to the watershed and potential for changes to the water balance of up to 30%. What will the compensation plan look like for this impact? Stated in the EARD that W7 which is a potential Wetland of Special Significance overlaps only slightly with the PDA, are there any anticipated impacts from the work on this wetland?
- Mainland Moose: Were any targeted surveys completed?
- Extractions: What is the increase in materials extracted from this site? Are they expected to change with the extension?

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that it is important for all proponents of projects to understand that the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Community represented by the NCNS is included within the definition of “Indian” under Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The Supreme Court of Canada in a landmark decision in *Daniels v. Canada (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)*, 2016 SCC 12, declared that “the exclusive Legislative Authority of the Parliament of Canada extends to all Indian, and Lands reserved for the Indians” and that the “word Indians” in s.91(24) includes Métis and non-Status Indians”<sup>1</sup>. Since 2004, in multiple decisions passed by the Supreme Court of Canada: *Haida Nation*<sup>2</sup>, *Taku River Tlingit First Nation*<sup>3</sup>, and *Mikisew Cree First Nation*<sup>4</sup>, has established that,

Where accommodation is required in decision making that may adversely affect as yet unproven Aboriginal Rights and title claims, the Crown must balance Aboriginal concerns reasonably with the potential impact of the decision on the asserted right or title and with other societal interests.

Further, both the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada are aware that the “Made in Nova Scotia Process” and the *Mi’kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference* does not circumvent the Provincial Government’s responsibility to hold consultations with other organizations in Nova Scotia that represent Indigenous Peoples of Nova Scotia. While the proponent may have to engage with the thirteen Mi’kmaq First Nations through the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi’kmaq Chiefs, represented by the Kwilmu’kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO), the KMKNO does not represent the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Community who have elected to be represented by the NCNS since 1974.

We assert that the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Communities, as 91(24) Indians, are undeniably heirs to Treaty Rights and beneficiaries of Aboriginal Rights as substantiated by Canada’s own Supreme Court jurisprudence. As such, there is absolutely an obligation to consult with the Off-Reserve Community through their elected representative body of the NCNS. The Crown’s duty to consult with all Indians extends beyond that only with Indian Act Bands, or as through the truncated Terms of Reference for a Mi’kmaq Nova Scotia Canada Consultation Process.

For contextual purposes, for over forty years, the three Native Council partners of the Maritime Aboriginal People’s Council (MAPC) have continued to be the Aboriginal Peoples Representative Organizations representing and advocating for the Rights and issues of the Mi’kmaq/Wolastoqiyik/Peskotomuhkati/Section 91 (24) Indians, both Status and non-Status, continuing to reside on their unceded Traditional Ancestral Homelands. In the early 1970s, the communities recognized the need for representation and advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the off-Reserve community of Aboriginal Peoples, “the forgotten Indian”. Women and men self-organized themselves to be the “voice to the councils of government” for tens of thousands of community members left unrepresented by Indian Act-created Band Councils and Chiefs. Based on the Aboriginal Identity question, Statistics Canada (2016 Census - 25% sample) enumerate 21,915 off-Reserve Aboriginal Persons in New Brunswick, 42,145 in Nova Scotia, and 2,210 in Prince Edward Island.

Each Native Council in their respective province asserts Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Rights, with Interest in Other Rights confirmed in court decisions, recognized as existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of

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<sup>1</sup> *Daniels v. Canada (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)*, 2016 SCC 12, [2016] 1 S.C.R. 99

<sup>2</sup> *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, (2004), 2 S.C.R. 511

<sup>3</sup> *Taku River Tlingit First Nation v. British Columbia (Project Assessment Director)*, (2004), 3 S.C.R. 550

<sup>4</sup> *Mikisew Cree First Nations v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage)*, (2005), 3 S.C.R. 388

the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada in Part II of the Constitution Act of Canada, 1982. Each Native Council has established and maintains Natural Harvesting Regimes, and each have a co-management arrangement with DFO for Food, Social, and Ceremonial use of aquatic species, through the: Najiwsgetaq Nomehs (NBAPC), the Netukulimkewe'l Commission (NCNS), and the Kelewatl Commission (NCPEI).

The Native Council of Nova Scotia was organized in 1974 and represents the interests, needs, and rights of Off-Reserve Status and Non-Status Section 91(24) Indians/Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples continuing on our Traditional Ancestral Homelands throughout Nova Scotia as Heirs to Treaty Rights, Beneficiaries of Aboriginal Rights, with Interests to Other Rights, including Land Claim Rights.

The Native Council of Nova Scotia (NCNS) Community of Off-Reserve Status and Non-Status Indians/Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples supports projects, works, activities and undertakings which do not significantly alter, destroy, impact, or affect the sustainable natural life ecosystems or natural eco-scapes formed as hills, mountains, wetlands, meadows, woodlands, shores, beaches, coasts, brooks, streams, rivers, lakes, bays, inland waters, and the near-shore, mid-shore and off-shore waters, to list a few, with their multitude of in-situ biodiversity. Our NCNS Community has continued to access and use the natural life within those ecosystems and eco-scapes where the equitable sharing of benefits arising from projects and undertakings serve a beneficial purpose towards progress in general and demonstrate the sustainable use of the natural wealth of Mother Earth, with respect for the Constitutional Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Rights, and Other Rights of the Native Council of Nova Scotia Community continuing throughout our Traditional Ancestral Homeland in the part of the Mi'kma'ki now known as Nova Scotia.

We look forward to further dialogue as we continue to advocate for the rights of Off-Reserve Status and Section 91(24) Indians/Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Peoples of Nova Scotia. To continue to represent the interests and needs of the off-Reserve Aboriginal Community in Nova Scotia, we would like to request the opportunity to participate in early engagement in future Environmental Assessment Reviews.

Advancing Aboriginal Fisheries and Oceans Entities  
Best Practices, Management, and Decision-making

Habitat Impact Advisor, MAARS

Executive Director, MAARS & MAPC Projects

CC: Chief & President, NCNS  
, Netukulimkewe'l Commission, NCNS



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**Subject:** Osco requested for pit 4 Little Dyke.  
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We are sending this email to you today in great concern about the expansion of the gravel pits in Little Dyke Nova Scotia. We bought our land in Little Dyke, back in 1984, thinking what wonderful place this would be to raise a family and to spend our lives here. We were so blessed we had a great place to raise our kids. Fast forward to the year 2017, when Ocas a company of Irving Oil, started to expand their business, here in this community, we did not want it then, and no one would even really listen to any of the community concerns, and how sad is that? Now here we are in 2024, the place that we were so grateful to raise our kids, but it is not going to be the place we work so hard all these years to retire in.

Within 5 years we will be surrounded by gravel pits, in front of us, in back of us and down the road from us. Everyone's dream to live in a gravel pit. Property value will go down, as you can't sell your home in good faith knowing all this. We are concerned about the noise traffic and dust. There is a huge concern about Silicosis dust that could be a major health issue to the people of our community. Also water levels and the wet lands are at great risk. Osco now owns most of the farm land here. We fully get it that we need gravel and that there are many jobs involved, but why in the middle of a residential area? There are all kinds of places to dig gravel and sand, instead of in a community of people that call this place home. We ask that you take in the people and land of this community into deep consideration before making a decision on this. We are asking you take more time to fully investigate this situation before giving a green light to this huge organization, that will be the end of Little Dyke as we know it.

Thank you so much for taking the people of Little Dyke into consideration.

Yours truly,

[redacted]@hotmail.com

[redacted]@hotmail.com



From: @gmail.com  
To: [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
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Date: July 5, 2024 4:01:11 PM

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: Irving-owned Osco is being permitted by the Government of Nova Scotia to literally decimate a rural community . . . the community of Little Dyke. In 2017, Osco applied for an expansion of their existing gravel pit. The residents of the Little Dyke community fought long and hard to shut down Osco's expansion plans but without success. The existing Environmental Act had everything the Minister needed to make a case against Osco that could have and should have! prevented them from expanding their operation. Despite the numerous ways the Minister of Environment had, at his disposal, to protect this rural community, it would appear that none of the factors upon which the Minister purportedly based his decisions on Osco's proposal, was even considered. Now, here we are in 2024, with Osco applying, yet again, for another expansion. Although the current Minister seems to imply he is powerless to do anything as the residents fight to save their community, in reality, he has vast discretionary powers as a result solely on what he needs to consider when making a decision on whether or not a project will be given approval. According to the Environmental Assessment Regulations of Nova Scotia, when formulating a decision on a project, the Minister is supposed to consider the following criteria: 1. The Minister shall consider the location of the proposed undertaking. 2. The Minister shall consider the nature and sensitivity of the surrounding area. 3. The Minister shall consider the size, scope and complexity of the undertaking. 4. The Minister shall consider concerns expressed by the public about adverse effects related to the proposed undertaking. 5. The Minister shall consider potential or known adverse effects or environmental effects of the proposed undertaking, including identifying any effects on species at risk, species of conservation concern and their habitats. 6. The Minister shall consider whether environmental baseline information for the undertaking is sufficient for predicting adverse effects or environmental effects related to the undertaking. 7. The Minister shall consider schedules where applicable. 8. The Minister shall consider planned or existing land use of the existing area of the undertaking. 9. The Minister shall consider whether compliance with licenses, certificates, permits, approvals or other documents authorization required by law will mitigate the environmental effects. As the aforementioned points indicate, the Minister has numerous ways to ensure that further decimation of the Little Dyke Community will not be permitted. But the environmental assessment regulations only work if they are implemented. If they are not implemented, the result is exactly what we are seeing at Little Dyke . . . the enabling of sacrifice zones where residents bear the health and environmental costs for the economic growth of others. There is an urgent need for legislative action to address these injustices. In regards to Osco's expansion proposal, until further study can be done about the major concerns expressed by residents of Little Dyke, particularly concerning health issues, the very least the Government can and should do is to allow more time for investigations to be done by an independent source to evaluate the health risks brought on by this massive industrial operation. I'd like to close my submission by quoting the mandate of Nova Scotia's Department of Environment Climate as stated on their website. "Through legislation, regulation and enforcement, the Department of Environment and Climate Change has a mandate to support a clean and healthy environment, protect land, advance a clean economy,

address the climate crisis, and guide the province towards a sustainable and clean future where all Nova Scotians can thrive. Can this mandate not be implemented at Little Dyke? Name:

Email:

@gmail.com Address:

Municipality:

River John email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 66 y: 25

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: Please do not allow the expansion on Little Dyke, save our wetlands. The people that live in the area do not deserve to live with all the noise, dust and truck constantly running up and down the roads. There is so much wildlife in the area that deserve to live without loss of habitat. Please please do not allow the expansion.  
Name:      Email: @gmail.com Address:      Municipality:  
Lower Onslow email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 47 y: 29



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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: Dear Minister Halman, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed expansion of the Glenholme " OSCO Pit #4 Quarry Expansion and to request that you require a Focus Report to address the significant concerns raised by this project. As a resident of the affected community, I am deeply concerned about the potential adverse effects and significant environmental impacts that the expansion could have on our health, environment, and quality of life. The Environmental Assessment Registration Document EARD submitted for this project indicates that the quarry expansion may cause adverse effects and significant environmental effects, which necessitate a more thorough examination. Here are several critical reasons why a Focus Report is essential: Health Concerns: The expansion poses substantial risks, including increased dust and noise pollution, which can severely impact respiratory health and overall well-being. Mayor Christine Blair has highlighted these health risks, requesting that the project be put on hold until they can be adequately analyzed. Local council has also written letters expressing concerns for the health and safety of the community. Environmental Impact: The EARD's long-term data monitoring is insufficient and fails to provide a comprehensive understanding of the ongoing and cumulative effects of the quarry operations. I am advocating for a more extensive environmental assessment of a Class I undertaking, as the EARD indicates that the expansion may cause adverse effects or significant environmental effects and further assessment is needed to understand those effects fully. Community and Lifestyle: The proposed expansion threatens our rural lifestyle, local tourism, and recreational activities such as biking, walking, kayaking, and paddleboarding. The increase in industrial traffic and operational disruptions will irreparably harm these activities, leading to a decline in our quality of life and local economy. Given the company's history of non-compliance, it is evident that they cannot be trusted to operate in a manner that safeguards our community. Their past infractions and the inadequacies in the EARD make it clear that more stringent measures are needed. A Focus Report, as a supplementary study, would provide the detailed information necessary to fully understand the potential adverse effects and significant environmental impacts. This additional assessment is crucial for ensuring that all potential risks are thoroughly evaluated and addressed. It is also worth noting that when the Minister decides to require a Focus Report or an Environmental Assessment Report EAR, it extends the timeline for the environmental assessment and provides further opportunities for public review and comment. This extended timeline is essential for ensuring that all voices in the community are heard all information is collected and that the decision-making process is transparent and thorough. Moreover, the media is closely following this story, highlighting the public interest and the widespread concern about the proposed expansion. This coverage underscores the importance of a transparent and comprehensive review process. In conclusion, I respectfully request that you require the proponent to provide a Focus Report to gather the necessary detailed information and fully understand the potential adverse effects and significant environmental impacts of the proposed quarry expansion. The health, safety, and quality of life of our community depend on a rigorous and thorough environmental assessment process. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response and to a

decision that prioritizes the wellbeing of our community and environment. Sincerely,

@gmail.com Address:

Great Village, NS,

email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 60 y: 28

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**Subject:** Proposed Project Comments  
**Date:** July 5, 2024 8:36:11 PM

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: I am writing in support of the citizens of Little Dyke who have grave concerns about this project. Concerns that include environmental and environment related health issues. As a former health care provider I understand their concerns and expect the government to listen to them and seek a solution that protects their health and the environment. Name: Email: @gmail.com Address: Municipality: Truro email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 45 y: 18



**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Cc:** [tom.taggartmla@gmail.com](mailto:tom.taggartmla@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** OSCO Aggregates Ltd Pit No.4 Extension Project  
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Dear Minister Timothy Halman,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband, [redacted]. We reside at [redacted], Little Dyke, with our two sons. We have lived in this home and community since 2005.

I am writing to voice our concerns with OSCO Aggregates Ltd, proposed pit expansion. This expansion is going to have a large impact on our family and our community. The expansion area directly adjoins our property. The pit will be in our backyard and eventually across the road from our home. We will be surrounded by a gravel pit.

This expansion raises many concerns for our community and surrounding communities too.

I respectfully request that the following concerns be taken into consideration, when considering Osco's proposed pit expansion in Little Dyke:

### **Quality of Life**

The expansion of this project will have a huge impact on all Little Dyke residents' quality of life. The sounds of the machinery, trucks, beepers, and the crusher going from early morning hours to late at night, is more than a nuisance. We chose to live here for the beauty and the peaceful quiet lifestyle.

Many people choose to walk and bike in our community, including people who live in our neighbouring communities. You can set a clock by the morning and evening walkers.

Those who choose to come to our community do so because of the peaceful, beautiful community it is. People walking their dogs, children on bikes. We all know the positive impacts exercise and being out in nature have upon our mental health. The expansion of this project, with the increased large truck traffic on our roads, the noise and dust, will cause this all to be lost. Not just for the residents of Little Dyke, but everyone who comes to our community to enjoy it. During the summer months, many people come to the lake to swim. The large trucks constantly coming and going, will prove that no longer safe. In today's world with the rising costs, and the stress that brings to families, these safe havens need to be protected. Our lake proves a fun day out for families, with no cost. We need to save what is left of our community.

## **Health Concerns**

I understand that the crushing of the rock produces airborne particles of silica dust. Breathing in silica dust can have carcinogenic and other serious health effects such as lung disease, much like asbestos. "Exposure to silica dust can lead to the development of lung cancer, silicosis (an irreversible scarring and stiffening of the lungs), kidney disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It is estimated that 230 people develop lung cancer each year as a result of past exposure to silica dust at work." <https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/workplace-cancer/silica-dust#>.

"The negative impacts on human health from gravel pit operations are well documented. Both workers of gravel pits and residents close to gravel pits are at risk of pulmonary issues ranging from shortness of breath and airway restriction to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and silicosis.[17][14] The culprit of these issues is the fine silica dust created and stirred up by aggregate extraction processes and carried in the wind, which people breathe in and coats surfaces such as nearby homes and plants.[17][18] There are also concerns that agricultural plants coated in dust from gravel pit operations pose a risk to human health through consumption if the plant contains the dust.[13] There have been widespread movements by communities affected by gravel pit operations to have them moved away to less windy, residential, or agricultural areas, and for better safety precautions to be adopted for worker health" [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gravel\\_pit](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gravel_pit)

Our community is located on the Cobequid Bay, therefore the wind from the bay would cause the dust to travel even farther within our community. This is a real potential danger that should not be taken lightly. I'm extremely concerned for the potential health impacts this could have.

## **Environment**

The proposed expansion will envelop and eat up a large portion of our community, in addition to the already existing pit, they propose to remove an additional 30 hectares of land.

I understand Osco proposes to withdrawal water to exceed 23,000 litres per day. What potential impacts could this have for the lake and our water table? What about our drinking water?

## **Property Values**

The further expansion of the pit will cause our property values to decrease significantly. We have worked hard to increase the equity in our home for our family's quality of life and our children's future.

I understand the need for concrete in our economy, but at what cost?

I respectfully request that careful consideration be given, and believe it would be beneficial for all to have an independent assessment or study undertaken and prepared regarding silica dust at the Little Dyke plant and surrounding area.

Should Osco's application be approved, I request that steps be taken to mitigate the negative impacts this expansion will have on the remaining land within our community and our community's quality of life, including that the crusher be enclosed to reduce dust and noise levels, that a thick buffer of trees be planted in addition to the berm, and that working hours be set and enforced so the operation is not running early morning or late into the evening, and that consideration be given to limit the large trucks on our road.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone

From: @gmail.com  
To: [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
Subject: Proposed Project Comments  
Date: July 5, 2024 9:31:01 PM

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**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

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Project: pit-no.-4-extension-project Comments: Little Dyke is a small community of permanent and summer residents, surrounded by farmland, wetland, beach, forest and fen, habitat for many species including species at risk and endangered species: a destination for travellers, known for its tranquil beauty, swimming, skating, experiencing nature. Little Dyke is and has been since Irvings take over of Osco, slowly disappearing. . A small NS community sacrificed for industry. With this expansion IRVING OSCO will have destroyed 371.94 acres, 150 hectares equivalent to 282 football fields, of prime farmland, wetland, forest and fen. AND its not over . . . IRVING is already courting the owners of the farmland that remains. As provincial Environment Minister you have discretionary powers. The residents are asking for the expansion to be denied and the plans to add another crusher and another wash plant refused. You have the power to block this request. Industrial operations in this province is a privilege which can be conferred or not at the discretion of the Minister. The residents have highlighted: traffic safety concerns hazardous waste concerns they have identified cancer causing particulates waste water concerns psychological concerns sound habitat loss, wetland forest grassland for species at risk and endangered species food security concerns prime farmland destroyed previous infractions by OSCO-IRVING If all this can be ignored, three questions remain what would it take to say no to a proposed project? What would it take to say no to Irving? To our research, all industrial projects proposed have been allowed. This is not environmental protection. What government department can people appeal to to actually protect the environment? If the provincial government can choose our people and communities, our habitat, our water and air quality, our food security over industry, by saying a hard no to destructive projects and not just work to mitigate the destruction. Furthermore there are circular recycled alternatives for aggregate, plastic waste, waste/ used asphalt instead of linear finite amount aggregate extraction. Little Dyke cannot/will not stand by and be further sacrificed for industry. Please use your discretionary powers to stop any further expansion or increase in industrialization of this community, for the sake of her people, her wildlife and habitat, her farmland and her history as a recreational destination. In this time of the Global Climate Catastrophe, it is time to put people and habitat and potential for food production over a linear extraction industry. With hope,

Name:

Email: @gmail.com Address:

Municipality: River John email\_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 66 y: 25

10 McCully Lane  
Great Village, NS, B0M 1L0

July 5, 2024

Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change  
Environmental Assessment Branch  
P.O. Box 442  
Halifax, NS, B3J 2P8

**RE: Environmental Assessment Registration, Osco Aggregates - June 6th, 2024**

Dear Honourable Member,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of OSCO Aggregates' Pit 4. This expansion poses significant threats to our community's well-being and environment. At the very least, more time, evaluation, and consideration is the responsible thing to do.

I am a Civil Engineer with a background in water resources, as well as a Mining Technologist. I have worked internationally doing mine exploration, as well as in northern BC at two coal mines. In Ontario and BC, I have worked as a consultant on various landfill sites, as well as several contaminated sites conducting investigation and remediation. My expertise was in hydrogeology. As someone relatively new to Nova Scotia, what I have noticed is how antiquated the province's environmental regulations are, especially compared to BC. In 2024, this is completely unacceptable. There is a strong roadmap in-place to consider, and more action needs to be taken to update standards to a level that all Canadians deserve.

My family and I have the following concerns:

- The groundwater data that supposedly exists is not shared. Not only should all surface water and groundwater data be shared, but the community should have the opportunity to collect our own samples for analysis (in conjunction with OSCO) and send to a different lab.
- Any impact of groundwater levels and quality should be prevented at all costs.
- Lack of dust suppression has been an ongoing issue that is preventable and unacceptable.
- The proposed road access to Little Dyke Lake Road that runs along the east side of lake should not be permitted. Not only does it disturb wetland areas, the residents with the berm at the back of their properties will already be impacted enough. They don't need to be disturbed from the front of their properties as well. A road that runs from the pit area, straight north to Hwy 2 would be a better solution.

- For the residents directly impacted, the proposed berm and setback is horrendously unacceptable.
- The proposed days and times open to crushing activity is unacceptable. The earliest time should be 7am and the latest should be 6pm. Weekend crushing should not be allowed. With OSCO's stockpiling ability, this is unnecessary. Noise needs to be minimized. We all deserve quiet enjoyment of our community.
- The disturbance of any wetland areas should be prevented.
- Wildlife in the area have already been disturbed by the last pit expansion seven years ago. The effect of expansion was completely minimized in the report.
- The projected increase in heavy truck traffic will strain our rural roads, leading to safety hazards and road degradation. You only need to look back less than two years ago (prior to repaving) to see what the road looked like.
- Any fuel / waste oil storage, an adequate containment system should be in place. It should not just be constructed on the bare earth. There is no mention of this in the report.
- OSCO Aggregates has a history of non-compliance in previous operations. What enforcement mechanisms are in place to ensure OSCO adheres to regulations? How will compliance be monitored and reported?
- The report lacks a detailed reclamation plan to restore the land post-extraction. It appears that OSCO has found loopholes, such as leaving the bare minimum as a stockpile to avoid having to perform proper reclamation. Expansion of any project should never be allowed until proper reclamation has been completed. Otherwise, there is no incentive for them to do so.

Finally, the project manager for Dillon, \_\_\_\_\_, looks to only be licensed in New Brunswick, not Nova Scotia. The members in good standing were only last updated as of March 31, 2023, but this needs to be verified. As far as I know, if you do work in another province, you need to register with said province or this report needs to be rejected.

In summary, the environmental assessment submitted is inadequate. It mainly contains "fluff" and all concerns are completely minimized. It is your responsibility to adequately protect the environment, as well as human health and well-being. If you allow this to go through as is, you are doing your province and constituents great disservice.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I trust you and your colleagues will make the correct decisions that will protect and benefit the community, not only OSCO.

Regards,



**From:**  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account; Minister, Env](#)  
**Cc:** [Tom.TaggartMLA@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.TaggartMLA@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Environmental Assessment Registration, OSCO Aggregates - June 6th, 2024  
**Date:** July 6, 2024 3:19:12 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]@darefoods.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Honorable Tim Halman  
Minister of Environment & Climate Change

I am writing to voice my concerns to the proposed expansion of OSCO Aggregates Pit #4.

. My family and I live just down the road from the current OSCO operation.

We enjoy swimming and boating in the lake, watching the loons and seeing the entire community use the lake. We moved to the area just over two years ago. We have many friends and family in the immediate area.

I would like to address three main concerns I have behind the proposed expansion. They are health (of both community members and OSCO employees), noise and traffic and pedestrian safety.

I'm not interested in having OSCO shut down operation as I understand what they provide to the Province in terms of employment and quality material that is used in construction but I believe they need to address some major concerns as they move forward with expansion. OSCO is an important employer in our community and my wife and I have friends who work for OSCO and depend on OSCO to provide a paycheck for their family. The concerns I have are not just Little Dyke specific but will (and already are) affecting many Nova Scotians. We have a chance here to provide input and guidance on how these operations should progress in the future to ensure the health and safety of all Nova Scotians.

I have read a lot about Crystalline Silica dust over the past year or so. Prior to that, I had never heard of it. It is airborne and is caused by crusher activity. It has similar effects to people who breathe it in as asbestos.

There are many people who live and work in and around our community that are exposed to this dust on a daily basis. I see the direct exposure the OSCO employees have that truck in materials and work at the current crusher site. Do their workers wear masks and proper protective gear? We know that the particles are being spread for miles through the air which isn't good for anyone who breathes them in. Even in small quantities, they can be very harmful. In some areas of North America, regulations are in place to address how to control this

dust so it doesn't affect the health of people who are in areas where these operations are.

Noise is a huge concern for all who live in the Little Dyke area. Depending on where we live, we can hear the current crusher operation at different levels. In the Pit 4 expansion, the crusher will be moved in the back yards many houses and closer to many more houses than at the current location. Also, the proposed hours of operation are much greater than the current operation which will adversely affect many residents at all hours.

Traffic and pedestrian safety is another concern that I have. The dump trucks run up and down the Little Dyke road from the current pit to the crusher. There is gravel spilling on the road which is a major hazard to bikes and motorcycles. OSCO did put in some cement at the end of their entrances which helps some but many trucks continue not to tarp their loads from the pit to the crusher which leads to a lot of gravel coming out of trucks onto the roads. Also, many of the trucks don't stop at the stop signs that were put at the exits of their pit and crusher site. Many people won't walk past the current operation as they don't feel it is safe. There has been more than one time that a dump truck didn't stop at a stop sign and pulled out in front of me as I was driving on the Little Dyke road. I was pushed off the road and almost hit at one point but the dump truck didn't stop or slow down. This has to be addressed before someone is hurt or killed.

I would like to offer some thoughts on how to address these issues:

- An enclosed crusher would address both the health issues and noise issues. By having an enclosed crusher, the dust from the operation would be kept to a minimum which would hopefully reduce or eliminate exposure for everyone and reduce possible future medical expenses and improve overall health for everyone. I would hope that this option would also come with specific guidelines for OSCO employees including protective gear, showers and procedures to protect them as well.
- Having OSCO build a road that runs directly from their crusher site to Highway #2 would address the traffic and pedestrian safety issues to a large degree. OSCO currently owns the land so this is possible. This would keep the dump trucks off the Little Dyke road and would also help with road maintenance as the wear and tear on the Municipal roads that are currently being used by the OSCO trucks is evident as we drive on these roads every day.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my concerns. I'm hoping that the outlined issues will be addressed and that moving forward there can be some different standards put in place to ensure the health and safety of all Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,

Little Dyke  
Nova Scotia

June 21, 2024

Little Dyke, NS  
B0M 1L0

Hon. Premier Tim Houston  
Environment Minister Tim Halman  
Deputy Environment Minister Lora MacEachern  
Colchester North MLA Tom Taggart  
Colchester Mayor Christine Blair  
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart  
Liberal Leader Zach Churchill

**Dear Premier Houston, Liberal Leader Zach Churchill and Community Leaders,**

Given that you receive letters like mine hundreds of times per month, you may be tempted to hold back on consulting with one another on this major issue. You're possibly assuming someone at the local or provincial level is already looking after this looming environmental and lifestyle-disrupting disaster. I would urge you not to make that assumption, since the issue of OSCO Aggregates expanding its gravel and sand mining quarry to cover 400 acres in my neighbourhood has the potential to become another "Owl's Head" type of boiling point.

OSCO's current gravel quarry location is at Glenholme-Little Dyke Lake in Colchester County. (see attached map) OSCO's paperwork uses the word "extension" to describe the Irving-owned company's plan to gobble up hundreds of tons of sand and gravel in our neighbourhood between now and 2056. It's not an "extension"; it's a full-blown EXPANSION meant to take over several square kilometers of Colchester County. This ongoing life-disrupting plan would leave our lungs susceptible to Crystalline Silica, a known cancer-causing agent produced at gravel crushing operations worldwide. But more recently in Ontario and B.C, it has become closely monitored and controlled for health reasons. (Crystalline Silica causes more than 500 deaths in Canada each year, with millions spent to treat those people while they're still alive)

In addition to this, our pristine spring-fed lake, formed at the end of the last ice age, will be in danger of losing its water source as OSCO puts pressure on its employees to dig gravel faster, in an effort to maximize profits, ignoring our lake-feeding springs.

At our latest public meeting held in Masstown this week, our group saw evidence of sparse monitoring of Irving-OSCO's current operations, thanks mainly to a shortage of personnel in the Truro office of NS Environment and Climate Change.

I could go on for 16 to 20 pages on residents' fears, with ample evidence of what OSCO is already NOT doing to be cited for non-compliance based on its last provincial approval in 2017. But instead, I will summarize.

As a group of committed residents who will be voting as a block on this issue over the next few elections, we need and deserve answers on the following.

1. We require evidence that OSCO-Irving has a solid plan to control the Crystalline-Silica Dust from their new operation by placing the crushing aspect INSIDE, so that it can and will be effectively and professionally monitored until 2056. (the company has a history of non-compliance, which continues as they haul un-tarped gravel through our neighbourhood every day)
2. We need a commitment that this expansion WILL NOT import aggregates from outside operators in order for OSCO to process and wash their gravel and sand-based products here. It might produce extra profit for OSCO, but our water, wildlife and land resources could never tolerate that. Despite that, there's evidence from public statements by OSCO showing us that is a distinct possibility. (see [allnovascotia.com](http://allnovascotia.com))
3. The noise and traffic from large, fully-loaded gravel trucks entering our 2 local side-roads every 56 seconds (YES, that's correct – every 56 seconds) must be made more realistic in such a popular recreational lake area. As provincial health costs mount each year, people who are afraid to walk, jog and bicycle on our local side-roads will suffer health setbacks. We know that regular exercise in clean air is a vital treatment for both physical and

mental health issues. I cannot understate the threat to that clean air from microscopic shards of Crystalline Silica, leading to lung lesions that help pave the way for lung cancer.

4. A reclamation plan must literally be made the law of this land. No exceptions can be permitted for a company like OSCO, whose record is shoddy, at best.

As a former public servant and broadcast journalist, my recommendation would be that Premier Houston and Mayor Blair co-chair a public meeting on the issue before the 30-day public input deadline comes to an end on July 6, 2024. Perhaps an all-party committee could be set up to examine the issue. We know that Premier Houston has tried to be fair-minded, and an all-party committee would take the politics out of the issue.

As you can see, this is a life and death issue to the hundreds of families who live within a 5 to 10-kilometer radius of the intended aggregate-mining and processing expansion. That's the distance where experts tell us the silica lung threat is greatest. Please help us.

Thank you for your time.

(Little Dyke Road Resident for 26 years.)

**From:** [Higgins, Jeremy W](#)  
**To:** [Environment Assessment Web Account](#)  
**Subject:** FW: OSCO Aggregates Pits 4 Expansion CRM:0213050  
**Date:** July 12, 2024 3:21:58 PM  
**Importance:** High

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** ;  
**Received:** Thu Jul 04 2024 21:40:49 GMT-0300 (Atlantic Daylight Time)  
**To:** [EA@novascotia.ca](mailto:EA@novascotia.ca);  
**Cc:** PNS Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Premier <[premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Environment and Climate Change <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister of Environment <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; ECC Minister <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; PNS Environment & Climate Change <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Minister Environment and Climate Change <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>; Environment Minister <[minister.environment@novascotia.ca](mailto:minister.environment@novascotia.ca)>;  
**Subject:** OSCO Aggregates Pits 4 Expansion

**\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE \*\***

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My name is . I am one of many residents living in dread of what will become of our rural homes. Shortly after we purchased here in 2015, approval was given to OSCO in 2017 for expansion. It was a relatively small operation. Seven years later they want to expand the expansion and remove protected wetlands to make their project work. There are alternatives.

This company has not demonstrated strict adherence to its previous approvals. Only through community monitoring and calls to the correct officials are results achieved, to reign them in. Having spent most of my working life in construction I realize and understand the need for materials to grow our province and economy. The goal of the community is to regulate the company and maintain our way of life. As our elected representatives, our government should be there to help us. I feel this is often lost on them and big business wins.

One of my main concerns is noise impact on our area. Times of crushing and excavation need to be restricted. Officials appear more able to assist urban residents in this area. Our homes are in residential areas and we should be afforded the same rights. No work should start before 7 AM on any day for any reason. Late end times as OSCO suggests should not be allowed. It is medically known that people who have their environment altered by noise will suffer. We must be allowed to have some kind of life where construction noise and its side effects don't interfere with our enjoyment of our property.

Enclosed breakers or crushers will help alleviate some noise. They will also help control silica dust which governments have known for over 90 years to be as deadly as asbestos.

In the noise zone we also have alternative safety measures instead of back up beepers. These need to be put in place by the operator to cut back on unnecessary noise pollution.

I have neighbours who will be within 30 meters of this active pit. Archaic laws allow this, it must



change.

Carrying on we come to the environmental impact. This expansion is in the middle of wetlands. One small wetland area is in the midst of the last approval. They are looking to disrupt this as indicated in their proposal, for benefits to their plan. Leaving it as protected in one approval and having it relegated unprotected in a later assessment does seem anti protective to me. I am worried about air quality as I have stated and am deeply concerned with dust particles so small they can float wherever the wind is blowing , in this case into our houses, children, pets and gardens. Silica dust needs to be addressed in any approval. When it comes to Compliance and Accountability. Where does that come from? Our little DOE is understaffed and lacks direction from officials to keep control of giant corporations. Why not institute a fee for tonnage removed and have our local crushing businesses in NS remit monies to NS Finance Dept. so that we will have funds to monitor the operator. As a hunter, retired, I paid to buy a license, to fund game wardens. Consider this a warden fee for operators. This is happening in some other Canadian provinces and American states.

There are two lakes and many homes near the proposed expansion. Brooks and or creeks appear to be drying up near the pit. Why? What happens , I say when , not if , the operator interrupts or destroys our water supply with silt from their wash operations and excavations. They have dug below the water table before. It's just a matter of time. Dry lakes and no well water , who pays for that? Government for approving the proposal, the operator or the poor little bankrupt and defeated resident of a once vibrant community.

What about food insecurity in Nova Scotia. This new expansion and recent purchases not yet included but to come in the future , for sure the next expansion, is surrounded by farmland. Our government should be worried and concerned about lost farmland potential. If not in this assessment but at a later date our provincial government needs to address this, province wide. You just have to live a day in our shoes when the crusher is running full bore and the wind is driving the noise onto your back deck as your family gathers. No doubt there are many in the community that would lend our homes to you for a day, a weekend if we thought it might wake you up to our concerns.

Aerial views on the vastness of this expansion leave us sleepless at night.

Thank you and I hope you can find an answer for the province , the operator and the residents. We may be small but we deserve you and your government's consideration .

The Honourable Tim Halman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Via: email [tim.halman@novascotia.ca](mailto:tim.halman@novascotia.ca)

July 2, 2024

Dear Honourable Halman,

I am writing regarding my families concerns with OSCO's expansion of Pit 4, located in Little Dyke, Colchester County, NS. I have been a resident of this area for over 20 years and have always treasured the nature, wildlife, environment, quite surroundings, the bay, and the Lake. I moved to this area for these reasons and to build a family with my husband and now daughter.

We had concerns in 2017 with the initial Pit 4 and have even more with this proposed expansion, for so many reasons. I am genuinely concerned about the health of people living in the area of this expansion, road safety, environmental destruction, especially with the request to excavate closely to the wetlands, destruction of wildlife habitat, and as a strong advocate for Agriculture, the loss of excellent agricultural land.

I would like to focus on our concerns about silica dust. One of the most common was this is created is through crushing, loading, hauling, and dumping aggregate material. As stated by WorkSafeBC; "inhaling silica dust can cause silicosis, a serious and irreversible lung disease. Silica damages the lungs and over time can cause lung cancer, it can be lethal." We feel, this expansion must be put on hold until a better understanding of this silica sand can be addressed, scientifically and determine ways to reduce this risk to the general population.

My husband's family worked for many years in the aggregates business, when there was not a lot known about the concerns of silica dust. Unfortunately, many of them passed away from lung cancers. I ask you to please consider these factors as you decide yay or nay to this expansion.

Sincerely,

Concern citizen of Little Dyke

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Victoria Lomond <VLomond@colchester.ca>

Date: Wed, Jul 3, 2024 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Letter re: Community of Little Dyke

To: Tom Taggart <tom.taggartmla@gmail.com>, timhalmanmla@gmail.com  
<timhalmanmla@gmail.com>, Christine Blair <CBlair@colchester.ca>, Councillors  
<Councillors@colchester.ca>, premier@novascotia.ca <premier@novascotia.ca>, Ian  
MacFadden <irmacfadden@gmail.com>, Barry Hutt <barryhutt27@gmail.com>, Ajay  
<aaj106@hotmail.com>, Alexia Armato <alex.plantera@gmail.com>, Gerard Hunter  
<ghunter2706@gmail.com>

Cc: Dan Troke <dtroke@colchester.ca>

Minister Tim Halman

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Tower

1894 Barrington Street, Suite 1800

P.O. Box 442

Halifax, NS

B3J 2P8

Dear Honourable Member,

I am writing today to express my concerns regarding the proposed expansion of Pit #4 planned by OSCO Aggregates' LTD. in Little Dyke, Nova Scotia. Over the past several months I have been in communication with the Little Dyke Community Coalition regarding their concerns of this potential extension: traffic safety; noise pollution; Crystalline Silica dust just to name a few. This community driven group has put in countless hours of research and effort to educate themselves and the people around them, including myself, on the potential hazards that this expansion could present.

I believe that provincial regulations have not kept up with the technology that crushing operations have access to decades later. We have a duty to the residents of Nova Scotia to protect where they live. Further consideration to current regulatory enforcement and the environmental assessment process should be carefully examined in this matter. The 30 day public submissions timeline is not adequate enough for capturing all of the pertinent information. Mitigating the potential health risks that this proposed expansion may cause is paramount to protect the community of Little Dyke and should be included in regulations moving forward.

Development is necessary. The extraction of gravel is a key component in supporting our public works infrastructure and roads. I understand this and agree, but I do not believe that it should be at the potential detriment of the residents in our communities. Business, whatever it may be, should never be at a cost to its neighbours.

I am aware of two other letters that have been sent to you by the mayor and my colleagues from the county of Colchester. I agree with both of those submissions as well.

Respectfully,

Victoria Lomond

Victoria Lomond

District 10 Councillor

Municipality of Colchester

(902) 890-1493

June 29, 2024

The Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
Via Email: [premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)

Dear Premier Houston:

I am writing to express grave concern over OSCO Aggregates' application to the NS Department of Environment for an expansion of Pit #4 near the western end of the Little Dyke Road in Glenholme, Colchester County.

Residents in the area, specifically the Little Dyke Community Coalition, are extremely worried about the potential effects such an expansion could have on their overall health and welfare, road safety, environmental destruction, loss of agricultural land, water quality, air pollution, property values, and noise pollution.

Premier Houston, I especially appeal to you and your government on the potential for health problems due to silica dust from this operation. This has been brought to our attention and research shows silica dust can be carcinogenic. As you are a strong advocate of good health in the best interests of our mutual constituents, I ask that a hold on this operation take place if for no other reason than this, until health risks can be fully analyzed. That should, in my opinion, be priority one.

Although our Municipality is supportive of economic development within our region, it is critical that such growth not be at the expense of those who live here or at the expense of future generations. With the Province having exclusive authority to approve the location and operation of aggregate extraction activities, I respectfully request that you seriously consider residents' concerns and how quality of life in the area, both now and in future, will forever be impacted by the Department's decision.

If you would like to discuss this issue further or arrange a visit to gain a more fulsome understanding of the local context, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Christine Blair  
Mayor

c. The Honourable Tim Halman, Minister of Environment  
Tom Taggart, MLA  
Members of Council, Municipality of Colchester  
Ian MacFadden and Barry Hutt, Little Dyke Community Coalition



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Victoria Lomond <VLomond@colchester.ca>

Date: Wed, Jul 3, 2024 at 7:44 AM

Subject: Letter re: Community of Little Dyke

To: Tom Taggart <tom.taggartmla@gmail.com>, timhalmanmla@gmail.com  
<timhalmanmla@gmail.com>, Christine Blair <CBlair@colchester.ca>, Councillors  
<Councillors@colchester.ca>, premier@novascotia.ca <premier@novascotia.ca>, Ian  
MacFadden <irmacfadden@gmail.com>, Barry Hutt <barryhutt27@gmail.com>, Ajay  
<aaj106@hotmail.com>, Alexia Armato <alex.plantera@gmail.com>, Gerard Hunter  
<ghunter2706@gmail.com>

Cc: Dan Troke <dtroke@colchester.ca>

Minister Tim Halman

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Barrington Tower

1894 Barrington Street, Suite 1800

P.O. Box 442

Halifax, NS

B3J 2P8

Dear Honourable Member,

I am writing today to express my concerns regarding the proposed expansion of Pit #4 planned by OSCO Aggregates' LTD. in Little Dyke, Nova Scotia. Over the past several months I have been in communication with the Little Dyke Community Coalition regarding their concerns of this potential extension: traffic safety; noise pollution; Crystalline Silica dust just to name a few. This community driven group has put in countless hours of research and effort to educate themselves and the people around them, including myself, on the potential hazards that this expansion could present.

I believe that provincial regulations have not kept up with the technology that crushing operations have access to decades later. We have a duty to the residents of Nova Scotia to protect where they live. Further consideration to current regulatory enforcement and the environmental assessment process should be carefully examined in this matter. The 30 day public submissions timeline is not adequate enough for capturing all of the pertinent information. Mitigating the potential health risks that this proposed expansion may cause is paramount to protect the community of Little Dyke and should be included in regulations moving forward.

Development is necessary. The extraction of gravel is a key component in supporting our public works infrastructure and roads. I understand this and agree, but I do not believe that it should be at the potential detriment of the residents in our communities. Business, whatever it may be, should never be at a cost to its neighbours.

I am aware of two other letters that have been sent to you by the mayor and my colleagues from the county of Colchester. I agree with both of those submissions as well.

Respectfully,

Victoria Lomond

Victoria Lomond

District 10 Councillor

Municipality of Colchester

(902) 890-1493

June 29, 2024

The Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
Via Email: [premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca)

Dear Premier Houston:

I am writing to express grave concern over OSCO Aggregates' application to the NS Department of Environment for an expansion of Pit #4 near the western end of the Little Dyke Road in Glenholme, Colchester County.

Residents in the area, specifically the Little Dyke Community Coalition, are extremely worried about the potential effects such an expansion could have on their overall health and welfare, road safety, environmental destruction, loss of agricultural land, water quality, air pollution, property values, and noise pollution.

Premier Houston, I especially appeal to you and your government on the potential for health problems due to silica dust from this operation. This has been brought to our attention and research shows silica dust can be carcinogenic. As you are a strong advocate of good health in the best interests of our mutual constituents, I ask that a hold on this operation take place if for no other reason than this, until health risks can be fully analyzed. That should, in my opinion, be priority one.

Although our Municipality is supportive of economic development within our region, it is critical that such growth not be at the expense of those who live here or at the expense of future generations. With the Province having exclusive authority to approve the location and operation of aggregate extraction activities, I respectfully request that you seriously consider residents' concerns and how quality of life in the area, both now and in future, will forever be impacted by the Department's decision.

If you would like to discuss this issue further or arrange a visit to gain a more fulsome understanding of the local context, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Christine Blair  
Mayor

c. The Honourable Tim Halman, Minister of Environment  
Tom Taggart, MLA  
Members of Council, Municipality of Colchester  
Ian MacFadden and Barry Hutt, Little Dyke Community Coalition

