From:

To: Environment Assessment Web Account

Subject: Fwd: Environmental Contamination AND Lack of Transparency to the Public of Mount Uniacke by our PC

Government

Date: October 29, 2025 8:49:27 PM
Attachments: QUARRY POSTER6.pnq

QUARRY LETTER TO GOVERNMENT.rtf

01 - Quarry w Comments - 2024-03-30 - BSP.pdf Quarry Violations - 2025-04-15 - Flat - BSP.pdf

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On October 10, 2025, I submitted a letter to Premier Houston, Minister Halman and others, containing 33 questions from the residents of Mount Uniacke regarding Northumberland Capital Corp. Inc. (NCCI)'s proposed quarry expansion off Uniacke Mines Road. This project would continue for 50+ years and ultimately cover an area the size of 100 football fields.

Could you enter these 33 unanswered questions into the Public Record for the 40-day public input period, ending November 2/25?

Mount Uniacke is also **demanding a Town Hall meeting** with Premier Houston and Minister Halman **before any decision** on this expansion, currently set for **November 12**. If that cannot occur before that date, we ask that the decision be **postponed** to allow it.

We also request **further contaminant testing** around the 3.99-hectare site, which appears to have extended beyond its approved limits—a violation in itself that requires proper investigation, which has not yet been done, before any final approval.

Please confirm this submission is on the **Public Record**, and provide acknowledgment of receipt.

Respectfully,

(Author of the October 10, 2025 letter on behalf of the Mount Uniacke community)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: @gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 10, 2025 at 2:53 PM

Subject: Environmental Contamination AND Lack of Transparency to the Public of Mount Uniacke by our PC Government

To: <minister.environment@novascotia.ca>, <melissa.mlaoffice@gmail.com>,

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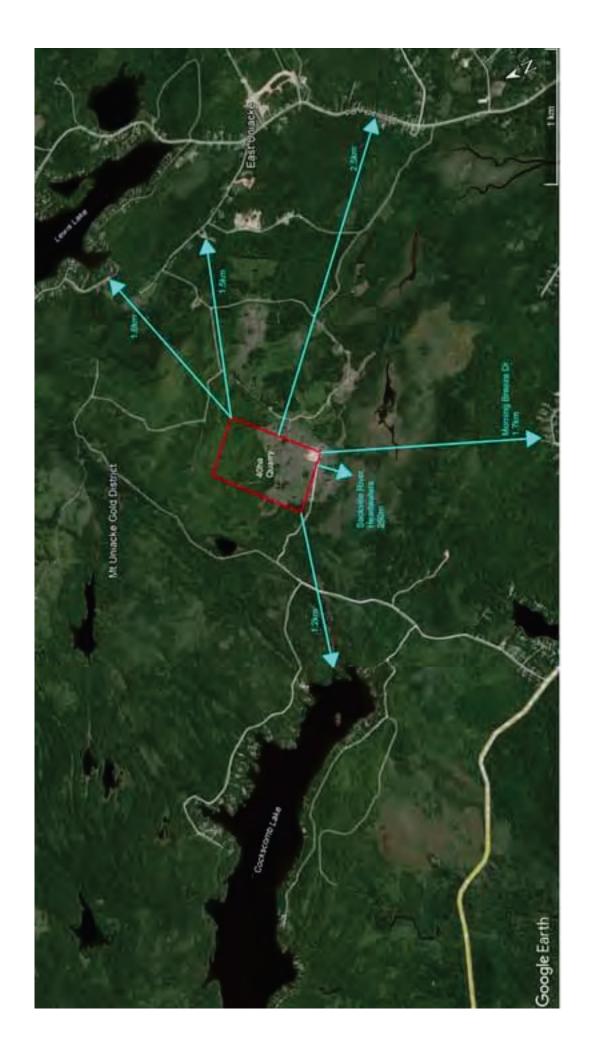
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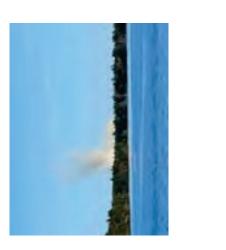
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Please see the attached correspondence with additional attachments

Thank You





MOUNT UNIACKE COMMUNITY MEETING

STOP THE QUARRY EXPANSION

- Wednesday, October 15, 2025
- ♥ Uniacke Legion 6:30 PM

WHY ATTEND

- The Quarry wants to grow from 4 Hectares to 40 HECTARES!
- 30+ more year of blasting, concerns, dust, and industrial disease.
- Our land, water, and health will continue to be impacted.
- Your voice matters let it be heard!

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY. PROTECT OUR FUTURE.

BE THERE OCTOBER 15!

Subject: Environmental Contamination AND Lack of Transparency to the Public of Mount Uniacke

Thank you ALL for taking the time from your busy days to read our community's letter. We'd like to point out that throughout this communication are many *IMPORTANT* questions, all of which are **bolded** and **highlighted**. We're asking as citizens and taxpayers, that the Premier and Minister Halman ensure they're responded to below each question, **highlighted in a separate colour**, **in a timely manner (well before Minister Halman is required to make his decision on Nov 12/25).**

Given that we are on a ticking clock here for the *FUTURE* of our community. Thanking you in advance for that.

Our first IMPORTANT question. NCCI, was to have their Additional Addendum for missing information on surface water submitted by their EA registration of September 16/25. One year from the date, Minister Halman, paused the EA process. It shows on NSECC's, EA website as having been filed on September 23 (*five business days after their deadline*).

Question: will the peoples of Mount Uniacke be afforded the same courtesy extension - an additional five business days on our 30-day response period, which has a deadline of Nov. 2/25?

This letter is from the COMMUNITY OF CONCERNED TAXPAYERS, here in Mount Uniacke (MU), on both the long-standing, and now <u>newest</u>, <u>controversial matters</u> regarding Northumberland Capital Corp. Inc. (NCCI) and the aggregate quarry they operate off the Uniacke Mines Road (UM Rd), for the past 10 years. And, the 'fact' that despite <u>none of them</u> having been resolved and yet, our PC government's, NSECC, is moving forward with this expansion process. Which is unbelievable - yet, somehow, Not - given the history of not only NCCI's actions but NSECC's, as well!

To touch briefly only, on the original and 'long-standing' *list of adverse issues*, without going into lengthy details, we will revisit what they were and still remain, *unaddressed/unresolved since 2015*:

- the consensus of property owners of over-blastings, despite what blast data reports show
- the failure to provide the community with a blast notification system using emails
- the deplorable state of the Uniacke Mines Road (the one way in-out to the quarry site) where many residents reside, which also created many air quality and road safety issues, not only on the UM Rd but elsewhere in the community on a gravel roadway with a legal speed of 80 km/h that we are told by TIR, cannot be reduced despite the circumstances of this particular road
- the fact that NCCI is not and has never wanted to be a good corporate citizen to the citizens of MU, despite what they tell NSECC on paper
- <u>Proven by their blatant affront</u> to this community to <u>'deny</u>' us the right to a properly run CLC, with ample property owner representation for our concerns/complaints/resolutions; for transparency; to provide the community with knowledge of CLC discussions (which is required), to know who our area reps were, how to contact them, etc. This could've been a valuable tool, that your staff, Minister Halman, allowed NCCI, to make a mockery of.
- Also proven by their disdain and disrespect towards us when attending any of their 'rare' NSECC required Town Halls, for the purpose of checking another appropriate tick box on an application not designed to provide or gain anything positive from it

It is the unanimous opinion of the people here in MU, that the large number of unresolved 'past' issues and now 'new' are a direct result of how our government body and elected officials have allowed this corporation to run amok in our community 'unchecked' and 'unrestrained' with no consequences. No

matter what they do, it would seem! For reasons, seemingly, only the key players involved, understand! And, which we will get to in a moment.

Our Municipality doesn't want this 'particular' quarry. They wrote to government in Sept. '23, STRONGLY opposing it, citing as some of their many reasons, the fact that MU didn't need it. It provides no contribution to the community's betterment. Most of the aggregate leaves MU for other areas closer to and within the HRM. They pay a 'mere' \$300/year in property taxes, compared to what home owners and other businesses pay. While at the same time, its presence is predicted to be a deterrent to future developers in the residential and small business growth plans that MEH has for MU.

Question: what happened to MEH's 2023 letter of strong opposition for the community within their governance? Must they now submit a new letter? and,

Question: the first, 30 day public comments window had a deadline of September 28, 2023. What happened to those 185 comments logged two years ago?

and,

Question: how much weight do these comments really make?

Are we to understand that these MANY comments, are 'actually' taken into consideration by the Minister, in making his decision. Let's be realistic here, Minister Halman, you don't really read all of these many valid comments/concerns, nor do your staff.

IF, our government 'really cared', all of what follows below wouldn't exist here in this community, where there already were and still are *three functioning aggregate quarries*, an asphalt and a cement plant, all of which cause zero negatives to the community or its peoples. This particular quarry of NCCI, never belonged where it was approved for, Sirs. And, you know it. There were plenty of other areas where they could've set up their activity - where they could cause no harm to anyone or their properties and have a lot less opposition and scrutiny. NSECC should've told them just that - 10 long years ago!

BIG QUESTION: why didn't NSECC?

PREMIER HOUSTON and MINISTER HALMAN, you are 'both' well aware and well informed, on all aspects of the issues and controversies, by now, despite not holding your current positions in 2015, when this 3.99ha quarry was first approved. However, in the time that you have both been in your current positions, you have done **NOTHING** to stop the list of **IMPROPRIETIES** accumulated over these 10 yrs by NCCI!

The PEOPLES OF THIS COMMUNITY **DESERVE 'TRANSPARENT' ANSWERS** TO OUR 'many' VALID QUESTIONS contained within this letter - **BEFORE DECISION DAY.....**

It is the opinion, Sirs, to the citizens of this community, that one of two things are and have been at play here since 2015:

• *either NSECC staff* whose role it is to oversee, monitor, verify and accept certain items and enforce where necessary, aspects of the compliant operation of NCCI's quarry, aren't doing their jobs very well or don't know how, *OR*,

- our elected officials in charge here, that is you, Mr. Houston and you, Minister Halman, are
 and have been instructing them to look the other way on certain improprieties and, in some
 instances, 'proven' issues of non-compliance that should have shut the operation down, long
 ago!
- And, if not in 2023, then certainly today, after recent 'required testing' by NSECC, has found and proven that contaminants from NCCI's aggregate operation are present in the wetland area.
 We will explain more on that in a moment. We know we don't really have to because you're 'clearly' already well aware and seemingly 'again' willing to look the other way for 'whatever' hidden agendas are running in the interactions between NCCI and our PC government.

Question: So, which is it Premier Houston/Minister Halman, is your NSECC staff simply inept at fulfilling the responsibilities of their monitoring and enforcement roles, OR, are you, as our 'elected officials' running hidden agendas here (with NCCI) in the community of MU? and,

If it is the latter, then we ask, what exactly are those agenda?

These decisions you 'both' make, that are life altering to citizens lives here, and *all our government is* 'required' to do is give us a mere 30 day window to send in all of our public comments and concerns.

Another box checked, not unlike our experience with NCCI's requirements, boxes checked but not 'really'!

Our government doesn't even have to deal with us, in person, the affected citizens. How convenient!

Question: for such an important issue that will bring decades more of the same past 10 yrs to MU, why is it that our government doesn't feel holding a public forum, a Town Hall, in the affected community, with you, Mr. Premier and you, Minister Halman, along with some of your staff present, and the proponent, to have 'real' and 'open' discussions with the citizens here, before decisions are made?

But *first off, let's get right to the 'elephant in the room'*. Minister Halman, you should be aware by this time, alerted by your ICE staff, of the contamination test findings regarding NCCI's operation *on their current 3.99ha* quarry site.

The community is hearing of a 'new' and recent testing requirement by NSECC, **that NCCI had to have conducted on effluent leaving the quarry settling pond.** As a result of that testing, in conjuction with their firm, WSP, who ran the tests, discovered chemicals from their blasting compounds, **at levels harmful to the ecosystem** are being discharged into the wetlands there!

Question: is this newly required testing true? and,

if yes, is it true that chemicals were found at toxic levels, harmful to fish in the sensitive wetlands there?

It was said that NCCI's action was to pump out and clean the settling pond and disposed of that water and solids 'offsite' and then continued to conduct 'business as usual'.

Question: is this information true?

and, if so, does NSECC, ICE staff, oversee WHERE they dispose of the contaminated water/solids?

If the answer to that is 'No', then the next question is:

Who is responsible for that disposal and how does NSECC verify that it was disposed of in an appropriate location and safe manner?

Further, the community has been told that this testing is only for the settling pond. While it ignores all the other discharge paths for effluent around the perimeter of the current 3.99ha site. These areas are completely uncontrolled and unmonitored.

Question: is it true that no other paths of discharge are checked?

It is our understanding from key community members, that information regarding this same contamination issue was provided to NSECC staff, in September 2023, in a meeting with our MLA, Mr. Brad Johns, in attendance. Aerial photos showing these discharges and the related siltation effects were provided <u>and have seemingly been ignored</u>. The Addendum then attempts to play down the contamination.

Question: Is it true or false that information with evidence of contamination was provided to your staff in September '23?

It's interesting that in NCCI's, EA registration docs, almost every Residual Effect and Significance was listed as minor or minimal. Individually they might be minor or minimal, but <u>cumulatively</u> they will have an impact.

A few more questions on Wetland 7 near the quarry site, if you will:

• It has been established that NCCI and their related companies have <u>illegally</u> infilled a designated wetland (WL7), <u>that they were expressly told to avoid in their 2015 approval.</u> They did so using construction and demolition waste imported from their Allterrain Contracting Inc. work in Halifax. This infilled area includes their illegally created settling pond. As the resolution for quarrying outside the approved area, **NSECC allowed** them to amend the approved area to include the <u>illegally infilled wetland</u> and ignored all the other areas that are part of the active quarry. **NSECC rewarded** NCCI for committing an offense against the Environment Act.

Question: why was this and, how could NSECC have accepted this as being okay? Please explain

NCCI quarried (blasted and removed rock) <u>outside the approved</u> quarry area. **NSECC has done** nothing to address this. At minimum NCCI should have been forced to include this area in the
 amended quarry area.

Questions: Why was their 'no repercussion' to NCCI for doing this and why weren't they told they now had to include this area in the amended quarry scope?

 NCCI should have also had to include the access road on the western edge of the quarry in the amendment. They continue to use this road for quarry activities, yet it is outside the approved area. Question: why was this not done and why is the second part of that statement allowed?

• The attached 2024 image shows how out of compliance, NCCI are in the scope of their operations. All the disturbed areas in the photo should be inside the red box. The red box was the original approved area and has since been modified to include the settling pond, but not the rest. Since 2023, NCCI continues to violate their approval and NSECC continues to do little to nothing to stop them. This community is the only party trying to hold NCCI accountable and, yet, our only known avenue for reporting is to do so through NSECC, our government body who 'seemingly' condones all these improprieties.

Question: Premier Houston, how is this okay? and, how can you expect this to be okay with the citizens of MU?

The 'attached' 2025 image shows the continued non-compliances.

This question is addressed to Premier Houston:

You are well aware of the aspects of this opposition. We understand you met with a couple key members of our community, at the Uniacke Estate, over one year ago. They showed you a video presentation on these controversial issues. They say they left that exchange with you feeling you were supportive of this community's position.

Questions:

- were you aware of all of the above?
- do you agree and support the decisions of NSECC in regards to NCCI operations and, in how,
 Minister Halman's staff have handled these improprieties?
- do you still support MU's opposition to this expansion project?

All of the above is shocking news, for obvious easons. Given NCCI's track record here in MU, their 'zero' level of transparency to this community and, 'seemingly' **NSECC's** <u>inability</u> to enforce their improprieties!

You are starting to understand <u>why this community can no longer trust</u> the role our PC government has played in NCCI's operations in MU, in their ability or concern in protecting our environment, our safety, our health and how your government has proven that its actions and lack of, in many cases, conflicts with the best interests of each and every taxpayer affected!

The citizens of MU see this as a clear path to why, Minister Halman, **should not only be <u>DENYING</u> this expansion but <u>CANCELLING</u>**, NCCI's exisiting 10yr renewal they just obtained

ON THE ISSUE OF TRANSPARENCY:

Now, we'll move on to a whole other series of questions, Premier Houston and Minister Halman, on the

subject of TRANSPARENCY to the public of MU.

Both by our government and the proponent, and how <u>BOTH</u> have failed this community miserably!

• Lack of transparency to the taxpayers of MU, when key members of our community have presented our government with 'factual' photographic evidence of 'potential' violations of the Industrial Approval (IA), all swept under the proverbial carpet, never to be heard of again as to whether each item was founded or not, and if so, what was done.

Question: what did happen with the many areas of 'reported' violations of NCCI's, 2015 IA, that were brought to the attention of your ICE staff, with our MLA, Mr. Brad Johns present, in a joint meeting at NSECC offices, September 2023 - this includes the earlier discussion above re: contamination of the wetland area?

The public here was never informed of what was investigated by your ICE staff and/or what their findings were. The only issue we ever heard about was the relocation of the settling pond and later heard that NCCI didn't relocate it and that seemed fine with your offices!

Question: is this true?

 Another very good, and recent example of your department's lack of transparency, Minister Halman. In June/25, we wrote to you concerning the June 10/25 'over-blast'. Your staff can tell you it wasn't, but it was! With all due respect, Premier and Minister, you do not live here and are not subjected to the concussions that make you think a bomb went off! That rattles the foundation of your homes, shakes your walls, cracks windows, foundations and floor tiles. In that communication we asked about NCCI's upcoming soon to expire, 2015 IA, set to expire, July 6/25. A Ms. Tanya Farrell responded to us and she gave us a very generic response that would be given when speaking of any proponent. What she did not share with us, but we later found out through FOIPOP obtained documents, was that she would've known when she responded to us on June 18/25, that the proponent, Mr. Andrew Rodgers, proponent for NCCI, had been having many email conversations and submitting letters and the 'Application to Renew' to a Ms. Brittany Bertrand, Engineer for NSECC, from April 1 - May 6, 2025, all for the purpose of gaining a 10 yr extension on their 2015 IA. **All unbeknownst to this community**. Clearly, the goal was to gain the renewal to keep NCCI in business until the Additional Information Addendum could be supplied for the expansion, we now realize.

Question: although we've read many documents, letters, and have reviewed NCCI's 'Application to Renew', what we do not know and have not seen, is an actual signed 'Approval to Renew' their 2015 IA.

What 'official date' did they gain their 10 yr renewal approval? and where can this 'approval' document be found? and,

Does this 'new' 10 yr, IA renewal approval come with identical conditions as the 2015 IA, including the requirement of a CLC (Community Liaison Committee)?

Question: Why the secrecy? Why was, Ms. Farrell, not compelled to share with the community asking about the status, that the proponent had, in fact, already gone through the renewal process? quite possibly, already had the approval by the date, June 18/25, in which she was responding to us.

another more 'recent' example of 'lack of transparency' from our government to the public of MU. *Minister Halman and Premier Houston*, is in <u>certain facts</u> found within these recently obtained FOIPOP docs, as mentioned above, <u>dated between April 1 - May 6, 2025</u>, mainly in the form of emails and letters between Ms. Bertrand and Mr. Andrew Rodgers.

'Facts' that <u>clearly</u> indicate that the proponent, Mr. A. Rodgers, <u>KNEW</u> when he was making 'Application to Renew' the 2015 IA, that his corporation <u>would be gaining approval</u> for their 40ha expansion project, eventually. We direct you to the following 'verbatim' quotes, said by Mr. Rodgers, leading anyone to arrive at only one realization. That there was only one clear reason for those 'facts' being disclosed to and accepted by NSECC staff, <u>without question or correction</u>, and that was because the proponent had already been assured by your office, Minister Halman, they'd have their expansion approval in the Fall. They had NOTHING to worry about.

• **FACT number one**: conflicting PID numbers being provided by Mr. Rodgers in his correspondence and on the 'Application to Renew' document, don't coincide with their 2015, 3.99ha PID#. At first thought to be a typo, but not on <u>three</u> separate documents!

The PID# for the 2015 existing quarry is (**45155801**) as shown on the Industrial Approval. This is the PID that Mr. Rodgers should've been referring to 'wherever and whenever' he was citing a PID in these communications in his attempt to gain a 10-yr extension of his existing IA.

Now, in 2025, the proponent is citing PID#*PID#45409950* in his communications to Ms. Bertrand, as well, *Section 3, of the Application for Renewal Approval.* This second PID, of course, is for the 40 hectares of property where the expansion is proposed for.

Question: please explain the reason for the differing PID#s? Is the 10 yr. renewal approval for an entirely separate parcel of land, other than the original 3.99ha of 2015?

why would your staff accept incorrect PID numbers? and,

how can this extension request be done without the public's knowledge?

• FACT number two: Again, from NCCI's 'Application for Renewal Approval', under the section on 'Reclamation Plan', the proponent states (verbatim) and we quote, "Rehabilitation efforts will commence once FIVE hectares of rock resource have been extracted. Stockpiled topsoil and overburden will be redistributed across the quarried areas to facilitate natural re-vegetation." end quote

Given that we all know the 2015 IA was for 3.99ha,

Question: why would NCCI be commencing rehabilitation efforts once <u>5ha</u> has been extracted? Please explain?

• **FACT number three:** In a further statement made by Mr. Rodgers in correspondence, dated, April 1/25, to Ms. Bertrand, he states, "Additionally, smaller trees and saplings <u>located in future expansion areas</u> will be transplanted into reclaimed zones to help re-establish native vegetative cover."

These statements made by Mr. A. Rodgers, clearly suggests a 'confidence' of knowing on April 1/25, in what the future holds for NCCI's expansion plans.

Question: Why would Mr. Rodgers have been so confident in what the Minister's decision on NCCI's expansion would be, five months ahead of registering the 'Additional Information Addendum', prompting him to make these (seemingly) 'knowing' statements?

Question: And, a far better question is, why would NSECC accept these statements made in these documents and communications, by Mr. Rodgers, regarding the scope of the working area, which he describes as being 'more than 5ha' and 'future expansion' areas, when it didn't yet exist?

We now direct attention to *Section 7, of the Application to Renew*, where the proponent, Mr. Andrew Rodgers, signed a 'Declaration', *dated May 4, 2025*, in which he's declaring:

"I acknowledge it is an offense under Section 158 of the Environment Act to provide false or misleading information, and confirm to the <u>best of my knowledge and belief</u> the information provided in this form and supporting documentation **is true and accurate."**

Now, let's examine the validity of that signing. Unless Mr. Rodgers had it in writing on May 4/25, or a clear 'verbal' understanding, from you, Minister Halman, or one of your trusted staff, **five full months ahead** of supplying your department with the missing EA information, it would seem by all appearances to any member of the public, that the proponent was in fact making an untrue and inaccurate declarations.

Question: Are we to believe that Mr. A. Rodgers was confused about which PID number to use or the size hectares he was dealing with for the site he was making application to renew?

Question: how does Minister Halman explain these <u>serious discrepancy</u> of facts?

Which was it, Minister Halman?

Did Mr. Andrew Rodgers commit an offense when he signed that 'Declaration' on May 4/25? OR did he possess, to the best of his knowledge and belief from YOUR OFFICES, that all was in order to be approved, when the time was right for the public to be made aware in the Fall?

And, lastly on this transparency issue, Premier Houston and Minister Halman

Question: WHY is everything that is done by our government body, who are tasked with licensing, overseeing, enforcing violations of these type of industrial activities, protecting the environment 'in all that entails' for ALL NOVA SCOTIANS, and the safety and peace of mind of a community's people - why is it geared towards appeasing the corporations, while at the same time, ignoring, disrespecting and disregarding the valid concerns and facts put forth by the taxpaying public affected by the presence of

this activity?

Mr. Premier and Minister Halman, how can you possibly expect this community to feel confident going forward, that this PC government, tasked with all of the above and, *which has failed THIS COMMUNITY*, *miserably, at doing so to date;* will do anything different than what we've experienced in the past!

Should you approve this proponent for a ten times size quarry operation, and based on what has already been disclosed above, you ALREADY HAVE! You just haven't made it 'official' yet. It has been made clear to us, ALL, that NSECC, under this PC government, cannot and will not, DO ANY BETTER, going forward. Given the many 'real' concerns, negative impacts and distress to this community, the violations that there were 'never' any repercussions for, that have arisen with only a 3.99ha quarry, over the past 10 yrs, and that NSECC were UNWILLING to improve and/or enforce, for reasons known only to the key players involved?

We, ALL, shudder to think what the next three to four decades or more will bring. Many, I'm sure, simply won't take it - those that can, will move away from the area.

YOU ARE DESTROYING THE LIVES OF GOOD PEOPLE WHO CALL THIS AREA THEIR HOME, Sirs!

There has been only one thing about NCCI's presence in our community since it was first heard about in 2014, that ever made sense. And, that's the fact that it was an industrial activity that had <u>'no place'</u> in this rural community.

And, it should **NEVER** have been allowed, in this location, in the first place!!!

What is worth more than the enrichment of citizens lives, their right to peaceful living in a rural setting, their right to breath clean air, their right to enjoy their properties, unfettered with 'no distress' caused by blastings (for themselves and their pets) their structures & wells, their right to' safely walk' on the road they pay taxes to live on or the road they pay taxes to drive on to get to their home, to avoid unnecessary vehicle repairs caused by the road.

What's it REALLY all about, Premier Houston and Minister Halman? PLEASE, for once, in all of this great debacle, be honest and transparent concerning what it's REALLY all about?

There's only one question left to ask, and that is???

Question: is the revenue from the <u>TAX DOLLARS</u> really so great that it's <u>of more significance</u> than all of the above laid out and asked, worth making the environment here, these people and their properties, their safety, the collateral damage of?

Our community will be holding a Town Hall, on Oct. 15/25 @ 6:30 - Mount Uniacke Legion, (lower leve), located at 18 Veterans Lane, MU. We hope you can arrange your schedules to attend, Premier Houston and Minister Halman and be there to support your citizens, some who voted for you in our last election. It would be good if you could be available to answer some of these IMPORTANT questions, in person. However, we still require them to be answered in this communication.

Please consider attending, MU residents and others deserve to finally be heard!

The people of MU, will remember come the next elections, who stood with them and who stood against them, in this matter!!!

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Residents in close proximity to NCCI's quarry

Attachments:

- as mentioned above
- a geographic map of how the quarry site sits surrounded by the mentioned communities of residents, (note, the small white box in the lower rt corner of red box is the currrent 3.99ha)
- a photo depicting one of the many 'over-blasts' of Fall 2024, this photo was captured behind homes on Cockscomb Lake
- and the remaining PSA poster attachements are what is being circulated throughout our community on social media.



