

Press Release



Essential materials for building a strong Ontario

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2010

PROVINCE 'CLOSED' FOR BUSINESS

Recent MMAH Ruling Puts Ontario Aggregate Supply in Further Jeopardy

Mississauga, ON – Yesterday morning the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), issued a Minister's Zoning Order that is intended to restrict CBM St. Mary's proposed quarry in the former Town of Flamborough, ON.

"OSSGA is disappointed with this decision," said Terry Waites, Chair of the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association's (OSSGA) Board of Directors. "The credibility of Ontario's land use approvals process has been undermined. The rigour with which aggregate extraction proposals are currently reviewed ensures that only good applications ultimately get approved. It is unclear to us why the Minister felt the need to interfere with a process that considers, in great detail, the planning, environmental and social issues surrounding each application."

A recent study by the Ministry of Natural Resources found that licenced close-to-market sources of high-quality aggregate reserves are growing scarce and will be in short supply within a decade. The St. Mary's proposed quarry offers the opportunity to provide high-quality stone resources to support Ontario's critical infrastructure needs close to the markets in which the resources will be consumed.

Given the province's current focus on being "open for business," OSSGA finds Minister Bradley's actions counter-intuitive to the progress of continual improvement and cooperation between the aggregate industry and its various stakeholders. Through its actions this week, the province has sent a clear message that investing in Ontario is uncertain at best.

"OSSGA members remain committed to improving environmental standards, incorporating scientific research and responding to the needs of the communities in which they operate. We remain committed to improving the process of managing Ontario's aggregate resources in a sustainable manner, despite the province's recent decision," Waites added.

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The Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association is a non-profit industry association representing 103 producers of sand, gravel, and crushed stone in the province of Ontario, along with 157 suppliers of valuable aggregate industry products and services.

OSSGA promotes the wise management of Ontario's aggregate resources in a manner which is conducive to conserving the natural and social environment while maintaining a healthy and competitive aggregate industry.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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