



June 28, 2017

TO: Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

RE: Concerned Citizens of Brant Appeal

Dear Minister Murray,

The Grand River Environmental Network is a network of about 40 environmental groups and environmentally concerned individuals in the Grand River watershed. The groups and individuals represented in GREN have been working on a wide variety of local and regional environmental issues for many years. GREN was formed to help coordinate these efforts.

We support the Concerned Citizens of Brant's appeal to you of the Environmental Review Tribunal's decision of April 11, 2017 regarding Dufferin Aggregates Paris Pit.

We fear that the ERT's decision gives Dufferin Aggregates an environmental compliance approval that would allow their operations at their pit and their washing operations to result in contamination of Paris' source water supply with atrazine.

Atrazine is a pesticide that is an endocrine disrupter, has negative reproductive effects, affects the liver, and is "possibly" carcinogenic. Expert evidence presented at the hearing by toxicologist Dr. Poh-Gek Forkert showed that Health Canada's drinking water quality guidelines for atrazine in drinking water are far from good enough to protect human health. This is because the pesticide has a non-monotone dose-response effect but Health Canada set their guideline using the standard dose-response effect. Taking this understanding into account the European Union has set a standard for atrazine in drinking water that is 50 times more stringent than the standard set by Health Canada. Experts at the hearing presented this evidence, but the ERT ignored this evidence in its written decision.

Evidence presented at the hearing also showed that the proposed washing operations and the associated sewage works at the Paris Pit will result in increased levels of atrazine in nearby drinking water supplies.

The ERT gave permission for Dufferin aggregates to proceed with these operations without adding any conditions to the approval aimed at protecting the groundwater from atrazine.

We are dismayed at an approval being given that grossly understates the hazard of atrazine and does not pay serious attention to the possible contamination of groundwater that is part of local drinking water supplies.

In Ontario, we have allowed groundwater to become permanently contaminated. We must not allow yet another water supply that is essential to the well-being of people and all the other members of the ecosystem in the Grand River watershed to be written off.

Yours sincerely,



John Jackson, GREN Chair

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