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December 23, 2021

Sent via email only

Gail Anderson

Principal Planner

Regional Planning & Growth Management Division - Public Works Department

Peel Region

gail.anderson@peelregion.ca

Dear Gail Anderson,

**RE: Provincial Review Comments
Draft High Potential Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas: Mapping Methodology
MMAH File No. 21-OP-215276**

Thank you for sharing the Region's draft Potential Mineral Aggregate Resources Mapping Methodology document for provincial review and comment. It is understood that the purpose of this document is to detail the process and data used to update the High Potential Mineral Aggregate Resources Areas (HPMARA) mapping in the Regional Official Plan.

The draft methodology document was reviewed by staff at the Ministries of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry ("NDMNR") and Municipal Affairs and Housing ("MMAH") for consistency with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 ("PPS") and conformity, or no conflict, with provincial plans, including the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019 ("Growth Plan"), Greenbelt Plan, 2017 ("Greenbelt Plan"), Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, 2017 ("ORMCP") and the Niagara Escarpment Plan, 2017 ("NEP").

Provincial staff have noted in their review that the methodology would apply Regionally identified constraints that would result in in the potential removal of mineral aggregate resources from the Regional Official Plan mapping. ||

PPS Policy 2.5.1 requires that mineral aggregate resources be protected for long-term use and, where provincial information is available, deposits of mineral aggregate resources shall be identified. Based on the location of a mineral aggregate deposit, the PPS and the above-mentioned provincial plans have policies that speak to where extraction could be considered, and where it could not.

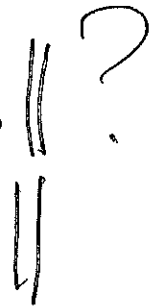
Greenbelt Plan policy 4.3.2.10 provides an exception for lands within the Protected Countryside where a municipality has undertaken a comprehensive aggregate resources management study and implemented the results into its official plan prior to December 16, 2004. Town of Caledon Official Plan Amendment ("OPA") 161, approved by the Ontario Municipal Board on June 1, 2004, implemented the findings of the Caledon Community Resources Study and therefore is deemed to conform with the Greenbelt Plan for lands located within the Town of Caledon in the Protected Countryside only, in accordance with Greenbelt Plan. For lands outside of the Protected Countryside in the Town of Caledon, policies of the Growth Plan, PPS, NEP and ORMCP would continue to apply, where applicable, with respect to where extraction could and could not be considered.



To ensure conformity with applicable provincial plans and consistency with the PPS, it is recommended that the Region identify mineral aggregate resources in accordance with the policies outlined in the table below. It should be noted that all features identified within the table may not be currently mapped (e.g. significant wildlife habitat, valleylands, significant woodlands that are young plantation or early successional habitat). Further work may be required to determine whether they are a constraint under the various provincial policies and whether they are unlikely to be captured in a region-wide mapping exercise.



Further, Provincial staff recognize that the Region has applied the provincially recommended constraint mapping methodology, outlined in the *Non-Renewable Resources Training Manual (1997)*. This methodology applies a tiered approach to constraints; however, the HPMARA methodologies considers all identified constraints to be absolute. It is important to note that a lot of the constraints listed still allow for a possibility for extraction activities, so long as provisions for the protection of the feature(s) are met. Additionally, as Step 6 in the manual indicates, it is important to analyze the impact of the application of each constraint and re-evaluate the constraint level to ensure that adequate resources are protected for long term use.



Provincial staff would appreciate the opportunity to review any revisions made to the mapping methodology document and would also benefit from reviewing GIS shapefiles of the Region's identified constraints, when finalized.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best,

Loralea Tulloch

Digitally signed by Lorelea Tulloch
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Date: 2021.12.23 08:41:06 -05'00'

Loralea Tulloch

Senior Planner, Community Planning and Development (West)

C: NDMNRF

Province's response to Peel Region's 'Appendix 1: Constraint Listings' that was provided as part of the HPMARA Methodology.

Provincial Plan	<u>Constraints: Where Mineral Aggregate Resources could be excluded from mapping</u>	<u>Where Mineral Aggregate Resources are to be Identified (subject to criteria e.g. no negative impacts test of the PPS)</u>
<p><i>Greenbelt Plan, 2017</i></p> <p><i>Policy 4.3.2.10 states that for lands within the Protected Countryside, where a municipality has undertaken a comprehensive aggregate resources management study and implemented the results into its official plan prior to December 16, 2004, such policies shall be deemed to conform with the Greenbelt Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Caledon OPA 161 implemented the findings of the Caledon Community Resources Study and therefore OPA 161 is deemed to conform with the Greenbelt Plan for</i></p>	<p>OPA 161 excludes the following from the CHPMARA mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residential clusters, defined as a grouping of five or more non-farm related lots existing as of May 1, 1998, and located along existing local or regional roadways on the same or both sides of the roadways (OPA 161 policy 5.11.2.1.6); - Lands which have previously been licensed and which have been rehabilitated and the license has been surrendered (OPA 161 Policy 5.11.2.1.8). <p>According to OPA 161 Policy 5.11.2.2.6, new or expanded mineral aggregate operations are prohibited in the following areas and therefore these areas should not be identified as mineral aggregate resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated settlement areas; - Registered and draft approved Plans of Subdivision, located outside designated Settlement Areas; 	<p>OPA 161 Policy 5.11.2.1.1 identifies mineral aggregate resources for protection for possible future extraction on Schedule L and described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selected sand and gravel resource areas of primary significance; - Selected sand and gravel resource areas of secondary significance, and; - Selected bedrock resources consisting of high quality deposits of shale, dolostone and sandstone. <p>According to OPA 161 Policy 5.11.2.2.7, mineral aggregate extraction may be permitted within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Policy Areas that are solely Valley and Stream Corridors that drain less than 125 ha, subject to criteria; - Other woodlands, subject to criteria; - Natural lakes and their shorelines which are not part of an Environmental Policy Area and which do not satisfy



<p>lands located within the Town of Caledon in the Protected Countryside.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The core areas of the Greenlands System in Peel designations in the Region of Peel official Plan; - The Environmental Policy Area designations in the Town of Caledon Official Plan except those Environmental Policy Areas that are solely Valley and Stream Corridors Draining less than 125 ha; - Cemeteries and other human burial sites; and - Kettle lakes and their catchments. 	<p>the criteria to be included in the Environmental Policy Area and which are not part of a Kettle Lake, subject to criteria; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prime agricultural lands as an interim use as defined in the Region of Peel OP and/or Town of Caledon OP, subject to criteria.
<p>Niagara Escarpment Plan, 2017 ("NEP")</p>	<p>Mineral aggregate operations are not permitted within the following NEP land use designation and therefore where resources could be excluded from mapping (NEP Policy 1.2.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Escarpment Natural Area - Escarpment Protection Area - Minor Urban Centre - Urban Area - Escarpment Recreation Area <p>Additionally, mineral aggregate operations are not permitted within the following key natural heritage features and therefore where resources could be excluded from mapping (NEP Policy 2.9.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetlands - Significant woodlands, unless young plantation or early successional habitat, as defined by the province. 	<p>Mineral aggregate operations are only permitted on lands designated Mineral Aggregate Extraction. New mineral aggregate operation within the NEP area would require an amendment to the Plan to designate the lands Mineral Aggregate Extraction Area and <u>such an amendment is only to be considered for lands within the Escarpment Rural Area, subject to criteria (NEP Policy 1.2.2).</u></p> <p>Therefore, mineral aggregate resources are to be identified on lands designated <u>Mineral Aggregate Extraction and Escarpment Rural Area</u>. Within these designations, mineral aggregate resources are to be identified within the following key natural heritage features where mineral aggregate operations could be permitted, subject to criteria (NEP Policies 2.9.1 and 2.9.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat of endangered and threatened species; - Fish habitat

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest - Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest - Significant valleylands - Significant woodlands that are young plantation or early successional habitat, as defined by the province - Significant wildlife habitat
<p>Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, 2017 ("ORMCP")</p>	<p>Mineral aggregate operations are not permitted within the following ORMCP land use designation and therefore where resources could be excluded from mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Core Area (ORMCP section 11(3)) <p>Additionally, mineral aggregate operations are not permitted within the following key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and therefore where resources could also be excluded from mapping (ORMCP subsections 22 (1) and (2), 26(1) and subsection 35 (1) d) and (4)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetlands; - Permanent and intermittent streams; - Kettle lakes; - Seepage areas and springs; - Habitat of endangered and threatened specific within the Natural Linkage Area; - Fish habitat; - Areas of natural and scientific interest (earth science and life science); - Significant valleylands; 	<p>Mineral aggregate operations are permitted within the following ORMCP land use designations, subject to criteria, and therefore where resources are to be mapped:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Linkage Area (ORMCP section 12 (3)11); and - Countryside Area (ORMCP section 13(3) 11) <p>Additionally, mineral aggregate resources are to be identified within the following key natural heritage features where mineral aggregate operations could be permitted, subject to criteria (ORMCP subsection 35(4)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant woodlands occupied by young plantations or early successional habitat within the Natural Linkage Area and Countryside Area; and - Habitat of endangered and threatened specific within the Countryside Area only.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant woodlands, unless occupied by young plantations or early successional habitat; - Significant wildlife habitat (including habitat of special concern species); and - Sand barrens, savannahs and tall grass prairies. 	
<p><i>Growth Plan, 2019</i></p>	<p>Within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan, no new or expanded mineral aggregate operations and no new wayside pits and quarries, or any ancillary or accessory uses thereto, will be permitted in the following key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features, where mineral aggregate resources could be excluded from mapping (Growth Plan Policy 4.2.8.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant wetlands; - Habitat of endangered and threatened species; and - Significant woodlands, unless the woodland is occupied by young plantation or early successional habitat, as defined by the province. 	<p>Within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan, new or expanded mineral aggregate operations and new wayside pits and quarries, and any ancillary or accessory use thereto, could be permitted in the following key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features, subject to criteria. Mineral aggregate resources are therefore to be identified in these features (Growth Plan Policy 4.2.8.2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fish habitat; - Life science areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSIs); - Significant valleylands; - Significant woodlands occupied by young plantation or early successional habitat, as defined by the Province; - Significant wildlife habitat; - Sand barrens, savannahs, and tall grass prairies; - Alvars; - Permanent streams; - Intermittent streams;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inland lakes and their littoral zones; and - Seepage areas and springs
<p><i>Provincial Policy Statement, 2020</i></p>	<p>Beyond the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan, including within settlement areas, mineral aggregate operations are not permitted within the following natural heritage features where mineral aggregate resources could be excluded from mapping (PPS Policy 2.1.4):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant wetlands; and - Significant coastal wetlands. 	<p>Beyond the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan, including within settlement areas, mineral aggregate operations could be permitted in the following natural heritage features, subject to criteria. Mineral aggregate resources are therefore to be identified in these features (PPS Policy 2.1.5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant woodlands; - Significant valleylands; - Significant wildlife habitat; - Significant areas of natural and scientific interest; and - Coastal wetlands, which are not considered significant. <p>Mineral aggregate operations could also be permitted within prime agricultural areas as an interim use, subject to criteria (PPS Policies 2.3.6.1 and 2.5.4.1). Mineral aggregate resources should therefore be mapped within prime agricultural areas.</p>