

Appendix J

Letter to Minister MacDonald,
Health Promotion and Protection

AVON PENINSULA www.apwps.ca
WATERSHED PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

The Honourable Maureen MacDonald
Minister of Health
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20 November 2009

Re: Miller's Creek mine

Dear Minister MacDonald:

We are concerned about the adverse impacts on health that may be associated with a proposed mine in our community. We would like to meet with you regarding our concerns.

As you may know your government is currently reviewing a proposal for a massive open pit gypsum mine in our agricultural watershed. The pit would be over 3 kilometers long, 1 kilometer wide, and 70 meters deep. It would eliminate our headwater streams and wetlands. The proponent proposes to replace our headwaters with a system of pumps, settling ponds and ditches, running continuously for 50-100 years, to redirect runoff from the surrounding 30 m high mine waste piles into our freshwater streams.

Impacts on human health have yet to be assessed by the proponent. We are concerned about:

- Stress caused by the intrusion of this massive industrial project into our quiet rural community, including noise and light pollution and the loss of our natural watershed;
- Toxic particulate emissions;
- Hydrogen sulphide gas;
- Contamination of our surface and groundwater by toxic materials such as arsenic and heavy metals, including radioactive decay products, associated with our geology; and
- Contamination of our air, water, soil, crops, and bodies by fallout from over 500,000 kg of explosives (a mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil) that would be used annually.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Raymond Parker, M.A., M.E.S.
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Cc: The Hon. Sterling Belliveau, Minister of Environment and Fisheries

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