



Fallowfield Community Association

Meeting with Tomlinson and Lafarge Quarry Representatives

November 20, 2024

**Fallowfield Community Association Meeting with Tomlinson and Lafarge
Quarry Moodie Drive Operations Representatives
November 20, 2024**

Concerns expressed by FCA residents:

The concerns summarized below are familiar in that they have been expressed in past meetings facilitated by the FCA. However, the concerns were voiced by residents living both in close proximity to quarry properties and areas of Fallowfield village at greater distance from the quarry boundaries.

- Blasts are often not anticipated and are disruptive to daily activities, including those working from at-home locations
- Blast noise and intensity are quite variable
- Blast tremors are sufficiently violent to shake entire dwellings and contents
- Residents have experienced items falling from walls, off shelves and off shelves in cupboards and china cabinets
- Residents associate blast tremors with cracks in foundations, broken seals in windows and cracks in windows
- Dust apparently originating from quarry operations is on some days visible to the naked eye and at times, sufficient to create a layer of dust on automobiles and outdoor furnishings within a time frame of just a few days
- Dump truck traffic is observed on Old Richmond Road within the village contrary to what are understood to be undertakings in place to use Moodie drive as the primary route of access and exit
- Residents, all using individually owned water wells, continue to be concerned that well levels, recovery rates and water quality (chemical analysis) and taste will inevitably be adversely affected by ongoing quarrying (mining) operations
- Residents have insufficient understanding of what well and aquifer monitoring is ongoing, whether voluntary or required as a condition of operating licenses and/or provincial regulations and guidelines

- Residents are under-informed (have insufficient understanding of) about the geographic size of quarry lands and permitted proximity of operations presently and in future years

Highlights of quarry overview presentations and responses to concerns expressed by resident:

The points below are not meant to capture all the conversation content but instead to highlight noteworthy responses to questions and concerns, not in the order that they were heard.

- Hours of mining, crushing and shipping vary but are usually between 06:30 and 23:00 (6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.)
- Equipment maintenance activities are ongoing most weekdays between 23:00 and 06:30.
- Some shipping activity continues overnight in peak demand periods, particularly for major project construction activity by customers that happens in the overnight hours
- Municipal (City of Ottawa) noise by-law(s) do not apply
- Some backfilling (remedial filling of spent and inactive areas) of the quarries has been ongoing in overnight hours to take advantage of the availability of the fill from other parties' construction projects. Backfilling remediation is a requirement of provincial government operating licenses
- Some crushing equipment is stationary, but some is also relocated to different areas at different (bench) levels from time to time, affecting noise levels, dust levels and blasting noise and intensity.
- Quarry licenses and ongoing operations require the filing and observance of "compliance plans" with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE). If residents of Fallowfield hold concerns about such compliance in relation to blasting noise, dust intensity and dust emissions, residents are at liberty/invited to express complaints to MOE
- Quarry licenses permit operations as close as 15 metres (approximately 50 feet) from adjacent residential properties, provided that due consideration is given and appropriate steps taken to avoid damage and exceeding permitted

levels of blast intensity. License holders are obligated to make such assessments in advance of and during ongoing mining operations.

- Lafarge and Tomlinson both use the ongoing monitoring services of consulting engineers whose next annual reports about findings of water quality and aquifer (test well) levels will be presented to both companies by mid-2025.
- Lafarge and Tomlinson have undertaken to provide the findings of the consultant reports to the FCA for review.
- Seismograph monitoring of blast intensities is available for review by Ontario government agencies at any time. Ongoing monitoring in past years and recent months indicates that while blast intensity may vary as a consequence of location, charge size and ambient (at time of blast) cloud and other weather conditions, at no time is either company aware of being close to the limits permitted under the terms of licenses and compliance plans.
- The number of blasts conducted annually varies in each calendar year but in 2024, the total number of blasts anticipated by both operators combined is approximately 60.
- Both companies maintain a list of residents who wish to be called in advance of blasts. Both companies are willing to add residents to their call lists and have invited the FCA to make residents aware and facilitate such additions to the call lists.
- Both companies are open to hearing from residents with dust levels are unusually high in any number of days, individual or consecutive.
- Quarry operations are somewhat seasonal, with blasting activity being suspended in some winter months when there is greater emphasis on equipment maintenance and upgrades.
- Quarry operations are likely to continue for many years to come under existing licenses and planned modifications to expand areas of the quarry-owned lands where mining will be licensed to take place.
- Lafarge and Tomlinson have also offered to provide tours of quarry operations subject to scheduling and personnel/visitor safety requirements.

Follow-up from FCA to quarry representatives:

- FCA undertook to provide a meeting summary and follow up letter to each company.
- FCA also undertook to make residents aware of the availability of telephone and/or email notifications of planned blasting activity on the day of each blast
- FCA undertook to advise of a preferred date (s) of quarry tours in June of 2025

Follow-up from Lafarge and Tomlinson

- Representatives of both companies undertook to provide summary reports of environmental consultants by mid-2025, following receipt and analysis