

November 18, 2024

Innovative Planning Solutions
9-647 Welham Road
Barrie, Ontario
L4N 0B7

Attention: James Hunter
jhunter@ipsconsultinginc.com

VIA E-MAIL

**Re: Response to Peer Review Comments
Duivenvoorden Melancthon Pit Expansion Noise Study
Melancthon, Ontario
Trinity File No.: 247201.0039**

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Responses to the latest outstanding comments regarding the noise study prepared in support of the above noted gravel pit expansion are provided herein.

1. Classification for POR 7 and POR 8 was revised to Class 3 area; however, the rest of the receptors remained as Class 2 area with justification that the existing pits in the area would generate elevated traffic equivalent to Class 2 environment during the daytime. The fact that there are existing pits in the area is not sufficient to justify urban hum during the daytime. Sound levels should be provided to confirm existing background exceeds Class 3 area daytime limits, otherwise all receptors should be assumed to be located within Class 3 area and predicted sound levels compared to Class 3 limits.

Response: It must be noted that the definitions presented in MECP Publication NPC-300 of the area classes do not provide any minimum (or maximum) sound levels that must be used to justify the classification of an area. The definitions are all subjective and are dependent on the character of the background sound environment. The definition of Background Sound Level in NPC-300 goes on to state that the background sound level is typically caused by road traffic but sound from existing adjacent stationary sources may be included in the determination of the background if such stationary sources have the appropriate approvals. The definition confirms that in addition to road traffic, the existing licensed gravel pit operations can also be considered in determining the background sound level and class for the area receptors. Finally, review of the Noise Impact Study report prepared by Aercoustics Engineering Ltd. for the Strada Aggregates Melancthon Pits Extensions (to the north and south of their existing pit, directly across the street on the east side of 4th Line, indicates that all of the Class 2 receptors included in the DHL noise study were also treated as Class 2 receptors in that noise study. This noise study was peer reviewed by Howe Gastmeier Chapnik Limited (HGC) in a letter dated October 26, 2017 and no concern about the Class 2 receptor classifications were identified. The Strada Aggregates extensions are now approved. Based on the above, our opinion remains that, other than POR 7 and POR 8, the receptors are in a Class 2 area according to the MECP definition in NPC-300.

2. Based on Google images, there appears to be a residential dwelling at 437213 4th Line. Justification should be provided why this sensitive receptor was not included in the assessment, otherwise sound levels at this location should be provided and compared to the applicable limits.

Response: The location of this dwelling is on the approved Strada Aggregates Melancthon Pits Extension. This dwelling has already been removed. Given that the dwelling no longer existing and the site is on an existing gravel pit site, it is no longer a sensitive receptor location that must be addressed by this noise study.

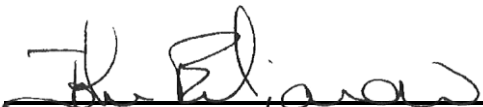
3. Figures 2b and 2c show source location plans for Phase 2 and 3. The sources are located in the central phase of each phase. Confirmation should be provided that the worst-case scenario with sources located at the closest possible distance to POR8 and POR10 were considered and presented in the result tables.

Response: It is agreed that the two figures appear to show processing operations in the centre of each phase which may not represent the predictable worst-case due to the extra distance attenuation the processing sources could receive. To address this comment, a detailed analysis of potential operations in multiple locations across Phases 2 and 3 has been completed. The results of this detailed assessment indicate that the results presented for Phases 2 and 3 represent the highest predicted mitigated off-site sound levels or the predictable worst-case. Moving the sources across a detailed grid on each of Phases 2 and 3 indicates maximum predicted sound levels are within a small fraction of a dB of the rounded sound level results presented within the report and our results, when rounded, are the same as those in the report.

If there are any questions or if additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours truly,

VALCOUSTICS CANADA LTD.

Per: 
John Emeljanow, P.Eng.

JEV
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