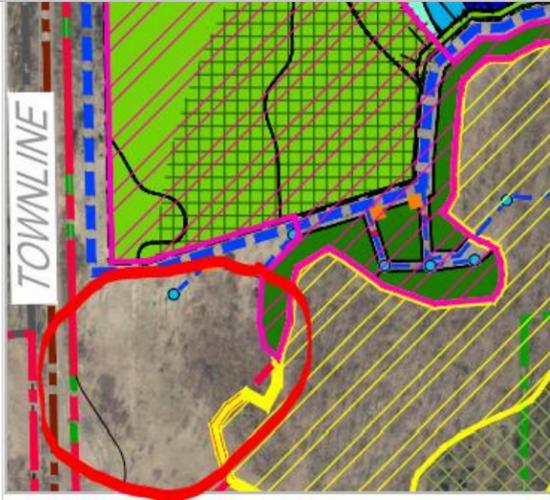


Proposed Milton Quarry East Extension JART COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE – Ecological Enhancement Plan

Please accept the following as feedback from the Milton Quarry Joint Agency Review Team (JART). Fully addressing each comment below will help expedite the potential for resolutions of the consolidated JART objections and individual agency objections. **Additional, new comments may be provided once a response has been prepared to the comments raised below and additional information provided.**

	JART Comments (December, 2022)	Reference	Source of Comment	Applicant Response	JART Response
Report/Date: Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) & Rehabilitation Plan Report December 2021			Author: Goodban Ecological Consulting Inc.		
1.	The success of the EEP will be determined partly by whether non-native invasive species out-compete native species used for enhancement over the long term. It will also be determined by the survivability of planted species. While it is not expected that a highly detailed invasive species management plan be prepared at this stage, the framework of a management plan, and a proposed time frame for long-term monitoring, should be proposed.	General	Sarah Mainguy, NSE		
2.	Please see comment # 24 in Natural Environment table. The rehabilitation plan should be composed as much as is feasible of vegetation communities characteristic of this part of the Niagara Escarpment.	General	Sarah Mainguy, NSE		
3.	Figure 7a provides a conceptual presentation of the MQEE rehabilitation plan. Portions of the quarry excavation are to be filled with clean fill whereas other areas will be occupied by a lake and vertical bedrock wall of the quarry excavation. To what extent will the exposed vertical quarry walls impact the local groundwater table and will measures be incorporated to minimize lowering of the local groundwater table to reduce or eliminate the need for ongoing water management? See Comment # 55 on the Geology and Water Resources comment table.	Figure 7a Rehabilitation Plan (Issues list item 3.1)	Norbert M. Woerns		
4.	Regarding woody species planting list, a single species should not represent more than 20% of a planting plan, this is to help with diversity and ensure survivability and resiliency within a restored area. Review units with species representing greater than 20% and revise by increasing other species or adding additional native species.	Table 20 EEP Unit Summary, (Page 3)	CH		
5.	Please include an invasive species monitoring/management plan to help ensure establishment of desired vegetation communities and enhancement of existing features.	Section 3.14, Maintenance and Monitoring EEP (Page 7) and Section 4.4.3, Maintenance and Monitoring Restoration Plan (Page 16)	CH		
6.	Figure 8. Combined Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) and MQEE Rehabilitation Plan: Regarding the CUM1-1c vegetation community (ELC unit, circled in red in figure below) located within the Southwest corner, given the lag time of potential future uses, CH recommends the opportunity for reforestation enhancement and the improvement of that quality and function of habitat.	Ecological Enhancement Plan and Rehabilitation Plan Report	CH		



NEC would also support seeing enhanced reforestation efforts in this area, in order to improve any remaining east-west linkages to the cox tract given removal of Woodland A. This would address the NEP objectives and policies respecting enhancing natural heritage features and functions.

NEC

7. Figure 6 of the EEP and Rehabilitation Plan Report (Goodban 2021a) shows placement of access roads and watermain routing along the proposed enhancement area. This enhancement area generally provides an area for salamander movements between wetland U1 and adjacent forest habitats. The new watermain and service access roads are to be installed where they may be encountered by salamanders during their migration to and from their breeding ponds.

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Given the placement of this infrastructure within areas used for salamander movements, the applicant should discuss the potential impacts associated with the installation and operation of roads and watermain within this area.

If salamanders will move from overwintering sites such as old rodent burrows and rock cracks that are below the frost line to breeding ponds, will the subsurface installation of watermains impede their movements to breeding ponds? How are salamanders traversing the surface of the access roads being protected from vehicles travelling in the service access roads during the peak migration periods?

8. Section 4.1 of the EEP and Rehabilitation Plan Report (Goodban 2021a) describes the creation of a 7.7 ha deep lake to support the water dependent natural features surrounding the proposed MQEE. This lake is anticipated to support fish populations. As lake habitats in general experience hydroperiods whereby water levels along the shoreline are expected to fluctuate in accordance with seasonal changes with precipitation/snowmelt periods, the applicant should discuss how fish are prevented from entering wetlands U1 and V2 and potentially invade these areas during the high-water periods. Given the short distance from the wetlands and the lake, what is the potential for lake water and fish to occupy these wetlands during flood events? It is anticipated that fish invasion of these wetlands will destroy their ability to function as breeding ponds for Jefferson Salamander populations. The applicant should describe measures to ensure to ensure that the proposed lake and wetland habitats are kept separated during extreme high-water events.

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9.	Given the extent of rehabilitation that will be planned for the MQEE habitat enhancement area, will salamander movements during quarry operations be monitored as the new salamander habitat develops and during quarry operations?		Matrix Solutions		
10.	Given the level of sophistication needed to operate the water facilities needed to maintain salamander habitat water levels, what assurances are there for future operators to continue to maintain these habitats in the distant future? What assurances are there that the water quality provided to the salamander habitat are of high quality?		Matrix Solutions		
11.	The applicant should include a discussion of how transformation of the farmland into a lake and raising water levels would affect the moisture regimes of the adjacent natural heritage features.		Matrix Solutions		