

October 4, 1979

The Hon. Harry Parrott,
Minister of the Environment,
135 St. Clair Ave. West,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Parrott:

In your Government's White Paper on the Planning Act, it is stated that certain matters, including environment, will be designated as matters of provincial interest. Municipalities would be aware of matters of provincial interest through a new tool, policy circulars. "To elaborate on defined provincial interest, the Act will authorize the Minister either independently or jointly with other ministries, to publish policy circulars". (Page 38). The municipalities will have to take the policy circulars into account in formulating any planning policy.

Would you please advise me therefore whether the Ministry has prepared any official plan policy or other policies to implement this new procedure, and, if so, would you please send me a copy of these policies.

Secondly, we are aware that the Ministry of Natural Resources has prepared official plan policies for mineral aggregates which would require municipalities to accept their "fair share" of pits and quarries in their community. This policy clearly makes pits and quarries a preemptive land use over other land uses. Did your Ministry have any involvement in the drafting of these official plan policies? Was your Ministry consulted when these were drafted? How will these policies interrelate with your Ministry's official plan policies? In particular, I am interested in knowing whether there will be any attempt to identify environmentally sensitive areas and establish policies that will prevent their destruction by pits and quarries?

I would appreciate any information you can give me about these matters, and would appreciate a response at the earliest possible opportunity to assist us in evaluating the proposed Aggregates Act and the Proposed Planning Act. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,
CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

John Swaigen,
General Counsel.

JS:lp