



PTTW Coordinator
Ministry of the Environment
West Central Region
119 King St. W., 12th Floor
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y7

November 30, 2006

By e-mail: cora.sheppard@ontario.ca

Dear Ms. Sheppard,

Re: EBR # IA06E1293 - St Marys Cement Group application for a Permit to Take Water (PTTW)

Environmental Defence has been intimately involved with the formulation of both the *Clean Water Act* and the establishment of the Greenbelt. We are one of the coordinators of the Water Guardian Network, the mission of which is to work together as stewards for the long-term preservation, protection, and improvement of water sources across Ontario.

We are writing to you today in support of the FORCE community case with respect to the proposed aggregate development in Northeast Flamborough in the City of Hamilton and specifically with respect to the St Marys Cement Group application for a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) currently before your Ministry for review.

We are now in the implementation and interpretation phase of the *Clean Water Act* (CWA) and the *Greenbelt Act* and Plan. The PTTW application and the overall development, located within the Wellhead Protection Area and recharge area of the Carlisle Municipal Water System, present direct challenges to both pieces of legislation. **We do not believe that the proposed GRS testing and water taking should proceed in these vulnerable areas at this time, if ever.** Timely local development and implementation of source water protection planning is required here first.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Rick Smith, Ph.D.
Executive Director