

Haynes Aggregates Torrington, LLC

O&G Industries, Inc.

May 1, 2023

Mr. Gregory Mele, Chairman
Torrington Planning & Zoning Commission
140 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790

Via Email: Lona_Kirk@torringtonct.org

RE: Response to Public Hearing Comments - Renewal of Special Exception for combined Haynes Aggregates Torrington, LLC and O&G Industries, Inc. Burrville Quarry (2023-24 Permit Term)


Dear Mr. Chairman and Commission Members:

At the Public Hearing held on April 19, our request for a permit renewal was heard and eleven members of the community raised concerns about our operations. Attached please find our written responses to each of the concerns raised. We will be in attendance at the continued hearing on May 10 where we can either read in for the record or summarize these responses at your discretion. It is our hope that both you and the community members will find our responses satisfactory to be able to move forward with an approval of our permit renewal with the additional operations efforts proposed.

If you have any questions, you may contact either Patrick Haynes at 203-888-8132 or Richard Warren at 203-365-0736.

Respectfully submitted,
Haynes Aggregates Torrington LLC

O & G Industries, Inc.


Patrick Haynes
V.P., Haynes Materials Company

Richard O. Warren
Richard O. Warren
Assistant V.P., Facilities

cc: Kenneth Hrica, P.E., L.S.
Peter Herbst, Esq.
T.J. Oneglia, Vice President O&G

Earth Excavation Application, Special Exception #23-03 and Site Plan #1446 Response to Objections Raised at 4/19/23 Public Hearing

98 Starks Hill Road – Amy Hill and Bruce Falls

Ms. Hill and Mr. Falls have a longstanding history of raising concerns with Haynes about blasting and its effects on their property. There was no active complaint registered in the log submitted with this current application because all of the complaints raised had initially been generated as far back as November 2014. Haynes has repeatedly reached out to make best efforts at being good neighbors. The most recent property inspection was not performed to address any new concerns but rather was part of the performance of a pre-blast survey of the property due to a change in blasting company. The property owners have been offered full information about all blasts to date and are welcome to use that information to submit an insurance claim for any perceived damages, but based on that information, the applicants do not believe that their actions are the cause of the damage reported.

300 Cliffside Drive – Susan Matz

As a renewal application for work that has historically been approved on private lands under the existing zoning regulations, it is not a requirement that the applicant perform an Environmental Study. While no study has been previously required or performed as a part of the permit process, the applicants intend to comply with proposed reclamation plans once quarry work is completed and maintain bonding in place to ensure compliance with that required reclamation. At the hearing, Ms. Matz's question was answered that all previous renewal applications had been properly noticed.

52 Woodside Circle – Mary Clancey

Since Ms. Clancey was not satisfied with the sound quality of the presentation, she did not raise specific concerns until she could review the meeting tape or transcript at her convenience. Applicants would be happy to discuss any concerns with Ms. Clancey once her review is complete.

277 Cliffside Drive – Barbara Douglas

Ms. Douglas's request for native plantings will happily be taken into consideration during any reclamation activities proposed for the site, and we appreciate her concern for this matter. As for this application being in conflict with the Plan of Conservation and Development, this operation has been in existence for decades and as private property does not fall under city plans for open space. Despite that, it should be noted that under this current application, only 25% of the Haynes property and 15% of the O&G property is being actively quarried. That constitutes much less than could be permitted for a full development of the properties.

195 Ledge Drive – Edward Potter

Mr. Potter's concern about truck traffic may be in part due to the counting of truck trips or perhaps due to the applicants' presentation of potential activity at the sites. Every time a truck enters or exits the property, it is counted as a "trip" So for every truck accessing the quarry, the count becomes two truck trips. In the application and memo outlining a potential approval, it was considered that at full peak operations there *could* be 500 truck trips or 250 loads per day. The average was also stated as between 280-320 trips or 140-160 loads per day. Neither of these representations are any different than the previous application and renewals. Over the last year and a half, the actual average count has been 134 trips or 67 loads per day.

409 Trailsend Drive – Hakki Cinel on behalf of Lakeridge at Burr Mountain Road

Mr. Cinel asked if any studies could be done to determine if quarry blasting has any effect on the water line breaks sustained by the Lakeridge community. Every blast is reviewed for compliance with industry

and local guidelines for vibration and air overpressure and reported to city staff. With all blasts being in compliance with regulatory limits designed to address potential damage to structures, there is no reason to believe that the blasting has caused any pipe damage so much further away than any of the blast monitors. If desired, blast monitoring could be considered at a mutually agreed location to provide a representation of blast impacts to the Lakeridge community.

105 Highland Lake Road – Robert Leonard

Mr. Leonard raised a concern about Saturday trucking (which had also been reported as a complaint from 2022 in the application materials) but was told that Saturday trucking is allowed under the permit conditions. His request that it be reconsidered will certainly be reviewed by the applicants as it not a preference to run trucks on Saturdays. Unfortunately, as was explained in 2022, there are times that conditions and market demands require Saturday trucking, so we would respectfully ask that no additional restriction be placed in the permit regarding this. As for dust dragout and queuing of trucks in the morning, applicant will make every effort to more diligently address dust prevention activities internal to the site to eliminate dragout and will also review and endeavor to create an off road truck queuing space on O&G or Haynes property to alleviate morning congestion on Winsted Road.

460 Evergreen Road – Laurie Dworkin

Regarding dust concerns, applicant must and does comply not only with local but also state and federal regulations regarding dust emissions. All equipment and operations are maintained in compliance with those regulations. Quarries are subject to random, unannounced inspections for compliance with state and federal blasting and mining regulations including dust and noise. Under the operations of Haynes and O&G, there have never been any violations cited with regard to these issues. For any situation requiring corrective action, the applicants are immediately responsive.

277 Cliffside Drive – Terry Goodwin

Applicants hope that the responses offered here and reviewed by the commission and staff provide a level of comfort that concerns raised are and will be properly addressed as we hope to generate a positive neighborly relationship.

77 Oxford Way – Catherine Winzler

Regarding being surprised by blasting, we would be happy to place Ms. Winzler on a notification list so that she is made aware before blasts are scheduled to occur. Regarding noise concerns, we will have to review whether the increased buffering distance from Burr Mountain Road may also benefit her location or if we can provide any additional method of screening between her and our operations.

In summary, while we were surprised by the number of people who raised concerns at this hearing, particularly from those who receive notice of blasting and have never previously reported a complaint, we believe that all of the concerns raised can be adequately managed. As is a requirement to be submitted with this and all previous applications, there is a mechanism for logging and responding to any complaints received during operations. Both co-applicants remain committed to addressing any complaints received and to reporting same to this commission during any subsequent renewal requests.

Lastly, we want to again reiterate to the commissioners and our neighbors that this renewal application request is in no way an increase from activities previously approved. We are seeking the same approvals previously given in order to accommodate normal potential business and market fluctuations.