



Ontario Land Tribunals

Local Planning Appeal Tribunal

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Web Site: olt.gov.on.ca

Participant Status Request Form and Participant Statement Form

This form is expected to be provided at least 10 days in advance of the first hearing event to the Tribunal and all parties. Please contact the assigned Tribunal Case Coordinator to verify the relevant contact information for the parties. ([E-Status](#)) A paper copy of this form must also be provided to the Tribunal Member at the hearing.

Important: This is a written request for status only. The request and participant statement provided below, will be reviewed and considered by the presiding Tribunal Member at the hearing event.

Request Date (yyyy/mm/dd): April 30, 2021

Case Information

LPAT Case Number: 200546

Date of Case Management Conference/Hearing (yyyy/mm/dd): 2021/05/12

Contact Information

Last Name: MARSH

First Name: GLORIA

Company Name: YORK REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Representative Contact Information (if applicable)

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I certify that I have written authorization to act as a representative and I understand that I may be asked to produce this authorization at any time.

Status Request Details and Participant Statement

A person who wishes to participate in a proceeding as a participant (and not a party) may only make a submission to the Tribunal in writing (see section 33.2 of the *Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Act*). This submission is called a participant statement. In the space below, describe your interest in the case, your position on the issues and an explanation of your reasons in support of your position. You may also provide documentation or attachments to support your request. The information you provide will be your participant statement.

Participant Statement:

York Region Environmental Alliance is strenuously opposed to these redesignation requests to allow industrial, employment and urban development on the provincially protected Oak Ridges Moraine & Greenbelt particularly in light of the fact that Richmond Hill recently thought fit to convert nearly half of the 313 acres of the Newkirk Business Park to residential and still has over 221 acres of vacant employment land.

The Province wisely denied a MZO for these lands, well aware it is in a major recharge and discharge area for the Oak Ridges Moraine aquifers. Spills from industrial development and storage facilities could easily contaminate the aquifer making the hazard lands even more hazardous.

This ecologically sensitive headwater area includes three headwater tributaries of Berczy Creek in the Rouge River watershed. These tributaries support provincially significant wetlands and just downstream Berczy Creek supports a population of the endangered Redside Dace fish and other vulnerable cold water species. Industrial spills could kill these fish, seriously degrade the wetlands and contaminate the drinking water on which millions of Ontarians depend. Buildings and paved surfaces would only exacerbate flooding in what is currently deemed a flood zone and would also increase downstream flood events.

The argument that development needs to happen near this GO station is ludicrous given that It is estimated that 2/3 of employees will now be permanently working from home. Therefore it is completely inappropriate to speculate on employment or housing need here, especially as we have enough existing development land in Richmond Hill to 2051 without touching this area. The train line is primarily for freight with only a rush hour commuter schedule. Promoting a dated bedroom community model while compromising and destroying protected lands on the Greenbelt/Oak Ridges Moraine shows a callous disregard for ecological conservation of this area.

Landowners might feel they are entitled to tread roughshod over the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan & Greenbelt Plan. However, they bought these properties well aware of the plans to protect them. And those plans are in place to avoid irreversible environment degradation which would permanently impact our ecosystems. Open storage on the Oak Ridges Moraine? Absolutely shameful. The Province denied an MZO here for a very good reason and has reiterated the government's commitment to not approve MZOs or land conversions on the Greenbelt/Oak Ridges Moraine. When will it finally be understood by all those who keep doggedly pressing these issues that NO means NO?

Notes:

1. Please refer to Rule 7.7 of the Tribunal's [Rules of Practice and Procedure](#) regarding the requirements for preparing a participant statement and section 33.2 of the *Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Act*.
2. The Tribunal issues all correspondence to parties and participants electronically.
3. Personal information or documentation requested on this form is collected under the provisions of the *Planning Act*, RSO 1990 c. P 13 and the *Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Act, 2017*. All information collected is included in the LPAT case file and forms part of the public record in this proceeding.