

“The Company operates numerous quarries in Canada and the USA, in close proximity to residential properties, with no reported health incidents related to shale dust”

FACT – DUST and QUARRIES – dust is a common by-product of quarrying. ". All dust settles eventually but if the wind intensifies it remobilises the dust back up into the air. This means, in effect, that the dust problem is injurious to health when we can see it and **even more injurious** when we can't see it."

It is **extremely difficult** for us to contemplate a shale quarry that would be in a ‘closer proximity to the Westhaven residential property’ than the east cell as proposed by Forterra – remember, in places, it is estimated to be only 30 meters (or even less) between the quarry boundary to homes – surely, this is **IRRESPONSIBLE!**

FACT – HEALTH and DUST - *“Chronic simple silicosis usually resulting from long-term exposure (10 years or more) to relatively low concentrations of silica dust and usually appearing 10–30 years after first exposure. This is the most common type of silicosis. Patients with this type of silicosis, especially early on, may not have obvious signs or symptoms of disease...”* *“Accelerated silicosis develops 5–10 years after first exposure to higher concentrations of silica dust. Symptoms and x-ray findings are like chronic simple silicosis, but occur earlier and tend to progress more rapidly. Patients with accelerated silicosis are at greater risk for complicated disease, including progressive massive fibrosis”*

FACT – HEALTH CONCERNS - Because of the potentially latent health danger, many medical and scientific professionals who live in the immediate vicinity of Westhaven Drive recently signed a Letter of Concern that has been delivered to key people across various levels of government. This Letter clearly delineates the potentially adverse health effects due to the proximity of the homes to the proposed Forterra east cell! Shale, used in the manufacturing of bricks, has naturally occurring silica. Inhalation of silicates causes pulmonary silicosis leading to irreversible lung fibrosis, which can lead to respiratory failure. It is also a proven risk factor for the development of lung cancer and a known carcinogen. Various connective tissue diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma and systemic lupus erythematosus are also caused by silicosis.

FACT – HAZARDOUS PRODUCT - In Canada, every product that is classified as a “hazardous product” under WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) and is intended for use, handling or storage in a workplace in Canada **must** have a Safety Data Sheet (SDS). The SDS tells users what the hazards of the product are, how to use the product safely, what to expect if the recommendations are not followed, how to recognize symptoms of exposure, and what to do if emergencies occur. The SDS **must** be readily available to the workers who are exposed to the hazardous product **but** it is, unfortunately, not mandatory to make this information available to the public – I suspect that the WHMIS never anticipated a quarry as being SO CLOSE TO a densely populated neighborhood.

Since Forterra profess to be such a Good Neighbor, we will ask them formally for their SDS. We have, however, independently obtained several SDS documents from other companies that have the same type of operation as Forterra - Shale / Clay / Brick - for example, The Glen-Gery Corporation, Redland Brick, Belden Brick, etc.

The Safety Data Sheets for these (and others) are readily available and clearly spell out the health hazards of their operations. The SDS warnings are long, scary, and revealing, for example they include:

- Limit inhalation of clay dust;
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke when using this product;
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling;
- Contaminated work clothing must not be allowed out of the workplace;
- Obtain special instructions before use;
- Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood;
- Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection;
- Etc.

FACT – CITY RESPONSIBILITY - To put this in perspective, in some cases, Tyandaga residents will be living approximately 30 meters from the Forterra quarrying operation. What precautions must they take? Are they expected to take similar preventative measures as those taken by the Forterra quarry workers?

It seems appropriate that, as Good Neighbors, Forterra could join Councillor Craven and Mayor Goldring and educate / inform the Tyandaga Community as to their health and welfare risks, much like the SDS of the quarry operation.

In this respect, we remind Councillor Craven and Mayor Goldring that it is your elected responsibility to ensure:

“... that the issues concerning the residents in each of their six wards are voiced”

Essentially, we are asking Councillor Craven and Mayor Goldring to provide the same level of information to their constituents that Forterra is mandated, by the WHMIS, to provide to their employees by means of an official SDS.

You might, for example, consider calling it a TRSDS (Tyandaga Residents Safety Data Sheet) which would outline the potential health danger and the associated symptoms and actions that need to be taken - remember, at ~30 meters, we could very well be considered as being on the same ‘work team’ and in the same environment as a Forterra employee so don’t we deserve the same health considerations?

This could also be viewed as a pragmatic approach by the City since it may be effective in defending future litigation resulting from any health issues that may be caused by the Forterra urban quarry!