

READ THIS

Shale and clay quarrying is not without its dangers, in recent articles by Forterra (2016) – prior to the Meridian ownership:

*“Manufacturing and mining sites can be **inherently dangerous workplaces**. Our sites often put our employees and **others in close proximity** with large pieces of mechanized equipment, moving vehicles, and manufacturing processes, and **highly regulated materials** and there is inherent risk of related liabilities in our operations”*

*“The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, published a final rule in March 2016 decreasing the levels of crystalline **silica dust exposure to which workers can be exposed**. This rule must be implemented by March 2018 and may require some of our manufacturing facilities to install new controls to reduce the levels of crystalline silica dust. **Excessive, prolonged inhalation of very small-sized particles of crystalline silica has been associated with lung diseases, including silicosis...**”*

*“... risk of environmental, health and safety liability **is inherent in the operation of the Company’s businesses**” and that we are potentially exposed to life-threatening particulate matter this is linked to lung cancer.*

THAT PRETTY MUCH SAYS IT ALL SO ...

Every product that is classified as a “hazardous product” under WHMIS that is intended for use, handling or storage in a workplace in Canada must have an SDS. *The SDS tells users what the hazards of the product are. For example, the following was extracted from the Meridian SDS*

(<http://www.boralamerica.com/Media/Default/Resources/Bricks/Clay-Brick-SDS.pdf>)

- *May cause eye irritation (H320)*
- *May cause respiratory irritation (H335)*
- *May cause cancer (H350)*
- *May cause damage to respiratory system*
- *Avoid breathing dust.*
- *IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for at least 15 minutes.*
- *ETC.*

To put this in perspective, in some cases, Tyandaga residents may be living approximately 30 - 50 meters from the Meridian quarrying operation and, as such, could be considered as ‘workers’. What precautions must they take? Are they expected to take similar preventative measures as those taken by the Meridian quarry workers?

Essentially, we are asking Councillor Craven and Mayor Goldring to provide the same level of information to the Tyandaga residents that Meridian is mandated, by the WHMIS, to provide to their employees by means an equivalent SDS. They could, for example, call it the TSDS

(Tyandaga Safety Data Sheet) which, like the Meridian SDS, would advise the Tyandaga residents what to do, for example, in the event of any health issues as described in the bulleted points above!