



JUN 10 2003

MNR10MC-2003-1353

Mr. Gary Nichols
President
Nichols Gravel Limited
P.O. Box 172
Delhi ON N4B 2W9

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for your letter of April 2, 2003, regarding your Nichols Gravel Limited quarry property in Hagersville.

I am aware that staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Aylmer District office delivered an Aggregate Licence to your company on April 1, 2003. Whether a property is licensed or not, an aggregates inspector designated under Section 4(2a) of the *Aggregate Resources Act* may enter any property that appears to have been used for a pit or quarry. The activities of the aggregates inspector may involve pre-licensing assessments of the property.

Environmental and safety matters that are specified on the licence conditions and accompanying site plans must be completed prior to the removal of any material from the property. Compliance with the terms of the licence is specified in the *Aggregate Resources Act* under the title of "Duties of Licencee."

I note your concern that ministry staff took longer than a year to issue the Aggregate Licence for your property. While MNR staff try to issue licences as quickly as possible, there can be various legal and planning considerations that require resolution before a licence can be issued and this process can take time.

Please contact staff in the Aylmer District office at (519) 773-9241, in order to expedite the remaining issues involved with your quarry operation.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Hon. Jerry J. Ouellette
Minister of Natural Resources

c: The Honourable Ernie Eves, MPP
Premier

Toby Barrett, MPP, Haldiman-Norfolk-Brant

Alec Denys, District Manager, Aylmer District Office