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Our ref: 12583956

31 May 2024

TD Consulting Inc.

Re: Leahy Excavations Inc.
ECA Application
Part Lot 3, Concession 9
Township of Douro-Dummer

Scope Environmental Impact Study

1. Introduction

GHD Limited (GHD) has prepared this Scoped Environmental Impact Study on behalf of Leahy Excavations Inc. (the Client) to be submitted as part of an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) application to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The ECA is for a proposed soil bank and existing hydro-vac slurry receiving operation at the lands identified on Part Lot 3, Concession 9 in the Township of Douro-Dummer in Peterborough, Ontario (the Site). The Site, including general features and proposed future development areas are shown on **Figure 1**.

This scoped EIS was completed to evaluate the presence/absence of wetland on or adjacent to the site and Species at Risk. The Meade Creek provincially significant wetland complex is located to the southeast of the proposed works area and is the main trigger for this EIS.

2. Project Details (from hydrogeological assessment)

It is understood that historically the Site was used as a wayside pit for construction of County Road 4 in the early to mid-1900's. Currently, the Site is used to receive topsoil and other soils excavated from construction projects as well as asphalt and concrete material. The topsoil is stockpiled, screened, and reused offsite. Granular materials are stockpiled, screened, and reused offsite or are used onsite for backfilling of the wayside pit area. Non-granular materials, generally described as higher in silt and clay content, are used for backfilling the wayside pit area. This soil is initially stockpiled in various locations on the east portion of the Site. Asphalt and concrete are crushed and sorted into piles and sold as recycled materials.

The Site also receives hydro-vac trucks with slurry material collected primarily from daylighting of underground utilities. The slurry from the hydro-vac trucks is deposited in the receiving pond where settling of material occurs. The receiving pond has been constructed out of the non-granular materials. Water from the slurry

generally evaporates off or infiltrates into the ground. The pond is dredged on an approximate weekly basis and the material is piled and dried on the north side of the pond.

3. Site Conditions

3.1 General (taken from Hydrogeological Assessment)

The Site is identified by the following legal description: PT LT 3 CON 9 DOURO AS IN R377087, EXCEPT PTS 1 & 2 PL 45R8200, EXCEPT PT 1 PL 45R15813; TOWNSHIP OF DUORO-DUMMER. It is located on the south side of County Road 4 within the Township of Douro-Dummer.

As shown on **Figure 1**, the Site is located in a rural-residential / agricultural area approximately 5 kilometres east of Peterborough. The area is privately serviced for water and sewage. Meade Creek and a tributary of Meade Creek traverse the Site in a southerly direction. Meade Creek is a tributary of the Otonabee River.

The Site is irregular in shape covering an area of approximately 35.7 hectares (88.2 acres) with access via a gravel lane from County Road 4. The east side of the Site is designated as an Environmental Conservation Zone (EC) where Meade Creek is situated.

Within the western portion of the Site is the tributary of Meade Creek. An earth berm has been constructed along the edge of the operational area and the EC zone. There are numerous stockpiles, internal roadways and lay down areas on the Site. A portable structure is present on the Site that is used as an office. The hydro-vac operations are limited to the receiving pond at this time. The Site was historically used as a wayside / gravel pit, which was excavated to the underlying glacial till and the granular material was sold. The general Site conditions are shown in the photo log in **Appendix A**.

Based upon our observations during a Site visit, the surrounding land use includes:

– Agricultural lands; rural residential lands; an EC area; County Road 4 right-of-way and a gravel extraction pit.

4. Approach

4.1 General Approach

Our approach to preparation of the scoped EIS consisted of four distinct phases.

In the first phase we collected and reviewed available information on the site including recent air photography, key natural features GIS mapping, MNRF/County of Peterborough wetland mapping, County of Peterborough schedules and other correspondence or files available from the Municipality, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and ORCA.

The second phase consisted of a brief site visit by our terrestrial and wetland biologist on May 11, 2024 to confirm the data collected in the literature review, the wetland and any other natural features on the property. Due to the heavily disturbed nature of the Site, the visit consisted of only checking if any wetland was present on site or other natural heritage features and for potential Species at Risk within the proposed development footprint on adjacent lands.

The third phase was the preparation of a scoped EIS report with specific mitigation measures for protecting any natural features, including wetlands or Species At Risk.

A review of the site plan and proposed uses was conducted to assess potential impacts on any features or species, and buffers or mitigation measures required.

5. Resource Inventory

5.1 Physical Site Characteristics

5.1.1 General Site Characteristics

The site was located on County Road 4. Description of site conditions is found above. Vegetation cover was restricted to non-active parts of site and outside of the proposed facility. Those adjacent areas included regenerating field and rehabilitation areas. Woodland and wetland are located to the east of the disturbed area. See Appendix A for overlay of natural heritage features mapping and the latest site plan.

5.2 Biological Inventories

5.2.1 Birds and Other Wildlife

5.2.1.1 Incidental Observations

A total of 5 bird species were identified during the site walk. All were incidental observations by site orsound. This included resident species. Species included belted kingfisher, American crow, European starling and tree swallow. Bank swallows were observed flying on the northern part of the property.

5.2.2 Vegetation

The site is being actively used with open sand and gravel areas present throughout. The only vegetation was regenerating field or rehabilitation areas with grasses, some shrubs and early successional species. Species observed included lilac, trembling aspen, American elm, eastern white cedar and white spruce. Those are part of the screening berms and natural regeneration.

See Appendix B for reference photos of footprint of proposed area.

5.2.3 Natural Heritage Features

The existing MNRF GIS wetland mapping shows no wetlands on the property. However the Meade Creek provincially significant wetland is located to the east of the disturbed and proposed work area. There is a woodland associated with the Meade Creek valley, with the PSW and a distinct embankment separating the natural features from the former pit area. There were no Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, watercourses, or rare vegetation community types present.

6. Discussion and Analysis

6.1 Species and Communities

6.1.1 Vegetation

None of the plants identified during the ELC surveys were considered significant on a, federal, provincial or regional level (SARA, 2023; COSSARO, 2023; Riley, 1989) . Additionally, no rare vegetation or sensitive communities were identified on the property.

6.1.2 Birds and Other Wildlife

One of the bird species detected during GHD's breeding bird surveys was considered to be significant ona national (COSEWIC, 2023) and provincial level (COSSARO, 2023).

Bank swallow and active nesting colony found on northern part of property an old stock pile area and embankment from former pit operation. This is approximately 120 m from the proposed work area and ECA permit area. See figure 1 for approximate location of colony. No impacts on the colony or this threatened species are predicted due to the works and uses proposed. There will be no activities occurring within 120 m of this area.

Bank swallows are currently listed as threatened in Ontario. Typical mitigation measures are to maintain a minimum 50 m setback from the colony and especially in front of the bank and nesting holes. The proposed footprint of the operations is close to 120 m from the colony.

7. Impact Assessment and Recommendations

The following section provides a description of the predicted impacts that may result from the proposed development. It also identifies mitigation measures to be implemented to avoid and/or minimize adverse effects to the natural environment features within or near the project. A full list of mitigation measures has been provided in Section 7.

7.1 Natural Heritage Features

There were no natural heritage features identified on the proposed works area.

The Meade Creek provincially significant wetland is located to the east of the disturbed area and proposed work area. There is a woodland associated with the Meade Creek valley, with the PSW and a distinct embankment separating the natural features from the former pit area. Based on the site plan the creek is over 220 m from the proposed footprint, with the wetland almost 200 m away. As such no impacts on the wetland features or functions as a result of the proposed uses.

Woodland is located outside of the property limits and more than 30 m from the proposed works. No impacts on wildlife, wildlife corridors, or the woodland is predicted. A review of the site plan and proposed areas for the parking, sorting areas and building are within the existing disturbed area and active use area of the site. As this location is heavily disturbed regularly, there is no vegetation across most of the proposed work area.

7.2 Vegetation

The construction of the site may disturb some minor weed patches located east of the entrance. There were no trees proposed for removal. There will be no impacts on any sensitive vegetation communities due to the proposed works on site.

8. Summary of Recommendations

1. Obtain relevant permits from the MECP for ECA and meet conditions.
2. As the site has been disturbed and soils unvegetated in parts, relandscaping of the area after use has ceased, and other disturbed areas would provide some vegetation cover for wildlife. .
3. The construction envelopes must be clearly defined and delineated in the field prior to any construction activities occurring on the site.
4. Discussion with MECP re bank swallow colony, even though almost 120 m from Site.

9. Conclusion

GHD has prepared this Environmental Impact Study to address potential environmental issues associatedwith an application to develop this property

Based on our analysis, there will be no significant impacts on the natural features identified on the site. Negative impact on the functions of identified natural heritage features can be minimized by following the recommendations in sections 7. GHD's recommendationshave been made to address potential impacts to natural heritage features and/or their functions.

Regards

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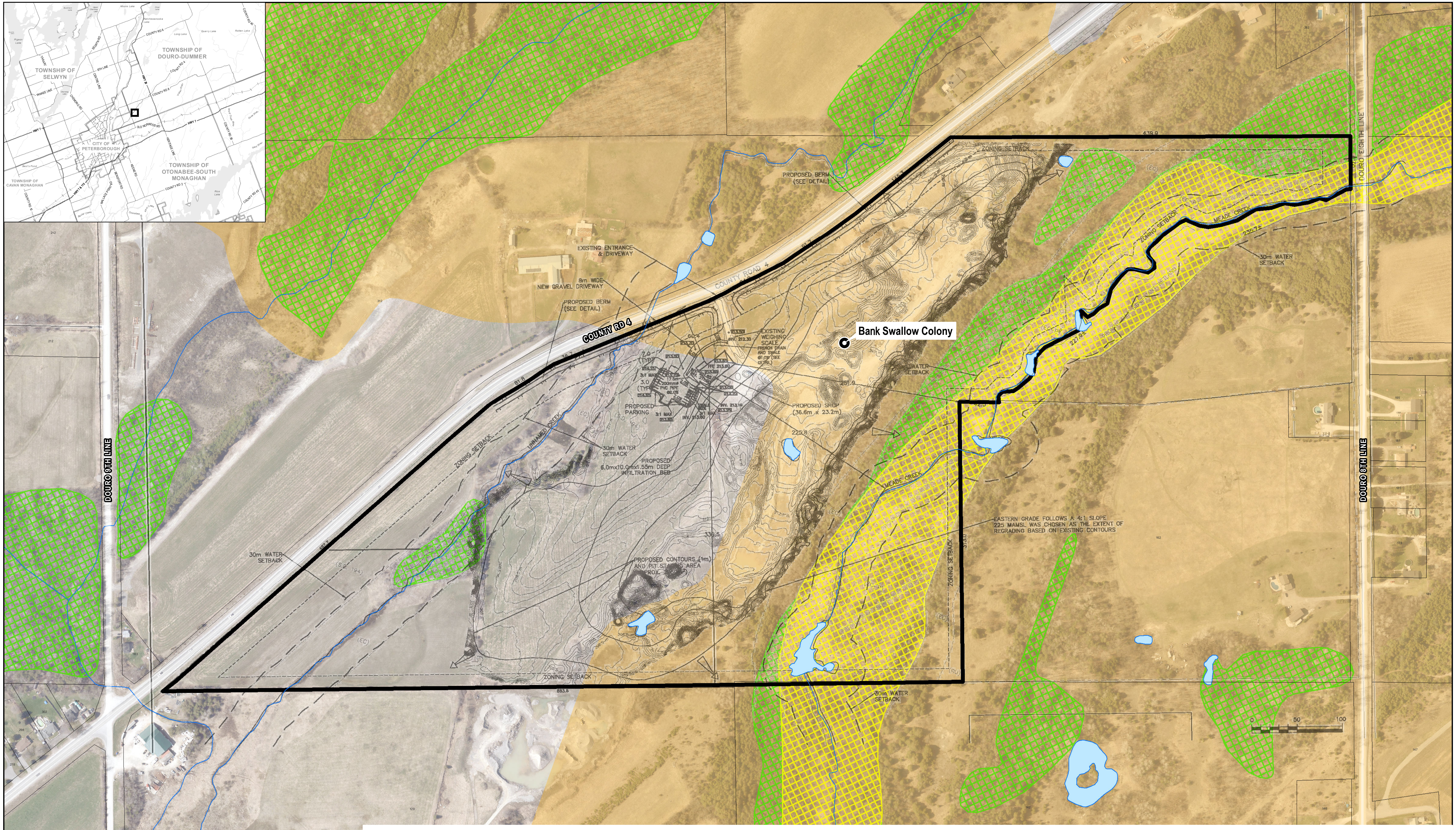
Appendices

Appendix 1
Overlay of natural features and Site plan



Data Disclaimer

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Legend

- Barn Swallow Colony
- Watercourse, OHN
- Waterbody, OHN
- Property Limit, Field Verified
- Assessment Parcel, MPAC
- Wetland, Evaluated-Provincial
- Wetland, Evaluated-Other or Unknown
- Natural Heritage System Area (NHS)

1 cm = 40 meters

0 40 80 120

Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: North American 1983
Grid: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

Paper Size ANSI B

GHD

TD Consulting
Leahy Pit, 317 County Road 4

Scoped Environmental Impact Study

Natural Features

Project No. 12583956
Revision No.
Date May 27, 2024

Figure 1

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Print date: 27 May 2024 - 15:28

Data source: Ortho, 2022 (City of Peterborough)

Appendix 2
Photos of site

Photo 1. View of disturbed soils

Photo 2. View of disturbed soils in proposed footprint