

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 11/27/09

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BERNARDS TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON QUARRY RECENT STATEMENTS FROM MQI REGARDING SOIL TESTING AT THE QUARRY ARE PREMATURE.

MQI has requested and received requirements from the NJ DEP for an initial investigation of imported fill on a small portion (31%) of the quarry property. Rather than adhere to the DEP requirement that 225 samples be taken at specific depths from a specific set of borings MQI advised DEP that they would undertake some subset of the borings and samples in those requirements. DEP responded that MQI would do so at their own risk and that any off-schedule samples would not be accepted in lieu of the mandated borings and samples.?? After receiving one set of requirements from DEP and announcing a second set of their own, MQI actually performed a third set conceived on the fly. In many cases they substituted shallow backhoe trenches for samples to be taken DEP specified soil boring depths.?? Only 40 of 67 samples recently collected by MQI were drawn at DEP specified depths. This means that only 40 samples out of 225, less than 18% of the DEP requirements have been met.?? MQI has performed less than 18% of the required borings on 31% of the site and therefore has failed to fully delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of the contamination in their imported fill. They are premature in drawing any conclusions about the environmental quality of the fill they have admitted to the property.?? Instead of flaunting the DEP requirements and willfully mischaracterizing the results of soil tests, MQI should embrace their obligations and responsibilities to the environment and the residents of Bernards Township. The road to a clean bill of health for the site runs through the DEP. The sooner they acknowledge this, the better. John Carpenter For the Bernards Township Committee 908-803-2885

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