

From: Aggregates (MNRF) <Aggregates@ontario.ca>

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Subject: Proposed Regulatory Changes Under the Aggregate Resources Act

Dear Ontario Heads of Council and Clerks,

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry recognizes the critical role Ontario's municipalities play in the lives of Ontarians. We value our strong collaborative partnership with municipalities and the associations that represent their interests.

We want to advise you that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is proposing changes to the way extraction of aggregate resources are regulated in Ontario, and we are inviting your input on the changes proposed.

The Ministry has gathered perspectives from, industry, municipalities, Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders. These proposed changes promote economic growth within the aggregate industry while also maintaining strong protection of the environment and addressing community impacts.

The key areas being proposed for change are summarized below for your convenience. However, we would encourage you to read the details of the proposed regulatory changes which can be found on the Environmental Registry notice # **019-1303** Proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 244/97 and the Aggregate Resources of Ontario Provincial Standards under the ARA located [here](#).

The posting notice can also be viewed by searching for notice # **019-1303** at the following web link: <https://ero.ontario.ca/>

We encourage you to provide feedback through the Environmental Registry process.

If you have any questions about the proposed changes, please call Rebecca Zeran at (705) 749-8422.

Kind Regards,

Jennifer Keyes
Director, Natural Resources Conservation Policy Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Proposed regulatory changes include:

For new pits and quarries:

- enhancing the information required to be included in summary statements and technical reports at the time of application
- improving flexibility in how some standard site plan requirements can be implemented and modernizing how site plans are created
- creating better consistency of site plan requirements between private and Crown land and better alignment with other policy frameworks
- updating the list of qualified professionals who can prepare Class A site plans
- updating the required conditions that must be attached to a newly issued licence or permit
- adjusting notification and consultation timeframes for new pit and quarry applications

- changing and clarifying some aspects of the required notification process for new applications
- updating the objection process to clarify the process
- updating which agencies are to be circulated new pit and quarry applications for comment

For existing pits and quarries:

- making some requirements related to dust and blasting apply to all existing and new pits and quarries (requirements which were previously only applied to new applications)
- updating and enhancing some operating requirements that apply to all pits and quarries, including new requirements related to dust management and storage of recycled aggregate materials
- providing consistency on compliance reporting requirements, while reducing burdens for inactive sites
- enhancing reporting on rehabilitation by requiring more context and detail on where, when and how rehabilitation is or has been undertaken
- clarifying application requirements for site plan amendments
- outlining requirements for amendment applications to expand an existing site into an adjacent road allowance
- outlining requirements for amendment applications to expand an existing site below the water table
- setting out eligibility criteria and requirements to allow operators to self-file changes to existing site plans for some routine activities without requiring approval from the ministry (subject to conditions set out in regulation)

Allowing minor extraction for personal or farm use:

- outlining eligibility and operating requirements in order for some excavation activities to be exempted from needing a licence (i.e., if rules set in regulation are followed). This would only be for personal use (max. of 300 cubic meters) or farm use (max. 1,000 cubic meters)