

RE: Streamlining of Approvals under the *Aggregate Resources Act* and Supporting Policy

Greetings,

Ontario's aggregate industry plays a key role in our government's vision to Build Ontario, supporting vital development and jobs across the province. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (the ministry) is proposing changes to [Ontario Regulation 244/97](#) under the *Aggregate Resources Act* to expand the list of changes that can be made to existing pit or quarry site plans without ministry approval, called self-filing changes (subject to conditions and eligibility), as well as seeking feedback on a new policy that provides direction for making changes to licences, permits and site plans that do require ministry approval.

The ministry is proposing to expand the list of small or routine site plan changes to an existing pit or quarry that can be self-filed, provided they satisfy detailed eligibility requirements and specified conditions. If approved, five additional site plan changes will be added to the list of self-filed amendments in the regulation. These are:

- Enabling recyclable aggregate material to be imported (concrete, asphalt, bricks, glass, or ceramics) to aggregate sites
- Adding or relocating entrances or exits to aggregate sites when the operator can provide proof of the relevant road authority approval for the change
- Adding, removing or changing portable processing equipment at aggregate sites (e.g., for crushing or screening aggregate material)
- Adding, removing or changing portable concrete or asphalt plants where required for public authority projects
- Adding, removing or changing above-ground fuel storage at aggregate sites

In addition, the ministry is proposing a new policy to clarify requirements including notification requirements when amendments are proposed to existing licenses, permits, or site plans that require ministry approval. The ministry is also outlining criteria or considerations to determine whether these changes are significant or not.

Amendment requests can include changes to site plans, conditions of a licence or permit, or any other information normally included on licences, permits, or wayside permits (e.g., name of operator, address, etc.). Amendment requests can vary in type and complexity ranging from small or administrative changes to significant changes to operations and rehabilitation. Significant changes may require consultation and notification.

We invite you to review the changes and offer comments.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Resources Planning and Development
Policy Branch
Policy Division
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Ministère des Richesses Naturelles et des Forêts

Direction des politiques de planification et d'exploitation des ressources
Division de l'élaboration des politiques
300, rue Water
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7

A complete summary of the proposed regulatory and policy changes can be found on the Environmental Registry at the following address: www.ero.ontario.ca. Then search for notice: 019-6767.

There are several ways you can comment on this proposal, including:

1. Directly through the Environmental Registry posting (click on the "Submit a comment" button)
2. By email to aggregates@ontario.ca, or
3. By mail to:

Resources Development Section
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
300 Water Street, 2nd Floor South
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

If you have any questions, you can contact Jamie Prentice at aggregates@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Keyes,
Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch