

Application for Expansion of Category 9 Aggregate Permit, ALPS#14871

Project Summary

The City of Kenora has submitted a Category 9 (gravel pit) aggregate application to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) covering the existing City of Kenora aggregate permit #14871 plus an expansion area to the north of that permit. The aggregate application consists of: site plan maps, site plan notes (operational standards and conditions of the permit), and technical reports. The technical reports include: the Summary Statement Report (elevation of the water table within the site), the Natural Environment Report (presence of natural heritage features), and the Cultural Heritage Resource Report (potential for archaeological resources and presence of built heritage resources).

This site is Crown land on the Kenora Forest located within the City of Kenora east of the Ritchie Road and northeast of the Wynd Road approximately 6 kilometres north of the city centre (see the map on the following page). The existing City of Kenora aggregate permit is accessed from an entrance, with a locked gate, off of the Wynd Road.

The expanded site is a total of 9.3 hectares in size with a proposed excavation area of approximately 5.0 hectares, 1.5 hectares of which has previously been excavated and/or disturbed under the current permit.

The expansion area generally consists of a deposit of sand and gravel located between two bedrock ridges. This area will be developed from the south to the north. On-site activities will involve: the harvesting of the timber on the expansion area (no harvesting of the bedrock areas); the stripping and piling of the topsoil and overburden; the excavation of the aggregate (sand and gravel); the processing of the aggregate (screening and/or crushing if necessary); the removal of the aggregate from the site and/or establishment of stockpiles; and the final rehabilitation of the site (preparation of the pit floor, sloping of the final excavation faces, redistribution of the topsoil and overburden piles and the restocking of the area).

Noise and dust from truck traffic and on-site equipment, traffic congestion and visual aesthetics are common concerns relating to aggregate operations. We believe that the natural topographical features of the site (bedrock barriers) plus the conditions and standards outlined in the site plan (tree screens, location of stockpiles, dust control, tonnage) will mitigate these impacts.

As this application is for the disposition of Crown Lands, the MNRF is required to undertake the MNRF's Resource Stewardship and Facility Development (RSFD) Class Environmental Assessment (EA). This project has been tentatively assigned to Category B, as it has low to medium potential for significant net negative environmental effects and/or public concern. A preliminary assessment carried out by the MNRF revealed no known natural resource values in the area; however, tree-clearing activities will not be carried out between April 15th and August 31st to avoid conflicts with wildlife breeding seasons.

The approval of the expansion of this aggregate permit will extend the life of the current permit and provide a longer-term supply of aggregate material required for City of Kenora infrastructure projects.

Location of Proposed Aggregate Site

