

March 28, 2017

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Minister of Environment and Conservation
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Attention: Director of Environmental Assessment

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Round Pond Quarry Project:
Submission of Environmental Assessment Registration Document

Please accept the attached registration document for the Round Pond Quarry Project located approximately 800 metres east of the Butter Pot Park TCH interchange.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Gerald Kennedy, B.Sc
Manager, Quarry Materials

**Round Pond Quarry Project
Environmental Assessment Registration Document**



March 28, 2017

1. NAME OF UNDERTAKING:

Round Pond Quarry

2. PROPONENT:

(i) Name of Corporate Body:

Department of Natural Resources, Mineral Lands Division

(ii) Address:

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL

A1B 4J6

(iii) Minister:

Hon. Siobhan Coady

Minister of Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources

7th Floor, Natural Resources Building

50 Elizabeth Ave.

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Telephone: (709)729-2920

(iv) Principal Contact Person for purposes of environmental assessment:

Gerald Kennedy

Manager, Quarry Materials Section

Mineral Lands Division, Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Telephone: (709)729-6447

3. THE UNDERTAKING:

(i) Nature of the Undertaking

The proposed project involves the development of an open pit-style quarry for the purpose of removing sand, gravel, and rock to support infrastructure developments on the northeast Avalon Peninsula.

(ii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking:

Several companies have expressed interest in developing quarries in this area. The area is a potential source of bedrock (granite) and granite-derived sand and gravel deposits with physical properties suitable for the production of high quality aggregate for use in concrete and asphalt applications.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:

(i) Geographic Location and Access

The 19.5 hectare project area is located approximately 800 metres east of the Butter Pot Provincial Park interchange at the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH).

Access will be via an existing gravel trail that intersects the eastbound lane of the TCH approximately 1.8 kilometres north of the Butter Pot Park interchange and south of Round Pond. The gravel trail is currently held under a "Permit to Construct" by Labrador-Island Link Corporation for access to the transmission line. Approximately 200 metres of new trail will be required to access the site.

(ii) Physical Features

The project area lies within the Newfoundland Uplands physiographic region which has relief ranging from 10s to 100s of metres above sea level. Elevations in the project area range from 170 to 200 metres within a relatively low-lying area separated by rock ridges along the east and west boundaries. The general topography consists of rolling hills interspersed with relatively small ponds and poorly drained boggy areas. The surficial expression of the area ranges from exposed bedrock to relatively thick (>5 metres) overburden mainly derived from glacial activity.

The project area can be characterized as dominantly hummocky heathland situated between two streams and a number of small ponds. An approximately 3 hectare area in the southwest portion of the project area is more densely forested.

In terms of ecology, the area is located within the Southeastern Barrens Sub-region of the Maritime Barrens Ecoregion which is characterized by cool summers with frequent fog and strong winds. Winters are relatively mild with intermittent snow cover, particularly near the coastline. The landscape pattern consists of usually stunted, almost pure stands of Balsam Fir, broken by extensive open heathland. The area is home to moose, lynx, hares, ducks and a variety of other bird species and small animals. The small ponds in the area contain several species of fish.

(iii) Development

The development of the proposed quarry area will occur in a number of phases:

1. Access:
 - a. Upgrading of existing gravel trail from the TCH to the project area
 - b. Approximately 200 metres of new access will be developed from the trail to the project area
2. Quarry area:
 - a. Stripping of vegetation and organic material
 - i. Trees will be harvested as directed by the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agrifoods and Land Resources
 - b. Stockpiling of organic material (including topsoil and grubbing) for rehabilitation and development of laydown areas
 - c. Construction of settling pond(s) (if required)
 - d. Phased development of quarry operations
 - i. Excavation, drilling, blasting, crushing/screening, washing (if required), stockpiling and loading of quarry materials (rock, sand and gravel).
 - e. Transportation of product to market

Pending approval, site development is expected to commence in May 2017. The initial development will be completed within approximately 30 days of the Department of Natural Resources issuing quarry permits under the *Quarry Materials Act, 1998*. If a Quarry Lease is issued, the site will also be regulated under the *Mining Act, 1999*.

(iv) Operation

The project area will be regulated under the *Quarry Materials Act, 1998* and the *Mining Act, 1999* (if applicable). Operations may include, but are not limited to, the removal of overburden material to expose sand and gravel deposits and/or bedrock. Sand and gravel deposits will be excavated directly and processed; bedrock will first be drilled and then blasted with explosives prior to excavation and processing. Processing includes crushing, screening, washing and stockpiling quarry materials using various types of equipment such as excavators, front-end loaders, primary, secondary, and tertiary crushers including complete conveyer systems to allow production of various aggregate end-products. Various sizes of dump trucks will be used for transportation to market. Non-licenced dump trucks (e.g., rock trucks) may be used within the project area, but only licenced trucks will be used on the access road and the TCH.

Activity at the site will likely be periodic from April to November annually; however, given the proximity to Butter Pot Provincial Park, drilling, blasting and crushing activities will not occur between May 24th and September 30th. Quarries are inspected regularly by the Department of

Natural Resources' Quarry Materials Compliance Officers to ensure compliance with the *Quarry Materials Act, 1998* and *Mining Act, 1999* (if applicable), and terms and conditions of the quarry permit/lease.

The life expectancy of the operation is estimated to be 5 – 15 years, but this estimate is largely dependent on the demand for quarry materials in the region. Operations will be conducted in a logical, staged sequence to streamline and minimize the cost of final rehabilitation. Under a quarry lease, an approved development, rehabilitation, and closure plan along with financial insurance will be required by the Department of Natural Resources. These plans will be designed by professional geotechnical engineering consultants and will comply with the *Quarry Materials Act, 1998*, *Quarry Materials Regulations, 1998*, and if applicable the *Mining Act, 1999* and *Mining Regulations, 2000*.

Potential Sources of Pollutants:

Possible sources of pollutants include site drainage, noise, airborne emissions and possible fuel or oil spills.

- During development, as quarry material is excavated and moved from the site, there is potential for off-site drainage. Sedimentation control structures (e.g., silt fences, ditches, rock check dams, etc.) will be installed where recommended by appropriate departments through the Department of Natural Resources' quarry permit referral process. Any off-site runoff will be directed to vegetated areas to prevent siltation of waterbodies.
- Domestic waste generated will be collected and disposed of as per the *Waste Management Regulations, 2003*.
- All equipment on site will be furnished with appropriate emission and noise control devices and all vehicles will be properly maintained to minimize noise and exhaust.
- Petroleum products will be handled and stored as per *Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations, 2003* and associated products regulations, under the *Environmental Protection Act SNL 2002*.

Potential Resource Conflicts

- This area is used by locals for recreational purposes such as hiking, hunting, fishing, etc.
- The northern portion of the project area may be visible from the TCH, but only to south/west bound traffic.

(v) Occupations

Occupations at the site will include the following:

- 3 - Heavy Equipment Operators (e.g., excavator, loader and crusher operator) (7421)
- 2 - Dump truck drivers (7411)
- 1 - Quarry foreman/supervisor (8221)
- 1 - Laborer (7611)
- 1 - Heavy Equipment Mechanic (7311)

(vi) Project Related Documents

There are currently no documents available for this project.

5. APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:

<u>Permits/Approvals</u>	<u>Issuing Department/Agency</u>
Quarry Permit	Mineral Lands Division , Department of Natural Resources
Quarry Lease	Mineral Lands Division, Department of Natural Resources
Commercial Cutting Permit	Forestry Services Branch, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agrifoods
Operating Permit	Forestry Services Branch, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agrifoods
Development Permit (Butter Pot – Witless Bay Line Environs)	Government Services Centre, Service NL
Water Use Licence	Water Resources Management Division, Department of Environment and Climate Change

6. SCHEDULE:


Pending approval, first operations are anticipated to commence in May 2017.

7. FUNDING:

The approximate cost of the project is unknown and will depend on the level and type of activity (e.g., sand and gravel versus rock quarry). The approximate development costs are \$500,000 CAD, and this will be funded by the companies that are issued the quarry tenure.

8. SUBMISSION:

March 28, 2017
Date:



Gerald Kennedy
Manager Quarry Materials, Mineral Lands Division,
Department of Natural Resources

