

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure

St. Lawrence Quarry

Environmental Assessment Registration

Submitted to:

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change

P.O. Box 8700

St. John's NL A1B 4J6

Attention: Director of Environmental Assessment

September 2026

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1. Name of the Undertaking

St. Lawrence Quarry

2. Proponent

2.1 Name of Corporate Body

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

2.2 Address

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure
Confederation Building (West Block)
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2.3 Minister

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2.4 Principal Contact Persons

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3. The Undertaking

3.1 Nature of the Undertaking

The proposed project involves the expansion of an existing sand and gravel quarry operated by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (TI) (Mineral Lands file number

7114603). The existing site has served as a source of aggregate for provincial infrastructure projects for the past 25 years, supporting highway construction and maintenance activities throughout the region.

The project seeks to continue operations within the proposed quarry footprint to access additional sand and gravel resources. The quarry materials extracted from the site would continue to be used to support regional infrastructure needs, including highway construction, upgrades, and ongoing maintenance. This project is required to be registered with Environmental Assessment as required under section 52 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2003.

3.2 Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking

Quarry materials are non-renewable resources that are critical to the development and maintenance of infrastructure throughout the province. The quality of these materials is crucial to the longevity of infrastructure such as roads and bridges. Using inadequate quarry materials may lead to premature deterioration of infrastructure, thereby reducing the planned life-cycle and increasing maintenance requirements. This can ultimately impact costs incurred by the province through more frequent procurement requirements to repair and maintain infrastructure.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Mineral Lands Division of the Department of Energy and Mines are committed to acquiring and maintaining Crown quarry sites throughout the province to facilitate TI's infrastructure projects. Securing access to quarry materials that have physical properties suitable for producing aggregate products required for infrastructure projects such as granular and hot mix paving aggregates will reduce the risk of bidding contractors by having quarries available once a contract is awarded.

TI has held quarry permits in St. Lawrence since the late 1990's with sand and gravel extracted from the quarry being used to support road construction and maintenance projects within the region.

The proposed 4.22 hectare quarry is anticipated to secure sufficient, high quality aggregate materials to sustain TI for the next 10-15 years in this region. While quarry tenure would be issued to TI, TI will require its agents to obtain subordinate quarry permits issued to them by the Department of Energy and Mines (EM).

4. Description of the Undertaking

4.1 Geographical Location

The proposed quarry is located on the Burin Peninsula, Newfoundland (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The 4.22-hectare proposed quarry is located approximately 5 kilometers west of the town of St. Lawrence (UTM NAD 84 Zone 21T 617,561 m E 5,200,360 m N) (Figure 2). The site is located within the municipality of the town of St. Lawrence.

The project is located adjacent to several existing authorized quarries;

- Cox's Construction Ltd 5ha quarry permit (File Number 71111594)
- TR Excavating Inc. 2.6ha quarry permit (File Number 71110000)
- Nortech Construction Company Ltd 5ha quarry permit (File Number 7118094)

The existing site is accessed by a gravel access road that extends directly from Route 220 for approximately 300 meters (see Figure 3).

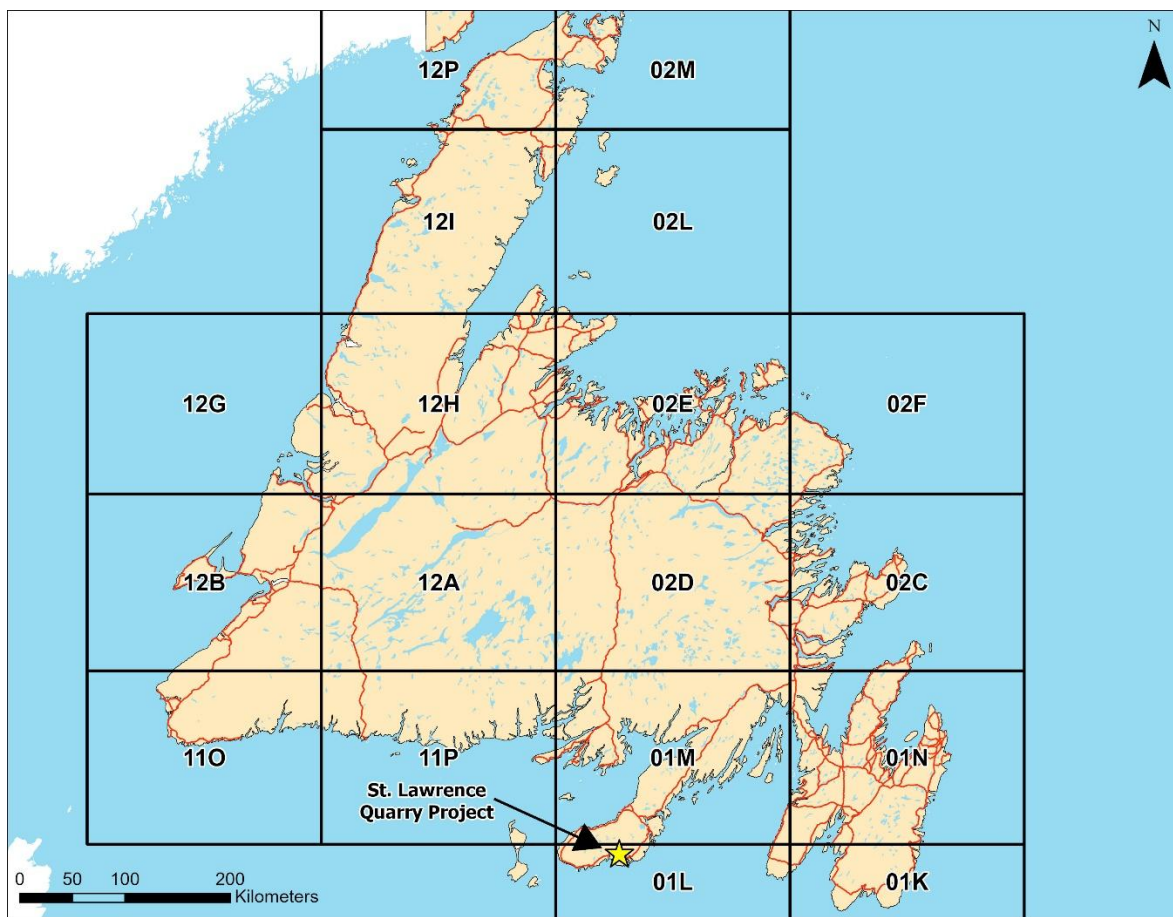


Figure 1: Location map of proposed project.

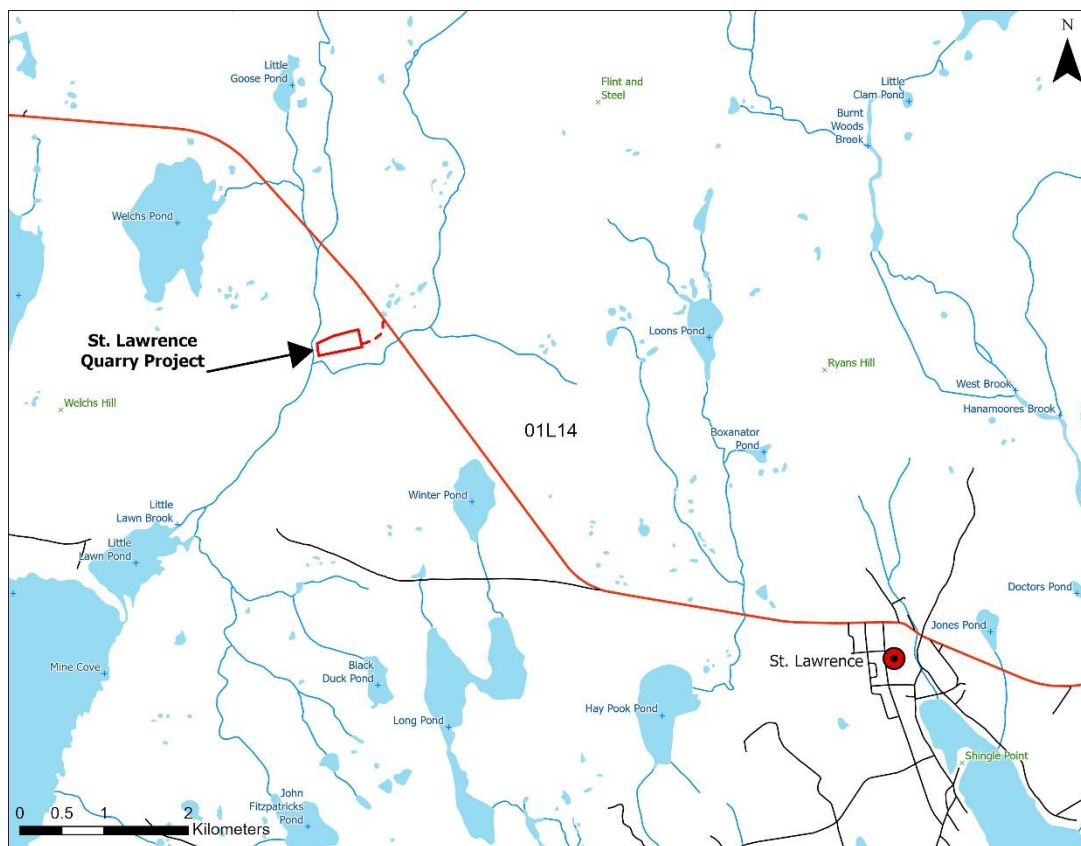


Figure 2: Proposed quarry area as shown on NTS map sheet 01L/14.

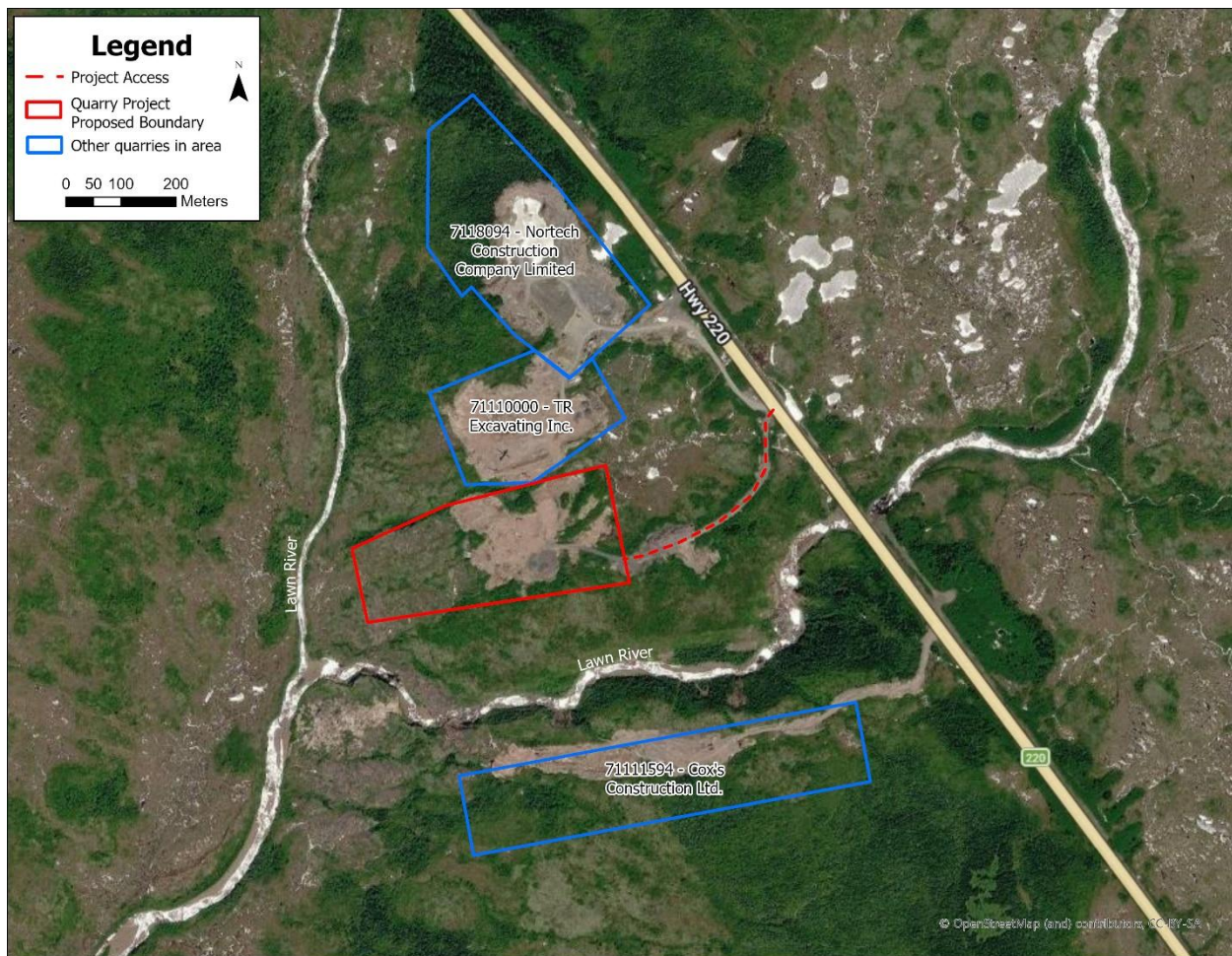


Figure 3: Proposed quarry location with nearby land uses.

4.2 Physical Features

Regionally the area is geologically mapped as part of the St. Lawrence group, which is comprised of granite and quartz-feldspar porphyry. The area within the boundary is part of an early to late Cambrian inlet group composed of a mixture of black and grey shales and siltstones/green siltstones/red shale.

This area is characterized by having Balsam Fir and Black Spruces sparsely in the area with majority of the area either barren or contain low lying shrubs. The southern portion of the boundary is bound by a sheltered valley, while the western and southern boundary is bound by Lawn River. As shown in Figure 4, appropriate environmental setbacks have been taken into consideration to establish the proposed boundary and access to the site.



Figure 4: Location of site with setbacks to waterbodies.

4.3 Construction

As outlined in Table 1, prior to development, additional permits and approvals from government agencies will be required. Onus will be on TI or its agents to apply for and obtain all additional permits and approvals. Copies of all permits and approvals are required to be submitted to EM for review before the issuance of a quarry permit to TI and be in place prior to the issuance of a subordinate quarry permit to an agent of TI. Development of the project area will not commence until all permits and approvals are obtained. A quarry lease will be pursued prior to the expiration of the quarry permit.

TI agents applying for subordinate quarry permits will be required to submit a detailed site plan to TI to coordinate approval of the permit by EM's Mineral Lands Division. Site plans will outline staged phases of excavation showing areas where operations will occur with a volume of material specified, location of stockpiles (quarry materials, overburden, and topsoil), and location of stationary equipment (i.e. screeners etc.). Issuance of quarry tenure

to meet contract deadlines will not be approved without an approved site plan. Planned operations will be further developed through the creation of quarry lease plans.

4.4 Operation

While the rights to the quarry will be held by TI, development and operations at the site are anticipated to occur by contractors with awarded government contracts. Requests to access the quarry will be reviewed and managed by TI Geologists with the Mineral Lands Division, and all operations will be inspected routinely to ensure compliance with the Quarry Materials Act and Regulations.

Operations will continue to occur within the existing permitted area and expand to the west gradually over time. The existing site will be retained under permit, and the area once depleted of quarry resource will be used for processing and laydown (e.g., screening and stockpiling of material). Areas not required for laydown will be progressively rehabilitated.

Operations will include, where required, the clearing of overburden material to expose the underlying surficial materials. Topsoil and grubbing will be cleared and stockpiled for progressive and final rehabilitation of the quarry.

The processing of materials extracted from the quarry will include drilling and blasting, pit run-removal, screening, and stockpiling quarry materials using various types of equipment such as excavators, and front-end loaders. Other associated equipment may include mobile asphalt plants if authorized by the Department of Government Services. Various sizes of dump trucks will be used for transportation to the project location. While drilling and blasting is an operation that may occur throughout the phases of development, the frequency of the blasts is largely dependent on the scale and scope of projects which may see several years without any drilling and blasting occurring. Any blasting that will occur at the site will adhere to all Provincial and Federal requirements.

Activity at the site is anticipated to be periodic and within the construction season, which typically extends from April to November annually.

The life expectancy of the quarry is anticipated to be 10-15 years, but this estimate is dependent on the demand for quarry materials in the region and the volume of aggregate available from other sources. Operations will be conducted in a logical, staged sequence and in accordance with development plans reviewed and approved by TI Geologists. While the annual production may vary from year to year, it's anticipated to be less than 100,000 cubic metres per year.

4.4.1 Potential Sources of Pollutants

4.4.1.1 Fuel

Any required fuel caches will be registered with the Department of Government Services. In the event of a spill, immediate action will be taken to ensure the spill is contained and does not enter any waterbodies (i.e. create a catchment ditch and berm). All spills and leaks will be cleaned up immediately and reported to Government Services for inspection and clearance. Any spills in excess of 70L will be reported to the Environmental Emergencies Line. Storage, handling and disposal of waste oil and fuels will be compliant with the *Used Oil and Used Glycol Control Regulations*.

4.4.1.2 Air and Noise

Equipment will be equipped with emission and noise control devices. Equipment is to be properly maintained to minimize noise and exhaust, and where applicable, subject to certification by Government Services. Any equipment entering the Route 220 will be equipped with effective dust-mitigation measures to ensure dust and debris is not tracked onto the highway.

4.4.1.3 Garbage Disposal

All waste generated through quarry operations will be collected and disposed of on a regular basis. As outlined in the standard terms and conditions of a quarry permit, the quarry area is to be kept free of refuse materials. Access to the site will be restricted to prevent illegal dumping of refuse materials. Onus will be on TI or its agent to remove garbage and or refuse materials if illegal dumping occurs during issuance of quarry tenure. In the event TI or its agents is to remove garbage, depending on the materials it will be brought to the Burin Peninsula Regional Waste Management Site.

4.4.1.4 Runoff

There is potential for runoff as the quarry is developed and quarry materials are extracted. As required, sedimentation controls will include ditches to control water in the site, and silt fencing to ensure there is no sedimentation of nearby waterbodies. Prior to issuance of quarry tenure, operators will be required to submit a Site Plan that details surface water drainage to ensure proper measures are in place to ensure runoff from the site is mitigated.

4.4.2 Potential Resource Conflicts

Given the nature of the project site, there is a possibility of the presence or an encounter with wildlife including various bird species, moose, rabbits, foxes and coyotes. Development and

operations within the project site will operate as outlined in the Wildlife Act and the Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations.

During the development of the site, vegetation will not be cleared within:

- i) 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest between March 15 and July 31; 200 meters during the remainder of the year.
- ii) 200 meters of other raptor nests between March 15 and July 31.

No ground disturbance or vegetation clearing is to occur within:

- i) 800 meters of a short-eared owl nest between May 15 and August 15

Locations of raptors nests will be reported to the Wildlife Division.

Current buffer distances between the quarry and nearby waterbodies and wetlands exceed the minimum 30 m required to protect riparian and aquatic species and habitats

Public safety is of the utmost importance. Access to the site will be restricted to prevent any unauthorized access to the site for recreation and hunting.

4.4.3 Viewscape concerns

Given the natural topography in the area visibility of continued operations is not a concern. Operations at the site are proposed to be carried out in a development sequence that will allow the viewscape to be managed (i.e. construction of berms as required).

4.5 Occupations

Although TI is the proponent for this project, TI will not be the sole operator of this site. The permit area would be used by contractors after award of contract to acquire material via a subordinate quarry permit (SQP). Typical occupations involved with the scope of this project include;

- Heavy Equipment Operators (73400)
- Heavy Equipment Mechanics (72401)
- Laborers (75110)
- Site Supervisor (72021)
- OH&S Inspector (22232)

The exact number of required staffing is unknown.

Quarry operations are largely dependent on the work or contracts obtained by the company/individual. As such, the exact schedule of operations would be dependent on the

Department of Transportation and Infrastructure for timing of issuance of provincial contracts, which would vary year to year. During busy years, activity at the site may continue provided weather and ground conditions allow (e.g., April – November), while in slower periods, activity may be intermittent or dormant for an entire year or more.

Hiring will be largely dependent on the company or companies that obtain approval to work in the Department’s quarry site. Depending on the size of a company’s existing workforce and current/upcoming contracts, the project may be operated with the same staff, or new staff may need to be hired. This project would likely not result in the addition of staff, merely the movement of staff and equipment from one work area to another.

5. Approval of Undertaking

Table 1 contains the list of permits, licenses and/or approvals that are required for this project:

Issuing Authority	Permit/Approval Required
Dept. Environment, Conservation and Climate Change – EA Division	Release from EA
Dept. Energy and Mines – Mineral Lands Division	Quarry Permit and Quarry Lease
Dept. Forestry, Agriculture and Lands	Operating and commercial forestry permit

Table 1: List of approvals required permits from provincial agencies.

6. Schedule

Scheduled start of project is dependent on TI’s contract award scheduling. It is anticipated that the first phase of development would begin as early as Spring 2027 with continued phased development as required for future contracts that are tendered and awarded.

7. Capital Cost and Funding

Due to TI’s tendering process, the cost of the development of this quarry is largely unknown as the cost is dependent on the type of construction project and operations to occur on site (e.g. pit run removal, screening, etc.) and the location of end product of the quarry materials (i.e. small scale road maintenance vs large scale awarded provincial contracts). Funding for the development and operation of the project would be borne by individual companies and sub-contractors through awarded TI contracts.