

**Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

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August 28, 2020

Mr. Norm Cheesman  
Executive Director  
Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association  
[ncheesman@ossqa.com](mailto:ncheesman@ossqa.com)

Dear Mr. Cheesman:

Our government recognizes the critical importance of the aggregates sector, and the role it plays in building the vital infrastructure that Ontarians depend on every day. Ontario needs economic growth now more than ever, as our province begins its long recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak. One of the avenues for recovery will be strategic investments in infrastructure, supported by both the provincial and federal governments — infrastructure that can't be built without aggregates.

We appreciate the concerns you have raised. We recognize that the aggregates industry is one of the province's most heavily regulated sectors. As a result, I am very pleased to inform you that we are moving ahead with changes to both Ontario Regulation 244/97 and the Aggregate Resources of Ontario Provincial Standards under the *Aggregate Resources Act* (ARA).

These changes provide a balanced and fair approach to reducing red tape and streamlining processes for businesses, while also helping to minimize environmental impacts on communities in Ontario.

Key changes of interest for you and your members include:

- New rules to allow some site plan amendments to be made without Ministry approval (i.e., self-filed)
- Updated operating requirements that apply to all pits and quarries authorized under the ARA
- Updated annual compliance reporting requirements, including a streamlined report for inactive sites
- New and updated technical reports and information requirements for applications to establish a new pit or quarry including enhanced water study requirements
- Updated site plan requirements for new pit and quarry applications
- Updated notification and consultation requirements for new pit and quarry applications
- Updated conditions that will apply to newly issued licences and permits

- New application requirements for existing pit or quarry operators wishing to make an amendment to extract below the water table or to expand into an adjacent road allowance
- New rules requiring custom plans to be prepared for applications seeking to extract from land under water.

We listened to industry, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and members of the public about how we can best approach making changes to how aggregates are managed in Ontario. I want to thank the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (OSSGA) and its member businesses for your participation throughout this process. The insights and perspectives you have offered have made these regulatory changes possible. It is our view that the changes ensure a fair and balanced approach to aggregate management in the province.

Beginning today, a decision notice will be published on the Environmental Registry of Ontario at [ERO #019-1303](#), describing the regulatory changes. I encourage you and all OSSGA members to review the notice, Regulation and Provincial Standards for more information.

Sincerely,



John Yakabuski  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry