

Spence Aggregates Quarry Expansion Project – Plain Language Summary

May 13, 2025

Prepared for: Spence Aggregates Limited

Prepared by: Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Project Number: 121418141

Project Summary

The Spence Aggregates Quarry Expansion Project aims to increase the size of the existing quarry, near Newport Station in Hants County from 4 hectares to 63 hectares to extend the quarry's operating life. The project could start within a year of approval and will continue for at least 30 years. The location of the Project is shown on the attached figure.

The quarry's production rate will remain the same, and it will operate year-round as it currently does under its Industrial Approval (IA) issued in 2017. The project will involve activities such as clearing land, blasting rock, crushing and storing materials, and transporting the rock, gravel, and sand.

Benefits

The expansion ensures long-term production of rock, gravel and sand in the area and benefits the community by creating direct and indirect job opportunities for workers, suppliers, and customers. It also supports local contractors and construction operations.

Environmental Effects and Mitigation

Air Quality, Dust and Noise

Effects: The quarry expansion could produce dust and emissions from trucks and equipment. Noise from blasting and machinery could be produced.

Mitigation: Equipment will be kept in good condition to reduce emissions. Dust will be controlled by watering roads. Blasting will happen during the day and comply with an approved Blast Plan.

Groundwater

Effects: The quarry expansion could change groundwater quantity and quality.

Mitigation: Groundwater will be monitored for quantity and quality. The Industrial Approval under which the quarry currently operates includes conditions and mitigation measures to protect groundwater.

Surface Water and Aquatic Life

Effects: The quarry expansion could change patterns and quantity of water runoff. Erosion and sedimentation could affect water quality and fish habitat, though the quarry expansion has been designed to avoid these effects as is it approximately 300m from the closest fish-bearing watercourse.

Mitigation: Water quality will be monitored, and stormwater runoff will be managed. Erosion and sediment control measures will be in place and buffers will be maintained around streams. A minimum 30 m buffer around watercourses will be maintained (approximately 300m from the closest fish-bearing watercourse).



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Vegetation and Wetlands

Effects: The quarry expansion will include vegetation clearing and wetlands within the project area could be disturbed.

Mitigation: Wetland disturbances will be avoided if possible and a wetland alteration approval will be obtained for any wetlands that will be disturbed including habitat compensation.

Wildlife and Habitat

Effects: The quarry expansion could alter and reduce habitat.

Mitigation: Clearing will be scheduled outside of breeding seasons, when feasible. Project vehicles will adhere to posted speed limits to reduce the potential vehicle collisions with wildlife.

Heritage Resources

Effects: The quarry expansion could disturb archaeological and heritage resources, though none have been identified in the proposed expansion area.

Mitigation: A Heritage Resources Accidental Discovery Plan will be implemented in the unanticipated event that heritage resources are encountered.

Conclusion

The Spence Aggregates Quarry Expansion Project will provide benefits to the community and mitigate environmental effects through comprehensive management plans, and compliance with environmental regulations. Engagement with local communities, regulatory agencies, and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia will be ongoing throughout the project to maintain good communication and address potential concerns.

