

Notice of Intent Guidelines for Aggregate Extraction

August 11, 2026

This guideline provides aggregate extraction operators with information on the factors ALC staff may consider when determining whether a proposed aggregate extraction activity in the Agricultural Land Reserve ("ALR") is appropriate for review through the Notice of Intent ("NOI") process rather than a formal application to the Commission. Aggregate extraction includes rock quarry operations, sand and gravel extraction, and other activities involving the removal of aggregate materials from the ALR.

Not all aggregate extraction proposals are suitable for the NOI process; proposals that are not minor uses generally require a Soil and Fill Use application. This guideline is intended to assist proponents in identifying the appropriate application pathway. Eligibility under this guideline does not guarantee approval, as decisions on NOI proposals are made at the discretion of the ALC.

1. Regulation

The *Agricultural Land Commission Act* ("ALCA") and the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation govern aggregate extraction in the ALR. Section 26 of the ALR Use Regulation permits the removal of up to 500 m³ of aggregate from a parcel without ALC authorization. This is a one-time allowance for the life of the parcel. Where section 26 does not apply and depending on the nature and scale of the proposal, a NOI or Soil and Fill Use application may be required before commencing extraction activities in the ALR.

The definition of *soil* under the ALCA excludes minerals as defined in the *Mineral Tenure Act*. Accordingly, placer mining is not considered aggregate extraction and proposals for placer mining must be submitted to the Commission as Non-Farm Use applications.

2. Which Process Applies to Your Proposal?

The NOI process is a streamlined review pathway that may be appropriate for aggregate extraction proposals that are limited in scale and complexity and do not require extensive technical review. In determining whether a proposal may be suitable for the NOI process, ALC staff may consider factors such as whether the extraction is:

- within an existing extraction area previously authorized by the ALC through an NOI;
- limited in both area and extraction;
- proposed for a defined and relatively short operational timeframe; and
- located on land with lower agricultural capability.

Quarry rock extraction proposals exhibiting these characteristics are the most common candidates for consideration through the NOI process.

Sand and gravel extraction proposals often involve a level of complexity that exceeds what can be appropriately assessed through the NOI process and will generally require a Soil and Fill Use application.

A Soil and Fill Use application will generally be required where a proposal involves one or more of the following:

- a new sand and/or gravel operation;
- sand and/or gravel extraction extending beyond an established mine footprint;
- large-scale extraction in terms of area, volume, or operational timeframe;
- placer mining activities; or,
- the proposed activities are in Treaty 8 territory.

3. Supporting Documents

In order to be considered through the NOI process, proponents must provide the following information with their NOI submission and the applicable fee:

- a site plan showing the proposed extraction area and access routes;
- the total proposed extraction area, in hectares;
- the estimated extraction volume, in cubic metres;
- the proposed operational duration, in years; and
- a description of the extraction method (e.g., quarry blasting).

The ALC may request additional information where necessary to complete its assessment. Requests for detailed technical information, including a reclamation plan, may indicate that a Soil and Fill Use application is the more appropriate process.

4. How to Apply

NOI submissions for minor aggregate extraction must be submitted through the ALC's online portal. All required information and applicable fees must be provided at the time of submission.

Where a proposal requires a Soil and Fill Use application, applicants should refer to ALC [Policy L-27](#) and [Policy P-13](#) for application requirements and process information before applying.