

October 30, 2006

## CHANGES TO ONTARIO'S AGGREGATE RESOURCES PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Natural Resources has primary responsibility for management of aggregate resources in Ontario.

The Aggregate Resources Act came into effect in 1990 replacing the former Pits and Quarries Control Act, 1971. The act:

- Provides for the management of aggregate resources of Ontario
- Controls and regulates aggregate operations on Crown lands and private lands
- Requires the rehabilitation of land from which aggregate has been excavated, and
- Minimizes the adverse impact of aggregate operations on the environment.

The act requires a complete public and agency review of any potential environmental impacts resulting from any new aggregate operations and provides a system of monitoring, inspection and enforcement of regulatory requirements over the life of an operation.

Aggregate operations on Crown land are already subject to requirements under the Aggregate Resources Act. Most private land in southern Ontario is also already designated, but designation in northern Ontario is limited to the Sudbury, Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie areas. Once the new designations take effect in January 1, 2007, most significant aggregate resource production areas in Ontario will fall under the act.

### **Fees**

Annual fees for the aggregate industry are increasing for the first time since 1990; the minimum royalty rate for Crown-owned aggregate has not increased in more than 30 years. Updating the fee structures means the province is getting fair return for the use of its natural resources and municipalities will receive additional revenue from aggregate operations.

The fee increases include:

Annual licence and wayside permit tonnage rate will change January 1, 2007 to 11.5 cents/tonne from 6 cents/tonne. Upper tier municipalities will receive an increase of 1 cent per tonne to 1.5 cents per tonne and lower-tier (local) municipalities from 4 cents per tonne to 6 cents per tonne.

Minimum royalty rate will change to 50 cents/tonne from 25 cents/tonne.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### **General Enquiries**

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