

Alberta Aggregate (Sand and Gravel) Allocation Directive

November, 2017

The Alberta Aggregate (Sand and Gravel) Allocation Policy for Commercial Use on Public Land, 2006

- Was completed in 2006.
- The purpose of the Policy was to allocate aggregate (Sand and Gravel) for commercial use on public land in a fair, comprehensive and timely manner
- Since the implementation, in 2006, several issues were brought to light

Aggregate Allocation Policy review and Directive Development

Issues:

- Lack of understanding how land management principles affect decisions regarding the allocation of Sand and Gravel on public land
- Policy was not consistently understood or applied as intended, and
- Implementation guidance for staff and the public was not fully developed.

Sand and Gravel Allocation Review Task Team

To resolve the issues brought forward a task team was struck in 2014.

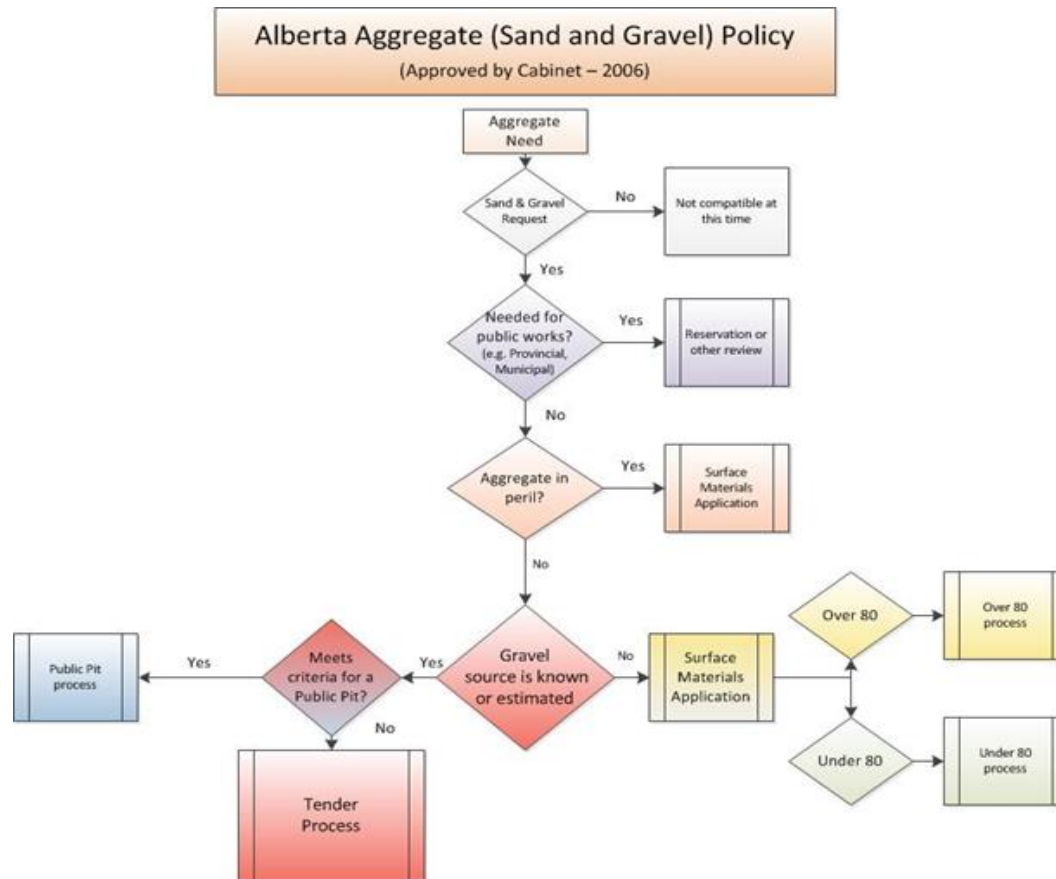
Objective of the Task team:

- Was to review the Policy and provide clarification and implementation guidance that aligned with the original Policy intent.
- The task team also outlined land management principles that impact allocation decision, and
- Developed a decision flow chart that clearly outlines and depicts the Allocation Decision in order of priority.

Allocation Decisions must align with Land Management Principles

- **Allocation decisions must align, with regional and sub-regional plans, and/or locally developed land allocation strategies.**
- **Allocation decisions must respect and integrate with other relevant land management policies, identified areas of sensitivity, and registered interests within the Crown Land Registry (e.g. PNTs, sensitive fish & wildlife zones, etc.).**
- **Allocation decisions must consider cumulative impacts.**
- **Allocation decisions will be made in the public interest.**

Decision Flow Chart



Aggregate Land Review Request

- **Aggregate Land Request is a request that triggers Environment and Parks (AEP) to initiate a land review on public lands to determine if the land is suitable to be allocated for aggregate (Sand and Gravel) operations.**
- **Allocation will be determined through an order of priority as outlined in the flow chart.**
- **Land management principles must apply.**
- **If suitable for commercial allocation, the method of allocation will be determined**
 - **Tender**
 - **Public Pit**
 - **Under and Over 80 acres process**

Aggregate Land Review Request requirements

- **Aggregate Land Review Request Form (EDS)**
- **Accurate land description (Max of 640 acres)**
- **General location sketch with access**
- **LAT report**
- **Land standing report**

Aggregate Land Review Request Referral

- Request package will be referred to the lead Operational Approval District (OPD) which will then refer to Municipalities, and F&W for comments and recommendations regarding allocation, if required. Transportation will be referred to if a PNT and CNT is on Land Standing.
- Referral agencies will have 30 days to provide responses to the Lead Approvals Coordinator, within the Operational District. If a response is not received, the Lead Approvals Coordinator will proceed with a recommendation based on the best available information at the time.
- The Lead Approvals Coordinator will have 45 days to provide a response on whether to allocate or not and, if so, what method of allocation will be used.
- If the lands are acceptable for a Sand and Gravel allocation the proponent will be advised on the method of allocation, if they choose to apply.

Public Interest

(Highest Priority)

- **Aggregate for public works is the first priority when allocating aggregate on public lands**
- **Public works projects typically include public roads or public projects that are constructed and maintained by or on behalf of the province or municipality.**
- **Aggregate will continue to be reserved for use by the Ministries of Transportation.**
- **Municipalities may also identify sources of aggregate for public works purposes.**

Public Interest (Highest Priority)

- The provincial ministries and municipalities may submit their aggregate request for review by Environment and Parks (AEP). The request should be supported by their aggregate requirements for the next ten years. It is expected that provincial ministries and municipalities will determine their aggregate requirements for the next ten years and will update it at least every five years.
- Applications for a surface materials lease from a municipality or a request for a disposition reservation from a provincial or federal agency will then be accepted and considered for the intended purpose. A Conservation Operation and Reclamation Plan (CORP), formerly the Conservation and Reclamation Business Plan (CRBP), must be prepared for the pit to show its planned development and progressive reclamation during the term of the lease.

Public Interest (Highest Priority)

Provincial agencies and municipalities will be expected to share their aggregate requirements with provincial agencies working in an area and with AEP. This data will be used to develop a strategy for the broader aggregate public works needs for an area. The intent would be to develop a strategy to address the immediate and medium term needs.

Commercial Operation is the next priority

- **After the public interest has been taken into consideration allocation will be considered for commercial operations.**
- **The next decision points on the flowchart.**

Previously Identified Aggregate

(source know)

- Where the source of aggregate is already known or gravel can be estimated.
 - i.e. Alberta Geological Survey, landforms, Municipal/Transportation records, field inspections, pre-existing exploration data if available etc.
- AEP may allocate (a) by tender, (b) by request for proposal, or (c) by any other approved means deemed necessary
 - ensure that the aggregate is used in an optimal manner

Aggregate Deposits in Peril

- **A resource in peril is one that will be lost through the conduct of another activity.**
- **This may apply to aggregate deposits of any size that are located in areas where a pending or approved development activity (e.g. quarry)**
- **Loss occurs in two ways:**
 - **Incidental loss- where unknown deposits are discovered incidentally through conduct of an approved activity**
 - **In peril- where deposits are known and the pending/approved activity will result in the loss or sterilization of the aggregate resource.**

Public pit (multiple users)

- **Public Pit may be the option if it is determined that the pit is in a highly competitive market area with confirmed scarcity of resource**
- **A public pit may be created**
- **Where a pit manager**
 - **will be selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process.**
 - **The pit manager will be responsible for operating and reclaiming the pit and making aggregate available to all operators.**

Sites 80 Acres and Under

(source not known) (Commercial operators)

- **Exploration under Surface Materials Exploration (SME)**
 - **Maximum size – 320 acres**
 - **Maximum term – 180 days**
- **Inventory Volumes determined**
- **Application for a SML 80 acres and under**
- **Conservation Operation Reclamation plan (CORP) (formerly called Conservation Reclamation Business Plan (CRBP)) prepared and approved**

Sites Over 80 Acres

(source not known) (Commercial Operators)

- Application over 80 acres
- Advertisement for bonus bid
- Opportunity for exploration
- Bonus bid – 240 days after advertisement
- Successful Bidder
- Conservation Operation Reclamation plan (CORP)(formerly called Conservation Reclamation Business Plan (CRBP)) prepared and approved

Summary

- **Aligned with original 2006 Policy intent**
- **'Directive' provides clarification & interpretation/ implementation guidance to address issues of inconsistent understanding & application**
- **Directive applies after acceptable land use is evaluated/ determined**
- **September 1, 2017 is the effective date of the Directive**

Key items to be aware of..

- **All Surface Material applications for the purpose of sand and gravel will be required to go through the Aggregate Land Review Request Process.**
- **The name of the Conservation Reclamation Business Plan has changed to the Conservation Operation Reclamation Plan (CORP).**
- **Conservation Operation Reclamation Plan (CORP) will be required to be submitted upfront and part of the Surface Material Lease Application.**

Questions

- Information regarding the Alberta (Sand and Gravel) Allocation Directive and the new Aggregate Land Review Request Process can be found on our Surface Material Webpage at
- <http://aep.alberta.ca/lands-forests/land-management/surface-material-applications.aspx>
- Any further question can be sent to the Aggregate & Quarries Unit in Provincial Approval Section.

Questions?

