



asga
ALBERTA SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

FACT SHEET

AGGREGATE AND REGULATION

The aggregate industry is highly regulated in Alberta by various levels of government and through a robust provincial and municipal approval process, regulation and permit requirements to ensure the safe and responsible development of sand and gravel. Operators work to ensure responsible aggregate extraction, processing and reclamation activities through thorough impact identification, implementation of hard and soft mitigation measures, adherence to performance standards and end use reclamation in accordance with regulatory requirements.



The Alberta Sand and Gravel Association (ASGA) members promote high standards of workmanship and accountability related to environment and safety within the aggregate industry, as described in the following.

AIR QUALITY

- In many municipalities, air quality impact assessments are prepared and submitted as part of application submission requirements for close to market aggregate developments. These assessments determine the ability of an operation to meet Alberta Air Quality Objectives.
- Air quality is monitored by operators using sophisticated sensors at identified receptors to ensure air quality remains acceptable and in line with relevant guidelines. In the rare occurrence that an operation exceeds regulatory guidelines, site activities may be suspended as appropriate while the exceedance is reviewed and conditions approve.

TRANSPORTATION

- Most often, Traffic Impact Assessments (TIA) are required at the application submission stage to ensure the road network is able to safely handle the proposed volume of trucks to and from an aggregate operation to market.
- To reduce community and infrastructure impacts associated with truck volumes and routing, ASGA operators are committed to relevant submission requirements, making necessary improvements and extracting aggregate that is close to market. Close to market extraction minimizes the impact of truck traffic bisecting rural communities, reduces air emissions and helps lessen the potential risk of motor vehicle incidents.

VISUAL IMPACT

- Depending on the nature of the project, a Visual Impact Assessment may be conducted at the outset of an aggregate project to assess visual impacts and identify appropriate mitigation measures.
- To mitigate any potential visual impacts, landscape plans are often developed by independent operators. A landscape plan provides the proper siting, contouring and meandering of berms, and the designing of vegetation clusters or tree belts to improve views.



NOISE

- In most cases, Noise Impact Assessments (NIA) can be prepared as part of application submission requirements for close to market aggregate developments. These assessments determine the ability of an operation to meet local noise bylaws or can compare to other guidelines as the Environment Resource Conservation Board's Directive 38 for noise control.



WATER

- The protection and enhancement of water in Alberta is regulated and monitored through: the Water Act, Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossings, Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Navigable Waters Protection Act. Fish bearing waterbodies are protected and monitored through the Fisheries Act.
- Operators are required to meet relevant guidelines set out by pertinent governing bodies throughout all stages of operation, including reclamation. This is primarily managed by Alberta Environment and Parks.



WILDLIFE

- The protection and conservation of wildlife and natural habitats are monitored and enforced through various levels of policy at a provincial and federal level and include: the Wildlife Act and Regulations, Migratory Birds Convention Act, Canada Wildlife Act and Wildlife Area Regulations, Species at Risk Act and the Fisheries Act.
- Operators are required to meet relevant guidelines set out by pertinent governing bodies throughout all stages of operation, including reclamation. This is primarily managed by Alberta Environment and Parks.
- The ASGA is committed to meeting or exceeding all regulation that serves to protect wildlife and their habitat.



RECLAMATION

- Reclamation plans are reviewed and approved at the project outset. Alberta Environment also requires operators to provide financial securities to ensure that gravel pits are adequately reclaimed.
- An aggregate site can be returned to the same land use prior to the gravel operation or it could be reclaimed to support a different use that is compatible with the local area.
- ASGA is committed to working with the community and relevant governing bodies to ensure the best land use is identified for reclamation.