

## The Performance Standards:

What are they and who qualifies?

The Performance Standards were created as a streamlined approach to regulating mineral excavations in the organized towns of the State of Maine. Qualifying excavations are registered with the DEP through a simple notification process, called a "Notice of Intent to Comply" (NOITC).

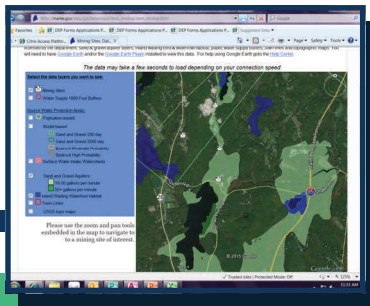
An NOITC should be filed for the following types of sites:

- Sand, gravel, borrow, topsoil and clay pits that are 5 or more acres in size
- Aggregate quarries that are 1 or more acre in size

Include all reclaimed and unreclaimed land in your size calculation. You should also include any land that has been grubbed, stripped, or graded, even if you have not actually begun mining material in those portions. Areas excavated prior to 1970 are exempt.

If you do not meet the threshold, but have undertaken a land-use activity that has disturbed more than 1 acre of land (excavation, road construction, etc.), stormwater permitting may be required.

Find pit locations and other data on the GIS viewer on our website



## Questions?

We're here to help! If you have questions or would like to meet at your site for technical assistance, don't hesitate to contact us.

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Maine Department of  
Environmental  
Protection

## Life in the Pits:

A Guide to the Performance  
Standards for Excavations and  
Quarries



## I've filed—What next?

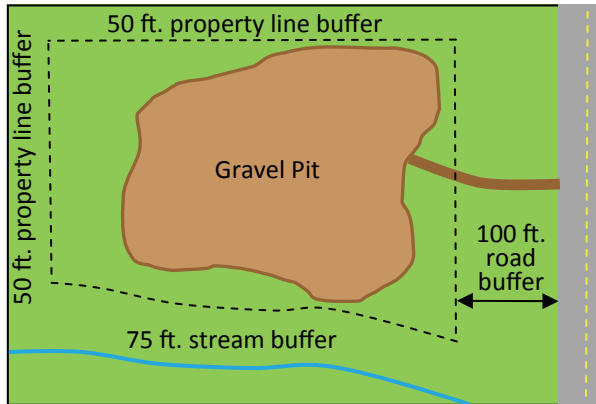
Once you have filed your NOITC, you are responsible for operating your site in compliance with the Performance Standards. Here are the basics. Variances from some of these standards are available with additional permitting.

### Buffers

An uncut buffer must be maintained between the working pit and the following:

- 50 ft. from property lines and private roads (100 ft. for quarries)
- 100 ft. from public roads, 150 ft. from scenic hwy.
- 75 ft. from streams and certain wetlands, 100 ft. from great ponds

Remember—these buffers may not be cut or cleared for any reason, even forest management.



Flagging your property lines and buffers will help keep you in compliance.

### Pit Size

The working pit may not exceed 10 acres at any one time. "Working pit" includes all areas of extraction, including side slopes and grubbed areas. Stockpiles and permanent structures are excluded.

### Erosion & Sedimentation Control

Pits must be "internally draining" - developed into a bowl shape that directs all runoff into the bottom of the pit. Check the perimeter of the pit frequently for erosion problems. Maintain erosion controls such as berms, check dams, and silt fences where needed.

Ditches that allow water to drain from the pit are prohibited. ➡



### Groundwater

The bottom of the pit floor must be at least 5 feet above the seasonal high groundwater table. This can be verified by installing monitoring wells or digging a test pit.



Standing water is a sign that your pit floor is too close to groundwater. ➡

### Fuel Storage



Store all petroleum products, including drums and buckets, in a covered secondary containment structure.

➡ Handle petroleum products with care. Keep a spill kit on-site. Report all spills, no matter the size, to the DEP Spill Hotline at 800-482-0777.

### Reclamation

To keep your pit under 10 acres, progressive reclamation is required. Exhausted pit areas should be graded to a slope of 2.5H:1V or less, and at least 90% covered with vegetation. To close a pit and withdraw from the program, the pit must be totally reclaimed and all structures removed.



### Image is Important

Keep a clean pit. Solid waste and demolition debris may not be disposed of or burned in a pit. Use water or calcium chloride to reduce dust from truck traffic. Be proactive in solving problems, and maintain good relations with your community.



Dust is a nuisance for neighbors as well as a health concern. ➡