

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**November 28, 1995 to December 1, 1995**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 3, 1996 to April 4, 1996**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JULY 4, 1996**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**1995**

C. To a financing institution or credit reporting service;

D. Information necessary to comply with any federal or state law or rule or with any agreement pertaining to financial assistance;

E. If necessary to ensure collection of any obligation in which it has or may have an interest;

F. In any litigation or proceeding in which the board has appeared, introduction for the record of any information obtained from records declared confidential by this section; and

G. Pursuant to a subpoena, request for production of documents, warrant or other order by competent authority, as long as the order appears to have first been served on the person to whom the confidential information sought pertains or belongs and as long as the order appears on its face or otherwise to have been issued or made upon lawful authority.

### **§392. Governmental function**

The board shall administer and exercise the authority granted to it by this chapter. The carrying out of its powers and duties is considered the performance of an essential governmental function.

**Sec. 4. Rules.** Any rule adopted by the Small Enterprise Growth Board pursuant to this Act is a technical rule.

See title page for effective date.

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## CHAPTER 700

H.P. 1353 - L.D. 1854

### **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Land and Water Resources Council Regarding Gravel Pits and Rock Quarries**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 809, §2, is repealed.

**Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §482, first ¶,** as amended by PL 1993, c. 350, §1, is further amended to read:

As used in this article ~~and article 7~~, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

**Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §482, sub-§2,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1993, c. 680, Pt. C, §7, is amended to read:

**2. Development that may substantially affect the environment.** "Development that may substantially affect the environment," in this article also called "development," means any federal, state, municipal, quasi-municipal, educational, charitable, residential, commercial or industrial development that:

A. Occupies a land or water area in excess of 20 acres;

~~B. Contemplates drilling for or excavating natural resources on land or under water where the area affected is in excess of 60,000 square feet;~~

C. Is a metallic mineral mining or advanced exploration activity as defined in this section;

D. Is a structure as defined in this section; or

E. Is a subdivision as defined in this section.

~~"Development" does not include borrow pits regulated under article 7.~~

**Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §482, sub-§2-B,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1993, c. 383, §5 and affected by §42, is amended to read:

**2-B. Metallic mineral mining or advanced exploration activity.** "Mining Metallic mineral mining or advanced exploration activity," in this article also called "mining," means an activity or process necessary for the extraction or removal of the product metallic minerals or overburden or for the preparation, washing, cleaning or other treatment of the product and includes one or more of the following: metallic minerals and includes the bulk sampling, extraction or beneficiation of metallic minerals, not including test sampling methods conducted in accordance with rules adopted by the department such as test boring, test drilling, hand sampling and digging of test pits with a limited maximum surface opening or methods determined by the department to cause minimal disturbance of soil or vegetative cover.

~~A. An excavation of more than 5 acres of land for borrow, topsoil, clay or silt whether alone or in combination;~~

~~B. The bulk sampling, extraction or beneficiation of metallic minerals, not including test sampling methods conducted in accordance with rules adopted by the department such as test boring, test drilling, hand sampling and digging of test pits with a limited maximum surface opening or methods determined by the department to cause minimal disturbance of soil or vegetative cover; or~~

~~C. The extraction or removal of more than 1,000 cubic yards of product or overburden, other than an excavation for borrow, topsoil, clay, silt or metallic minerals, from the earth within 12 successive calendar months.~~

~~"Mining activity or advanced exploration" does not include either excavation or grading preliminary to a construction project, unless intended to circumvent this article, or any other mining activity specifically exempted in this Title. An excavation of 5 or fewer acres of land for topsoil, clay or silt must be conducted and reclaimed in accordance with the erosion and sedimentation control standards contained in board rules.~~

**Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §482, sub-§4-A**, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 466, §13, is repealed.

**Sec. 6. 38 MRSA §484, sub-§3, ¶¶D and E**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 287, §2, are repealed.

**Sec. 7. 38 MRSA §484-A, first and last ¶¶**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §4, are amended to read:

~~Notwithstanding section 482, subsection 2, if a borrow pit within the jurisdiction of the department that on October 1, 1993 was between 5 and 30 acres on October 1, 1993 and did not possess a valid license was not licensed as required under this article, its owner or operator is not required to obtain a license under this article if:~~

An unlicensed borrow pit of 5 or more acres is in violation of this article if the owner or operator of that pit does not file a notice of intent to comply under subsection 1. The written enforcement policy for responding to violations referred to in section 343-C, subsection 1 does not apply to the owner or operator of an excavation regulated under article 7.

**Sec. 8. 38 MRSA §488, sub-§11**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 383, §26 and affected by §42, is amended to read:

**11. Farm and fire ponds.** A pond or ponds having a total surface area of less than 10 acres, on a parcel, that is used for irrigation of field crops, water storage for cranberry operations or fire protection determined to be necessary in that location by the municipal fire department is exempt from review under this article. This provision does not provide an exemption for mining or advanced exploration activity or excavation for borrow, clay, topsoil or silt.

**Sec. 9. 38 MRSA §488, sub-§16**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 287, §5, is repealed.

**Sec. 10. 38 MRSA §489-A, sub-§1, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 383, §27 and affected by §42, is repealed.

**Sec. 11. 38 MRSA §490, sub-§1**, as affected by PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 and amended by Pt. B, §103, is further amended to read:

**1. Requirement.** ~~All mining~~ Mining activities must include provisions for safety and reclamation of the land area affected or otherwise comply with an approval issued pursuant to this chapter. ~~For a metallic ore mine, these~~ These provisions must include a plan for the maintenance of the mine site during mining and for a period after termination of mining, including the methods and annual estimated costs for gas monitoring; leachate pumping, transportation, monitoring and treatment; ground water monitoring, collection and analysis; such revegetation as the department determines necessary; and activities necessary for prevention of soil erosion and for protection of ground and surface waters.

**Sec. 12. 38 MRSA c. 3, sub-c. I, art. 7** is amended by repealing the article headnote, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, and enacting the following in its place:

#### Article 7

#### PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR EXCAVATIONS FOR BORROW, CLAY, TOPSOIL OR SILT

**Sec. 13. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is amended to read:

**1. Affected land.** "Affected land" means reclaimed and unreclaimed land, land that has or will have the overburden removed, land on which stumps, spoil or other solid waste has or will be deposited and ~~any storage area areas~~ or other land area, except a natural buffer ~~strip strips~~, that will be or has been used in connection with the ~~borrow pit excavation~~.

**Sec. 14. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

**1-A. Excavation.** "Excavation" means an excavation for borrow, topsoil, clay or silt, whether alone or in combination.

**Sec. 15. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§§2-B to 2-F** are enacted to read:

**2-B. Naturally internally drained.** "Naturally internally drained" means areas of a site that, as a result of the predevelopment topography and interim and final topography produced during development of the site, are and will remain at all times over the course of the development graded so that neither eroded materials nor runoff either crosses the property

boundary or enters a protected natural resource, natural buffer strip or other protected area. Areas that rely on man-made structures, including but not limited to berms, dikes, basins or undersized culverts, in order to maintain internal drainage are not considered naturally internally drained.

**2-C. Overburden.** "Overburden" means earth and other materials naturally lying over the product to be removed.

**2-D. Owner or operator.** "Owner" or "operator" means the owner or operator of an excavation.

**2-E. Passenger car equivalents at peak hour.** "Passenger car equivalents at peak hour" means the number of passenger cars, or, in the case of nonpassenger vehicles, the number of passenger cars that would be displaced by nonpassenger vehicles, that pass through an intersection or on a roadway under prevailing roadway and traffic conditions at that hour of the day during which the traffic volume generated by the development is higher than the volume during any other hour of the day. For purposes of this article, one tractor-trailer combination is the equivalent of 2 passenger cars.

**2-F. Primary sand and gravel recharge area.** "Primary sand and gravel recharge area" means the surface directly overlying sand and gravel formations that provides direct replenishment of groundwater in sand and gravel fractured bedrock aquifers. The term does not include areas overlying formations that have been identified as unsaturated and are not contiguous with saturated formations.

**Sec. 16. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is amended to read:

**3. Private drinking water supply.** "Private drinking water supply" means a surface water supply, a dug well, ~~or~~ a spring or a hole drilled, driven or bored into the earth that is used to extract drinking water for human consumption and that is not part of a public drinking water supply.

**Sec. 17. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§5,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1995, c. 287, §6, is amended to read:

**5. Public drinking water source.** "Public drinking water source ~~of supply~~" means any groundwater well or any surface water source that directly or indirectly serves a water distribution system that has at least 15 service connections or regularly services an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least ~~30~~ 60 days ~~out~~ of the year.

**Sec. 18. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§5-A** is enacted to read:

**5-A. Reclamation.** "Reclamation" means the rehabilitation of the area of land affected by mining, including, but not limited to, the stabilization of slopes and creation of safety benches, the planting of forests, the seeding of grasses and legumes for grazing purposes, the planting of crops for harvest and the enhancement of wildlife and aquatic habitat and aquatic resources.

**Sec. 19. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§6,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is amended to read:

**6. Regulator.** "Regulator" means:

A. For ~~medium borrow pits~~ an excavation located wholly within a municipality that is registered under section 490-I to enforce this article, the municipality; and

B. For all other ~~medium borrow pits~~ excavations, the Department of Environmental Protection.

**Sec. 20. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§§6-A to 6-C** are enacted to read:

**6-A. Significant sand and gravel aquifer.** "Significant sand and gravel aquifer" means a deposit of ice-contact and glacial outwash sediment that stores and transmits significant quantities of recoverable water. Significant sand and gravel aquifers are typically located in stratified drift deposits such as eskers, glaciomarine deltas, kames, kame terraces and outwash plains.

**6-B. Silt or clay.** "Silt" or "clay" means a material that consists of particles of such a size that 45% or more of the fraction of those particles able to pass through a 3-inch sieve pass through the United States Standard Number 200 sieve, or a material that exhibits similar erosion potential, difficulty of stabilization or runoff based upon its gradation, plasticity, permeability or other relevant criteria.

**6-C. Topsoil.** "Topsoil" means the top layer of soil that is predominantly fertile and ordinarily moved in tillage or the equivalent of such a layer in uncultivated soils.

**Sec. 21. 38 MRSA §490-A, sub-§7,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**7. Working pit.** "Working pit" means the extraction area, including side slopes, of an excavation for borrow, clay, silt or topsoil. "Working pit" does not include a stockpile area or an area that has a permanent fixed structure such as an office building, permanent processing facility or fixed fuel storage structure.

**Sec. 22. 38 MRSA §490-B**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§490-B. Applicability**

Sections 490-A to 490-K apply to any excavation for borrow, clay, topsoil or silt, whether alone or in combination, if the total excavated area on a parcel is 5 or more acres, including reclaimed and unreclaimed areas, and section 490-M applies to a total excavated area of less than 5 acres. This article applies if the excavation is located in whole or in part within an organized area of this State.

A person in possession of a valid site location of development permit for a borrow pit or topsoil, clay or silt mining operation shall operate that pit or operation in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit. Any modification of the permit must be in conformance with section 484. A person with a permit under article 6 may file a notice of intent to comply under this article. The permit issued under article 6 lapses as of the date a complete notice of intent is filed with the department. If the permittee chooses to substitute a notification pursuant to this article, all terms and conditions that applied to the permit issued pursuant to article 6 are incorporated into the notification approved pursuant to this article.

This article does not apply to:

**2. Maine Land Use Regulation Commission pits.** An excavation wholly within the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission;

**4. Excavations reviewed under laws regarding the protection of natural resources.** An excavation to the extent that it is located in a protected natural resource and requires a permit under the laws regarding the protection of natural resources in article 5-A; or

**5. Grading preliminary to construction.** An excavation or grading preliminary to a construction project unless it is intended to circumvent this article.

**Sec. 23. 38 MRSA §490-C**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 287, §7, is further amended to read:

**§490-C. Notice of intent to comply**

Except as provided in section 484-A, a person intending to operate a borrow pit as a medium borrow pit create or operate an excavation under this article must file a notice of intent to comply before expanding that pit to the total area of excavation on the parcel equals 5 or more acres excavated since January 1, 1970. Both reclaimed and unreclaimed areas are added together in determining whether this 5-acre threshold is met. A notice filed under this

section must be complete, submitted on forms approved by the department and mailed to the municipality, the department, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and each abutting property owner. The notice that is mailed to the municipality and each abutting property owner must be mailed at least 7 days prior to filing the notice of intent to comply with the regulator. The notice that is mailed to the regulator must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. Upon receiving the postal receipt, the owner or operator may commence operation of the borrow pit. The municipality where the proposed excavation is located may submit comments to the department if the proposed excavation may pose an unreasonable adverse impact under the standards in section 490-D. Within 30 days of receipt of the notice of intent to comply, the department must respond to the comments made by the municipality.

A notice of intent to comply is not complete unless it includes all the following information:

**1. Name, address and telephone number.** The name, mailing address and telephone number of the owner of the borrow pit and, if different from the owner, the operator of the borrow pit;

**2. Map and site plan.** A location map and site plan drawn to scale showing property boundaries, stockpile areas, existing reclaimed and unreclaimed lands, proposed maximum acreage of all affected lands, all applicable private drinking water supplies or public drinking water source of supplies sources and all existing or proposed solid waste disposal areas;

**3. Parcel description.** A parcel description and size, by tax map or deed description;

**4. Information on abutters.** The name names and address addresses of abutting property owners;

**5. Signed statement.** A statement, signed and dated by the owner or operator, certifying that the borrow pit excavation will be operated in compliance with this article; and

**6. Fees.** Any fee required by section 490-J.

If the department determines that a notice filed under this section is not complete, the department must notify the owner or operator of the borrow pit no later than 45 days after receiving the notice.

**Sec. 24. 38 MRSA §490-D**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 460, §8, is further amended to read:

**§490-D. Performance standards**

**1. Significant wildlife habitat.** Affected land may not be located in a significant wildlife habitat, as defined in section 480-B, or in an area listed under pursuant to the Maine Natural Heritage Program under

Natural Areas Program, Title 5, section ~~13074-A~~ 13076. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**2. Solid waste.** Solid waste, including stumps, wood waste and land-clearing debris generated on the affected land must be disposed of in accordance with chapter 13, including any rules adopted to implement those laws. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**3. Groundwater protection.** Excavation may not occur within 5 feet of the seasonal high water table. A benchmark sufficient to verify the location of the seasonal high water table must be established and at least one test pit or monitoring well must be established on each 5 acres of unreclaimed land. ~~To further ensure adequate groundwater protection:~~

A. A 200-foot separation must be maintained between any excavation and any private drinking water supply that is a point-driven or dug well and was in existence prior to that excavation;

B. A 100-foot separation must be maintained between any excavation and any private drinking water supply that is drilled into saturated bedrock and was in existence prior to that excavation; ~~and.~~

C. Separation must be maintained between any excavation and any public drinking water source ~~of supply~~ as follows:

(1) For systems serving a population of 500 persons or less, the minimum separation must be 300 feet;

(2) For systems serving a population of 501 persons up to 1,000 persons, the separation must be 500 feet;

(3) For systems serving a population of more than 1,000 persons, the separation must be 1,000 feet; and

(4) For any system that holds a valid filtration waiver in accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the separation must be 1,000 feet.

The department may grant a variance from the provisions of this paragraph upon consultation with the public water supply affected by the excavation. The department may not grant a waiver from the provisions of paragraph A, B or D; ~~and.~~

D. Refueling operations, oil changes and other maintenance activities requiring the handling of fuels, petroleum products, hydraulic fluids, and other on-site activity involving the storage or use

of products that, if spilled, may contaminate groundwater, must be conducted in accordance with the department's spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan. Petroleum products and other substances that may contaminate groundwater must be stored and handled over impervious surfaces that are designed to contain spills. The spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan must be posted at the site.

E. Excavation below the seasonal high water table of an area previously designated for potential use as a public drinking water source by a municipality or private water company is prohibited. If the yield of groundwater flow to protected waters or wetlands is not adversely affected, the department may grant a variance allowing excavation below the seasonal high water table of a mapped significant sand and gravel aquifer, or primary sand and gravel recharge area, or an unconsolidated deposit in other locations.

F. In the event of excavation below the seasonal high water table, the operator of a mining activity that affects a public drinking water source or private drinking water supply by excavation activities causing contamination, interruption or diminution must restore or replace the affected water supply with an alternate source of water, adequate in quantity and quality for the purpose served by the supply. This paragraph is not intended to replace any independent action that a person whose water supply is affected by a mining activity may have.

G. In the event of excavation below the seasonal high water table, a 300-foot separation must be maintained between the limit of excavation and any predevelopment private drinking water supply, and a 1000-foot separation must be maintained between the limit of excavation and any public drinking water source or area previously designated for potential use as a public drinking water source by a municipality or private water company.

~~The separation distance requirements described in paragraphs A, B and C do not apply when the private or public water supply is owned by the owner of the excavation site.~~

The department may grant a variance allowing excavation between 2 and 5 feet of the seasonal high water table. ~~The department may grant a variance allowing reclamation as a pond, provided the pond resulted from excavation below the seasonal high water table prior to October 1, 1993. The separation distance requirements described in paragraphs A, B and C do not apply when the private water supply or~~

public drinking water source is owned by the owner of the excavation site.

**3-A. Medium borrow pits unlicensed on October 1, 1993.** Notwithstanding subsection 3, the following provisions apply to a medium borrow pit that on October 1, 1993 was not licensed under article 6 and on which gravel had been extracted to a level less than 5 feet above the seasonal high water table.

A. The department may not require the medium borrow pit owner or operator to elevate the medium borrow pit floor to 5 feet or more above the seasonal high water table as a condition of operation.

~~B. The department may permit excavation between 5 feet and 2 feet of the seasonal high water table, providing sufficiently detailed information is submitted to allow the department to determine that groundwater will not be adversely affected.~~

C. The medium borrow pit owner or operator may reclaim as a pond that area of the medium borrow pit less than 5 feet above the seasonal high water table.

**4. Natural buffer strip.** Existing vegetation within a natural buffer strip may not be removed. If vegetation within the natural buffer strip has been removed or disturbed by the excavation or activities related to operation of the borrow pit ~~the excavation~~ before submission of a notice of intent to comply, that vegetation must be reestablished as soon as practicable after filing the notice of intent to comply. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**5-A. Protected natural resources.** A natural buffer strip must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and a river, stream, brook, great pond or coastal wetland as defined in section 480-B. A natural buffer strip must also be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and certain freshwater wetlands as defined in section 480-B and having the characteristics listed in paragraph B. ~~Any excavation~~ Excavation activities conducted within 100 feet of a protected natural resource must comply with the applicable permit requirement under article 5-A. The width requirements for natural buffer strips are as follows.

A. A natural buffer strip at least 100 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of the excavation and the normal high water line of a great pond classified as GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified as GPA.

B. A natural buffer strip at least 75 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of

the excavation and any other water body, river, stream, brook, coastal wetland, or significant wildlife habitat contained within a freshwater wetland or a freshwater wetland consisting of or containing:

(1) Under normal circumstances, at least 20,000 square feet of aquatic vegetation, emergent marsh vegetation or open water, except for artificial ponds or impoundments; or

(2) ~~Peatlands~~ Peat lands dominated by shrubs, sedges and sphagnum moss.

For purposes of this subsection, the width of a natural buffer strip is measured from the upland edge of floodplain wetlands; if no floodplain wetlands are present, the width of the natural buffer strip is measured from the normal high water mark of a great pond, river, stream, or brook or the upland edge of a freshwater or coastal wetland. The department may not grant a variance from this subsection.

**6-A. Public and private roads.** A natural buffer strip must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and a road as follows.

A. A natural buffer strip at least 150 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and a road designated as a scenic highway by the Department of Transportation.

B. A natural buffer strip at least 100 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and any public road not designated as a scenic highway by the Department of Transportation. A natural buffer strip at least 25 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of a topsoil excavation and any public road not designated as a scenic highway by the Department of Transportation.

C. A natural buffer strip at least 50 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and any private road or right-of-way. If a private road is contained within a wider right-of-way, the buffer is measured from the edge of the right-of-way. The width of the natural buffer strip adjacent to a private road may be reduced if the applicant receives written permission from the person or persons having a right-of-way over the private road.

Except for paragraph B, the department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection. The department may grant a variance from paragraph B, provided that the variance will not result in the natural buffer strip being reduced to less than 50 feet between the working edge of the excavation and any road and provided that the owner or operator installs visual



screening and safety measures as required by the department.

~~This distance is measured from the outside edge of the shoulder of the road.~~

A distance specified in this subsection is measured from the outside edge of the shoulder of the road unless otherwise specifically provided.

**7. Property boundary.** A natural buffer strip at least 50 feet wide must be maintained between any excavation and a any property boundary. A natural buffer strip at least 25 feet wide must be maintained between any topsoil excavation and a property boundary. ~~This distance~~ These distances may be reduced to not less than 10 feet with the written permission of the affected property owner or owners, except that the distance may not be reduced to less than 25 feet from the boundary of a cemetery or burial ground. The buffer strip between ~~borrow pits excavations~~ owned by abutting owners may be eliminated with the abutter's written permission, provided the elimination of this buffer strip does not increase the runoff from either excavation across the property boundary. All property boundaries must be identified in the field by markings such as metal posts, stakes, flagging or blazed trees. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**8. Erosion and sedimentation control.** All reclaimed and unreclaimed areas, except for access roads, must be naturally internally drained at all times unless a variance is obtained from the department. ~~Berms or other structures may not be constructed to create or maintain internal drainage.~~

A. The area of a working pit may not exceed 10 acres.

B. Stockpiles consisting of topsoil to be used for reclamation must be seeded, mulched or otherwise temporarily stabilized.

C. Sediment may not leave the parcel or enter a protected natural resource.

D. Grubbed areas not internally drained must be stabilized.

E. Erosion and sedimentation control for access roads must be conducted in accordance with the department's best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control.

~~Except for the provisions of paragraph A, the department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, a variance from paragraph A may not result in the combined working pit and stockpile area~~

~~exceeding 15 acres. The department may grant a variance from this subsection, except for paragraphs C, D and E.~~

**9. Surface water protection and storm water management.** Surface water discharges from areas not required to be naturally internally drained may not be increased as a result of storm water runoff from storms up to a level of intensity of a 25-year, 24-hour storm. Structures such as detention ponds, retention ponds and undersized culverts may not be used to meet this standard unless a variance is obtained from the department. ~~Sediment may not leave the parcel or enter a protected natural resource. Grubbed areas not internally drained must be stabilized. Erosion and sedimentation control for access roads must be conducted in accordance with the best management practices for the control of erosion and sediment adopted by the department.~~

Grading or other construction activity on the site may not alter natural drainageways such that the drainage, other than that which occurred before development, adversely affects an adjacent parcels parcel of land, or that the any drainageways flowing from an adjacent parcels parcel of land to the parcel are impeded.

~~**10. Stockpiles.** There may not be more than 2 acres of stockpiles within the working pit at any time. The department may grant a variance from this subsection, except that a variance may not result in the combined working pit and stockpile area exceeding 15 acres.~~

~~**11. Traffic.** Entrances and exits of the borrow pit must be located, posted and constructed in accordance with standards for roadways in rules adopted by the board. Adequate sight distances for entering, exiting and stopping must be maintained in accordance with these standards. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection. The following provisions govern traffic.~~

A. Entrances and exits of the borrow pit must be located, posted and constructed in accordance with standards for roadways in rules adopted by the board. Adequate sight distances for entering, exiting and stopping must be maintained in accordance with these standards. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection. This paragraph is repealed July 1, 1997.

B. Any excavation activity that generates 100 or more passenger car equivalents at peak hour must comply with the applicable permit requirements under article 6. This paragraph takes effect July 1, 1997.

**12. Noise.** Noise levels may not exceed applicable noise limits in rules adopted by the board.

~~The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.~~

**13. Dust.** Dust generated by activities at the ~~borrow pit excavation site~~, including dust associated with traffic to and from the ~~borrow pit excavation site~~, must be controlled by sweeping, paving, watering or other best management practices for control of fugitive emissions. Dust control methods may include the application of calcium chloride, providing the manufacturer's labeling guidelines are followed. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**14. Reclamation.** The affected land must be restored to a condition that is similar to or compatible with the conditions that existed before excavation. Reclamation should be conducted in accordance with the department's best management practices for erosion and sediment control, and must include:

- A. Regrading side slopes to a slope no steeper than 2 1/2 horizontal feet for each vertical foot;
- B. Establishing a vegetative cover by seeding within one year of the completion of excavation. Vegetative cover is acceptable if, within one year of seeding:
  - (1) The planting of trees and shrubs results in a permanent stand or a stand capable of regeneration and succession, sufficient to ensure a 75% survival rate; and
  - (2) The planting of all materials results in permanent 90% ground coverage;
- C. Removing all structures and, once no longer in ~~productive~~ use, reclaiming all access roads, haul roads and other support roads; ~~and~~
- D. Reclaiming all affected lands within 2 years after final grading; ~~and~~
- E. Stockpiling soil that is stripped or removed for use in reclaiming disturbed land areas.

The department may require a bond payable to the State with sureties satisfactory to the department or such other security as the department may determine adequately secures compliance with this article, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the requirements set forth in this article. Other security may include a security deposit with the State, an escrow account and agreement, insurance or an irrevocable trust. In determining the amount of the bond or the security, the department shall take into consideration the character and nature of the overburden, the future suitable use of the land involved and the cost of grading and reclamation required. All proceeds of forfeited bonds or other security must be

expended by the department for the reclamation of the area for which the bond was posted and any remainder returned to the operator.

The board may adopt or amend rules to carry out this subsection, including rules relating to operation or maintenance plans; standards for determining the reclamation period; annual revisions of those plans; limits, terms and conditions on bonds or other security; proof of financial responsibility of a person engaged in excavation activity or the affiliated person who guarantees performance; estimation of reclamation costs; reports on reclamation activities; or the manner of determining when the bond or other security may be discharged. Rules adopted under this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

~~Except for paragraph A, the department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.~~ The department may grant a variance from paragraph A, provided that the slopes exhibit substantial vegetation and are stable. The department may not assess a fee for a request for a variance from paragraph A. The department may grant a variance from paragraph E if the applicant demonstrates that the soil is not needed for reclamation purposes. The department may not grant a variance from the other provisions of this subsection.

**Sec. 25. 38 MRSA §490-E**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is amended to read:

**§490-E. Variances**

~~The owner or operator of a medium borrow pit must comply with the performance standards in section 490-D unless a variance from those performance standards is approved by the department. Except where prohibited by section 490-D, the department may grant a variance from the performance standards in this article if the owner or operator affirmatively demonstrates to the department that the variance does not adversely affect natural resources or existing uses and does not adversely affect the health, safety and general welfare of the public. The department must use the applicable provisions of rules adopted under the site location of development laws to decide upon variances. A variance request must be mailed to the department by certified mail, return receipt requested. At the time a variance request is mailed to the department, a copy of the variance request must be sent to each abutting property owner and to the municipality in which the borrow pit is located. A variance request application must include any fee applicable under section 490-J. The department shall process the variance application according to chapter 2 and the rules adopted by the department for processing an application. An applicant for a variance under this article shall hold a~~

public informational meeting as described in those rules.

The department shall adopt rules that set forth the standards for granting a variance from the performance standards in this article. These rules are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. Those rules must be provisionally adopted and submitted to the Legislature for review not later than January 1, 1997. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8072, subsection 3, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall immediately assign those provisionally adopted rules to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters.

A variance from performance standards may not be granted prior to March 1, 1997 unless the owner or operator requesting the variance had filed a notice of intent to comply under section 490-C prior to the effective date of this paragraph.

The department shall publish a timetable for responding to variance ~~requests~~ applications in the same manner prescribed in section 344-B. A variance is not valid unless approved by the department and, if a municipality is the regulator, the municipality. In making its decision on variance ~~requests~~ applications, the department shall consider comments or information received ~~from abutters~~ and the compliance record of the owner or operator. The department shall inform the owner or operator ~~of the borrow pit~~ of any significant concerns or issues raised ~~by abutters~~.

**Sec. 26. 38 MRSA §490-F, first ¶,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 287, §16, is further amended to read:

~~Before expanding a borrow pit an excavation beyond an area that exceeds a total of 10 acres of reclaimed and unreclaimed land, and before expanding a borrow pit beyond an area that exceeds a total of 20 acres of reclaimed and unreclaimed land each additional 10-acre expansion,~~ the owner or operator shall notify the regulator of an intent to expand and must request an inspection. In the same manner as prescribed in section 344-B, the department shall publish a timetable for responding to inspection requests and shall inspect the site within that time period to determine the ~~pit's~~ excavation's compliance with this article and other applicable laws administered by the department. The department may defer an inspection for a reasonable period when winter conditions at the site prevent the department from evaluating an expansion request. The department shall notify the owner or operator of a deferral under this section. Mining Excavation activities ~~at the pit~~ may continue after the filing of a notice of an intent to expand. The failure of a

regulator to conduct a site visit within a published time period is not sufficient basis for a stop-work order under section 490-H, subsection 1.

**Sec. 27. 38 MRSA §490-G,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is amended to read:

#### **§490-G. Inspections**

The regulator may periodically inspect a site, may examine relevant records of the owner or operator ~~of the borrow pit~~ and may take samples and perform tests necessary to determine compliance with the provisions of this article.

**Sec. 28. 38 MRSA §490-H, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is amended to read:

**1. Stop-work order.** The regulator may order the owner or operator ~~of any medium pit~~ that is not operating in compliance with this article to cease operations until the noncompliance is corrected ~~or until the owner or operator of that pit obtains a permit under article 6.~~

**Sec. 29. 38 MRSA §490-H, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

**3. Reclamation.** If, after an opportunity for a hearing, the commissioner determines that the owner of an excavation site or the person who was engaged in the excavation activity at the excavation site has violated this article, the commissioner shall direct the department staff or contractors under the supervision of the commissioner to enter on the property and carry out the necessary reclamation. The person engaged in mining or any affiliated person who guarantees performance at the excavation site is liable for the reasonable expenses of the necessary reclamation. The commissioner may use the bond or other security to meet the reasonable expenses of reclamation.

**Sec. 30. 38 MRSA §490-I, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is amended to read:

**1. Relation to home rule.** Nothing in this section may be construed to limit a municipality's authority under home rule to adopt ordinances regulating borrow ~~pits,~~ topsoil, clay or silt excavations.

**Sec. 31. 38 MRSA §490-J,** as enacted by PL 1993, c. 350, §5, is amended to read:

#### **§490-J. Fees**

The owner or operator of ~~a medium borrow pit~~ operating an excavation being operated under this article must pay the regulator:

**1. Initial fee.** A fee of \$250 upon filing a notice of intent to comply under section 484-A or 490-C;

**2. Annual fee.** By March 1st of each year, an annual fee of:

A. ~~Two~~ Three hundred and fifty dollars for borrow pits that will have an excavation from which 2,500 cubic yards or more of material will be extracted during that year; and

B. Fifty dollars, for all other ~~borrow pits excavations~~. To be eligible for the annual fee under this paragraph, the owner or operator must include with the payment of this fee a signed statement certifying that ~~the fewer~~ less than 2,500 cubic yards of material will be extracted during that year;

**3. Variance fee.** A fee of \$250 for each variance requested under section 490-E; ~~and, except for the following:~~

A. A fee of \$500 for a variance to excavate below the seasonal high water table;

B. A fee of \$500 for a variance to create an externally drained pit; and

C. A fee of \$125 for a variance to waive the topsoil salvage requirement; and

**4. Notice of intent to expand.** A fee of \$250 upon filing a notice of intent to expand under section 490-F.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the total for all fees paid under subsections 1 and 2 for one borrow pit, clay, topsoil or silt excavation in one calendar year may not exceed ~~\$250~~ \$350.

Payment of the annual fee under subsection 2 is no longer required after reclamation is complete as determined by the department. The department shall inspect the site before making this determination.

**Sec. 32. 38 MRSA §490-K**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 287, §17, is amended to read:

**§490-K. Transfer of ownership or operation**

A person who purchases a ~~borrow pit~~ an excavation that ~~operates~~ is operated under a notice of intent to comply or who obtains operating authority of a ~~pit~~ an excavation that operates under a notice of intent to comply must file within 2 weeks after the purchase or the obtaining of operating authority a notice of intent to comply on a form developed by the department. The new owner or operator may operate the ~~borrow pit~~ excavation during this 2-week period without having filed a notice of intent to comply, providing the new owner or operator complies with all standards under this article.

**Sec. 33. 38 MRSA §490-L**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 287, §17, is repealed.

**Sec. 34. 38 MRSA §490-M** is enacted to read:

**§490-M. Erosion control requirements for clay, topsoil, or silt excavations of less than 5 acres**

An excavation of less than 5 acres of land for clay, topsoil or silt must be conducted and reclaimed in accordance with the following standards.

**1. Stabilization and control.** Sediment may not leave the parcel or enter a protected natural resource as defined in section 480-B. Properly installed erosion control measures must be in place before the excavation begins. Vegetative cover must be established on all affected land. Topsoil must be placed, seeded and mulched within 7 days of final grading. Permanent vegetative cover is acceptable for purposes of erosion control if, within one growing season of seeding, the planting of trees and shrubs results in a permanent stand or a stand capable of regeneration and succession sufficient to ensure a 75% survival rate and the planting of all materials in permanent 90% ground coverage.

**2. Phases.** The excavation must be reclaimed in phases so that the working pit does not exceed 2 acres at any one time.

**Sec. 35. 38 MRSA c. 3, sub-c. I, art. 8-A** is enacted to read:

**Article 8-A**

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR QUARRIES**

**§490-W. Definitions**

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

**1. Affected land.** "Affected land" means all reclaimed and unreclaimed land, land that has or will have the overburden removed, land on which stumps, spoil or other solid waste has or will be deposited and storage areas or other land, except natural buffer strips, that will be or has been used in connection with a quarry.

**2. Airblast.** "Airblast" means an atmospheric compression wave resulting from the detonation of explosives, whether resulting from the motion of blasted materials or the expansion of gases from the explosion.

**3. Blaster.** "Blaster" means a person qualified to be in charge of or responsible for the loading and firing of a blast.

**4. Blasting.** "Blasting" means the use of explosives to break up or otherwise aid in the extraction or removal of a rock or other consolidated natural formation.

**5. Blast site.** "Blast site" means the area where explosive material is handled during the loading of drilled blastholes, including the perimeter formed by the loaded blastholes and 50 feet in all directions from loaded blastholes.

**6. Detonating cord.** "Detonating cord" means a flexible cord containing a center core of high explosives that may be used to initiate other explosives.

**7. Explosive.** "Explosive" means any chemical compound or other chemical substance that contains oxidizing or combustible materials used for the purpose of producing an explosion intended to break or move rock, earth or other materials.

**8. Flyrock.** "Flyrock" means rock that is propelled through the air or across the ground as a result of blasting and that leaves the blast area.

**9. Matting.** "Matting" means a covering placed over load holes and adjacent areas in order to minimize generation of flyrock and limit airblast effects.

**10. Natural buffer strip.** "Natural buffer strip" means an undisturbed area or belt of land that is covered with trees or other vegetation.

**11. Passenger car equivalents at peak hour.** "Passenger car equivalents at peak hour" means the number of passenger cars, or, in the case of nonpassenger vehicles, the number of passenger cars that would be displaced by nonpassenger vehicles, that pass through an intersection or on a roadway under prevailing roadway and traffic conditions at that hour of the day during which traffic volume generated by the development is higher than the volume during any other hour of the day. For purposes of this article, one tractor-trailer combination is the equivalent of 2 passenger cars.

**12. Peak particle velocity.** "Peak particle velocity" means the maximum rate of ground movement measured by any of the 3 mutually perpendicular components of ground motion.

**13. Preblast survey.** "Preblast survey" means documentation, prior to the initiation of blasting, of the condition of buildings, structures, wells or other infrastructures; protected natural resources; historic sites; and unusual natural areas.

**14. Private drinking water supply.** "Private drinking water supply" means a surface water supply, a dug well, a spring or a hole drilled, driven or bored into the earth that is used to extract drinking water for human consumption and that is not part of a public drinking water supply.

**15. Production blasting.** "Production blasting" means blasting conducted for the purpose of extracting or removing natural materials for commercial sale or beneficiation.

**16. Public drinking water source.** "Public drinking water source" means a groundwater well or a surface water source that directly or indirectly serves a water distribution system that has at least 15 service connections or regularly services an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days of the year.

**17. Quarry.** "Quarry" means a place where rock is excavated.

**18. Reclamation.** "Reclamation" means the rehabilitation of the area of land affected by mining, including, but not limited to, the stabilization of slopes and creation of safety benches, the planting of forests, the seeding of grasses and legumes for grazing purposes, the planting of crops for harvest and the enhancement of wildlife and aquatic habitat and aquatic resources. "Reclamation" does not include the filling in of pits and the filling or sealing of shafts and underground workings with solid materials unless necessary for the protection of groundwater or for reasons of safety.

**19. Regulator.** "Regulator" means:

A. For a quarry located wholly within a municipality that is registered under section 490-DD to enforce this article, the municipality; and

B. For all other quarries, the Department of Environmental Protection.

**20. Rock.** "Rock" means a hard, nonmetallic material that requires cutting, blasting or similar methods of forced extraction.

**21. Stemming.** "Stemming" means inert material used in a blasthole to confine the gaseous products of detonation.

**22. Surface blasting.** "Surface blasting" means any blasting for which the blast area lies at the surface of the ground.

**23. Underground production blasting.** "Underground production blasting" means a blasting operation carried out beneath the surface of the ground by means of shafts, declines, adits or other openings leading to the natural material being mined or extracted.

**§490-X. Applicability**

This article applies to any quarry that is more than one acre in size, including reclaimed and unreclaimed areas, or at which underground production blasting is proposed.

This article does not apply to a quarry located wholly within the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission.

This article does not apply to an excavation or grading preliminary to a construction project, unless intended to circumvent this article.

A person with a valid permit for a quarry under article 6 must operate that quarry in compliance with the terms and conditions of that permit. Any modification of the permit must be in conformance with section 484. A person with a permit under article 6 may file a notice of intent to comply with this article. The permit issued under article 6 lapses as of the date a complete notice of intent is filed with the department. If the permittee chooses to substitute a notification pursuant to this article, all terms and conditions that applied to the permit issued pursuant to article 6 are incorporated into the notification approved pursuant to this article.

**§490-Y. Notice of intent to comply**

Except as provided in section 484-A, a person intending to create or operate a quarry under this article must file a notice of intent to comply before the total area of excavation of rock or overburden on the parcel exceeds one acre. Both reclaimed and unreclaimed areas are added together in determining whether this one-acre threshold is exceeded. A notice filed under this section must be complete, submitted on forms approved by the department and mailed to the municipality where the quarry is located, the department, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and each abutting property owner. The notice that is mailed to the department must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. Upon receiving the postal receipt, the owner or operator may commence operation of the quarry.

A notice of intent to comply is not complete unless it includes the following:

**1. Name, address and telephone number.** The name, mailing address and telephone number of the owner of the quarry and, if different from the owner, the operator of the quarry;

**2. Map and site plan.** A location map and site plan drawn to scale showing property boundaries, stockpile areas, existing reclaimed and unreclaimed lands, proposed maximum acreage of all affected lands, all applicable private drinking water supplies or

public drinking water sources and all existing or proposed solid waste disposal areas;

**3. Parcel description.** A description of the parcel including size and deed description;

**4. Legal interest.** A copy of the lease or other document showing that an operator who is not the owner has a legal right to excavate on the property. Stumpage information does not have to be shown;

**5. Information on abutters.** The names and addresses of abutting property owners;

**6. Signed statement.** A statement signed and dated by the owner or operator certifying that the quarry will be operated in compliance with this article; and

**7. Fees.** A fee paid to the department as provided by section 490-EE.

If the department determines that a notice filed under this section is not complete, the department must notify the owner or operator no later than 45 days after receiving the notice.

**§490-Z. Performance standards for quarries**

**1. Significant wildlife habitat.** Affected land may not be located in a significant wildlife habitat as defined in section 480-B, subsection 10 or in an area listed pursuant to the Natural Areas Program, Title 5, section 13076. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**2. Solid waste.** Solid waste, including stumps, wood waste and land-clearing debris generated on the affected land must be disposed of in accordance with chapter 13, including any rules adopted to implement those laws. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**3. Groundwater protection.** To ensure adequate groundwater protection, the following setback requirements must be met.

**A.** A 200-foot separation must be maintained between an excavation and a private drinking water supply that is point driven or dug and was in existence prior to the excavation.

**B.** A 100-foot separation must be maintained between an excavation and a private drinking water supply that is drilled into saturated bedrock and was in existence prior to the excavation.

**C.** Separation must be maintained between an excavation and a public drinking water source as follows:

(1) For systems serving a population of 500 persons or less, the minimum separation must be 300 feet;

(2) For systems serving a population of 501 persons up to 1,000 persons, the separation must be 500 feet;

(3) For systems serving a population of more than 1,000 persons, the separation must be 1,000 feet; and

(4) For any system that holds a valid filtration waiver in accordance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 United States Code, Sections 300f to 300j-26 (1988), the separation must be 1,000 feet.

D. Refueling operations, oil changes, other maintenance activities requiring the handling of fuels, petroleum products and hydraulic fluids and other on-site activity involving storage or use of products that, if spilled, may contaminate groundwater, must be conducted in accordance with the department's spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan. Petroleum products and other substances that may contaminate groundwater must be stored and handled over impervious surfaces that are designed to contain spills. The spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan must be posted at the site.

E. In the event of excavation below the seasonal high water table, a 300-foot separation must be maintained between the limit of excavation and any predevelopment private drinking water supply and a 1000-foot separation must be maintained between the limit of excavation and any public drinking water source or area previously designated for potential use as a public drinking water source by a municipality or private water company.

The department may grant a variance from the provisions of paragraph C upon consultation with the person or entity that controls the public drinking water supply affected by the excavation. The department may not grant a waiver from the provisions of paragraph A, B or D.

Excavation below the seasonal high water table of an area previously designated for potential use as a public drinking water source by a municipality or private water company is prohibited. The department may grant a variance allowing excavation below the seasonal high water table if the applicant demonstrates that the yield of groundwater flow to protected waters or wetlands or public drinking water sources or private drinking water supplies will not be adversely affected by the excavation.

In the event of excavation below the seasonal high water table, the operator of a mining activity that affects by excavation activities a public drinking water source or private drinking water supply by contamination, interruption or diminution must restore or replace the affected water supply with an alternate source of water, adequate in quantity and quality for the purpose served by the supply. This provision is not intended to replace any independent action that a person may have whose water supply is affected by a mining activity.

**4. Natural buffer strip.** Existing vegetation within a natural buffer strip may not be removed. If vegetation within the natural buffer strip has been removed or disturbed by the excavation or activities related to operation of a quarry before submission of a notice of intent to comply, that vegetation must be reestablished as soon as practicable after filing the notice of intent to comply. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**5. Protected natural resources.** A natural buffer strip must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and a river, stream, brook, great pond or coastal wetland as defined in section 480-B. A natural buffer strip must also be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and certain freshwater wetlands as defined in section 480-B and have the characteristics listed in paragraph B. Excavation activities conducted within 100 feet of a protected natural resource must comply with the applicable permit requirements under article 5-A. The width requirements for natural buffer strips are as follows.

A. A natural buffer strip at least 100 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of the excavation and the normal high water line of a great pond classified as GPA or a river flowing to a great pond classified as GPA.

B. A natural buffer strip at least 75 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of the excavation and a body of water other than as described in paragraph A, a river, stream or brook, coastal wetland or significant wildlife habitat contained within a freshwater wetland consisting of or containing:

(1) Under normal circumstances, at least 20,000 square feet of aquatic vegetation, emergent marsh vegetation or open water, except for artificial ponds or impoundments; or

(2) Peat lands dominated by shrubs, sedges and sphagnum moss.

For purposes of this subsection, the width of a natural buffer strip is measured from the upland edge of a

floodplain wetland. If no floodplain wetlands are present, the width is measured from the normal high water mark of the river, stream or brook. The width is measured from the normal high water mark of a great pond and upland edge of a freshwater or coastal wetland.

The department may not grant a variance from this subsection.

**6. Roads.** A natural buffer strip must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and a road as follows.

A. A natural buffer strip at least 150 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and a road designated as a scenic highway by the Department of Transportation.

B. A natural buffer strip at least 100 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of the excavation and any other public road.

C. A natural buffer strip at least 50 feet wide must be maintained between the working edge of an excavation and a private road or a right-of-way. If a private road is contained within a wider right-of-way, the buffer is measured from the edge of the right-of-way. The width of the natural buffer strip adjacent to a private road may be reduced if the applicant receives written permission from the persons having a right-of-way over the private road.

The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of paragraph A or C. The department may grant a variance from paragraph B if the variance does not result in the natural buffer strip being reduced to less than 50 feet between the working edge of the excavation and any road and if the owner or operator installs visual screening and safety measures as required by the department.

A distance specified in this subsection is measured from the outside edge of the shoulder of the road unless otherwise specifically provided.

**7. Property boundary.** A natural buffer strip at least 100 feet wide must be maintained between an excavation and any property boundary. This distance may be reduced to 10 feet with the written permission of the affected abutting property owner or owners, except that the distance may not be reduced to less than 25 feet from the boundary of a cemetery or burial ground. The natural buffer strip between quarries owned by abutting owners may be eliminated with the abutter's written permission if the elimination of this natural buffer strip does not increase the runoff from either excavation across the property boundary. All property boundaries must be identified in the field by markings such as metal posts, stakes, flagging or

blazed trees. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**8. Erosion and sedimentation control.** All reclaimed and unreclaimed areas, except for access roads, must be naturally internally drained at all times unless a variance is obtained from the department. Stockpiles consisting of topsoil to be used for reclamation must be seeded, mulched or otherwise temporarily stabilized.

A. Sediment may not leave the parcel or enter a protected natural resource.

B. Grubbed areas not internally drained must be stabilized.

C. Erosion and sedimentation control for access roads must be conducted in accordance with the department's best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control.

The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of paragraph A, B or C.

**9. Surface water protection and storm water management.** Surface water discharges from areas not required to be naturally internally drained may not be increased as a result of storm water runoff from storms up to a level of a 25-year, 24-hour storm. Accumulated water from precipitation must be put into sheet flow and the discharge point must be directed to an undistributed natural buffer strip. The discharge point must be at least 250 feet away from a protected natural resource. The slope of the discharge area may not exceed 5%.

Grading or other construction activity on the site may not alter natural drainageways so that the drainage, other than that which occurred before development, adversely affects an adjacent parcel of land or so that the drainageways flowing from an adjacent parcel of land to the parcel are impeded.

Structures such as detention ponds, retention ponds and undersized culverts may not be used to meet the standard in this subsection unless a variance is obtained from the department.

**10. Traffic.** The following provisions govern traffic.

A. Entrances and exits of the quarry must be located, posted and constructed in accordance with standards for roadways in rules adopted by the board. Adequate distances for entering, exiting and stopping must be maintained in accordance with these standards. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection. This paragraph is repealed July 1, 1997.



B. Any excavation activity that generates 100 or more passenger car equivalents at peak hour must comply with the applicable permit requirements under article 6. This paragraph takes effect July 1, 1997.

**11. Noise.** Noise levels may not exceed applicable noise limits in rules adopted by the board.

**12. Dust.** Dust generated by activities at a quarry, including dust associated with traffic to and from a quarry, must be controlled by sweeping, paving, watering or other best management practices for control of fugitive emissions. Dust control methods may include calcium chloride as long as the manufacturer's labeling guidelines are followed. The department may not grant a variance from the provisions of this subsection.

**13. Reclamation.** The affected land must be restored to a condition that is similar to or compatible with the conditions that existed before excavation. Reclamation may be conducted in accordance with the department's best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control and must include the following.

A. Highwalls, or quarry faces, must be treated in such a manner as to leave them in a condition that minimizes the possibility of rock falls, slope failures and collapse. A highwall that is loose must be controlled by the use of blasting or scaling, the use of safety benches, the use of flatter slopes or reduced face heights or the use of benching near the top of the face or rounding the edge of the face.

B. A vegetative cover must be established by seeding or planting within one year of the completion of excavation. Vegetative cover must be established on all affected land, including safety benches, except for quarry walls and flooded areas. Topsoil must be placed, seeded and mulched within 30 days of final grading. Vegetative cover is acceptable if within one year of seeding:

(1) The planting of trees and shrubs results in a permanent stand or a stand capable of regeneration and succession sufficient to ensure a 75% survival rate; and

(2) The planting of all material results in permanent 90% ground cover.

Vegetative cover used in reclamation must consist of grasses, legumes, herbaceous or woody plants, shrubs, trees or a mixture of these.

C. All structures, once no longer in use, and all access roads, haul roads and other support roads must be reclaimed.

D. All affected lands must be reclaimed within 2 years after final grading.

E. Topsoil that is stripped or removed must be stockpiled for use in reclaiming disturbed land areas. The department may grant a variance from this paragraph if the applicant demonstrates that the soil is not needed for reclamation purposes.

F. The department may require a bond payable to the State with sureties satisfactory to the department or such other security as the department determines adequately secures compliance with this article, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the requirements set forth in this article. Other security may include a security deposit with the State, an escrow account and agreement, insurance or an irrevocable trust. In determining the amount of the bond or the security, the department shall take into consideration the character and nature of the overburden, the future suitable use of the land involved and the cost of grading and reclamation required. All proceeds of forfeited bonds or other security must be expended by the department for the reclamation of the area for which the bond was posted and any remainder returned to the operator.

G. The board may adopt or amend rules to carry out this subsection, including rules relating to operational or maintenance plans; standards for determining the reclamation period; annual revisions of those plans; limits, terms and conditions on bonds or other security; proof of financial responsibility of a person engaged in excavation activity or the affiliated person who guarantees performance; estimation of reclamation costs; reports on reclamation activities; and the manner of determining when the bond or other security may be discharged.

**14. Blasting.** The applicant must ensure that the blasting is conducted in accordance with Title 25, section 2441.

A. The owner or operator shall use sufficient stemming, matting or natural protective cover to prevent flyrock from leaving property owned or under control of the owner or operator or from entering protected natural resources or natural buffer strips. Crushed rock or other suitable material must be used for stemming when available; native gravel, drill cuttings or other material may be used for stemming only if no other suitable material is available.

B. The maximum allowable airblast at any inhabited building not owned or controlled by the developer may not exceed 129 decibels peak when measured by an instrument having a flat response (+ or - 3 decibels) over the range of 5 to 200 hertz.

C. The maximum allowable airblast at an uninhabited building not owned or controlled by the developer may not exceed 140 decibels peak when measured by an instrument having a flat response (+ or - 3 decibels) over the range of 5 to 200 hertz.

D. Monitoring of airblast levels is required in all cases for which a preblast survey is required by paragraph F. The department may waive the monitoring requirement if the owner or operator secures the permission of affected property owners to increase allowable airblast levels on their property and the department determines that no protected natural resource will be adversely affected by the increased airblast levels.

E. If a blast is to be initiated by detonating cord, the detonating cord must be covered by crushed rock or other suitable cover to reduce noise and concussion effects.

F. A preblast survey is required for all production blasting and must extend a minimum radius of 2000 feet from the blast site. The preblast survey must document any preexisting damage to structures and buildings and any other physical features within the survey radius that could reasonably be affected by blasting. Assessment of features such as pipes, cables, transmission lines and wells and other water supply systems must be limited to surface conditions and other readily available data, such as well yield and water quality. The preblast survey must be conducted prior to the initiation of blasting at the operation. The owner or operator shall retain a copy of all preblast surveys for at least one year from the date of the last blast on the development site.

(1) The owner or operator is not required to conduct a preblast survey if the department determines that no protected natural resource within the limits of the otherwise required survey is likely to be affected by blasting and production blasting will not occur within 2000 feet of any building not owned or under the control of the developer.

(2) The owner or operator is not required to conduct a preblast survey on properties for which the owner or operator documents the rejection of an offer by registered letter.

return receipt requested, to conduct a preblast survey. Any person owning a building within a preblast survey radius may voluntarily waive the right to a survey.

(3) The owner or operator is not required to conduct a preblast survey if the owner or operator agrees to design all blasts so that the weight of explosives per 8 millisecond or greater delay does not exceed that determined by the equation  $W=(D/Ds)^2$ , where W is the maximum allowable weight of explosives per delay of 8 milliseconds or greater, D is the shortest distance between any area to be blasted and any inhabitable structure not owned or controlled by the developer and Ds equals 70 ft./(lb.)<sup>1/2</sup>.

G. Blasting may not occur in the period between sundown and sunrise the following day or in the period between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., whichever is greater. Routine production blasting is not allowed in the daytime on Sunday. Detonation of misfires may occur outside of these times but must be reported to the department within 5 business days of the misfire detonation. Blasting may not occur more frequently than 4 times per day. Underground production blasting may be exempted from these requirements provided that a waiver is granted by the department.

H. Sound from blasting may not exceed the following limits at any protected location:

<u>Number of Blasts Per Day</u>	<u>Sound Level Limit</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>129 decibels</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>126 decibels</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>124 decibels</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>123 decibels</u>

I. The maximum peak particle velocity at inhabitable structures not owned or controlled by the developer may not exceed the levels established in Table 1 in paragraph K and the graph published by the United States Department of the Interior in "Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 8507," Appendix B, Figure B-1. The department may grant a variance to allow ground vibration levels greater than 2 inches per second on undeveloped property not owned or controlled by the applicant if the department determines that no protected natural resource, unusual natural area or historic site will be adversely affected by the increased ground vibration levels. If inhabitable structures are constructed on the property after approval of the development and prior to completion of blasting, the developer immediately must notify the de-

partment and modify blasting procedures to remain in compliance with the standards of this subsection.

J. Based upon an approved engineering study, the department may grant a variance to allow higher vibration levels for certain buildings and infrastructures. In reviewing a variance application, the department shall take into account that the standards in this paragraph and paragraph I are designed to protect conventional low-rise structures such as churches, homes and schools. In cases of practical difficulty, the department may grant a variance from paragraph I if it can be demonstrated that no adverse impacts on existing infrastructures or protected natural resources, unusual natural areas or historic sites will result.

K. Table 1 of this paragraph or the graph published by the United States Department of the Interior in "Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 8507," Appendix B, Figure B-1 must be used to evaluate ground vibration effects for those blasts for which a preblast survey is required.

(1) Either Table 1 of this paragraph or the graph published by the United States Department of the Interior in "Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 8507," Appendix B, Figure B-1 may be used to evaluate ground vibration effects when blasting is to be monitored by seismic instrumentation.

(2) Blasting measured in accordance with Table 1 of this paragraph must be conducted so that the peak particle velocity of any one of the 3 mutually perpendicular components of motion does not exceed the ground vibration limits at the distances specified in Table 1 of this paragraph.

(3) Seismic instruments that monitor blasting in accordance with Table 1 of this paragraph must have the instrument's transducer firmly coupled to the ground.

(4) An owner or operator using Table 1 of this paragraph must use the scaled-distance equation,  $W=(D/D_s)^2$ , to determine the allowable charge weight of explosives to be detonated in any 8 millisecond or greater delay period without seismic monitoring, where W is equal to the maximum weight of explosives, in pounds, and D and D<sub>s</sub> are defined as in Table 1 of this paragraph. The department may authorize use of a modified scaled-distance factor for production blasting if the owner or operator

can demonstrate to a 95% confidence level, based upon records of seismographic monitoring at the specific site of the mining activity covered by the permit, that use of the modified scaled-distance factor will not cause the ground vibration to exceed the maximum allowable peak particle velocities of Table 1 of this paragraph.

(5) Blasting monitored in accordance with the graph published by the United States Department of the Interior in "Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 8507," Appendix B, Figure B-1 must be conducted so that the continuously variable particle velocity criteria are not exceeded.

The owner or operator may apply for a variance of the ground vibration monitoring requirement prior to conducting blasting at the development site if the owner or operator agrees to design all blasts so that the weight of explosives per 8 millisecond or greater delay does not exceed that determined by the equation  $W=(D/D_s)^2$ , where W is the maximum allowable weight of explosives per delay of 8 milliseconds or greater, D is the shortest distance between any area to be blasted and any inhabitable structure not owned or controlled by the developer and D<sub>s</sub> equals 70 ft./lb.<sup>1/2</sup>. As a condition of the variance, the department may require submission of records certified as accurate by the blaster and may require the owner or operator to document compliance with the conditions of this paragraph.

The following is Table 1.

Distance versus Peak Particle Velocity Method

<u>Distance (D) from the blast area (feet)</u>	<u>Maximum allowable peak particle velocity (V<sub>max</sub>) for ground vibration (in./sec.)</u>	<u>Scaled-distance factor (D<sub>s</sub>) to be applied without seismic monitoring</u>
0 to 300	1.25	50
301-5000	1.00	55
Greater than 5000	0.75	65

L. A record of each blast, including seismographic data, must be kept for at least one year from the date of the last blast, must be available for inspection at the development or at the offices of the owner or operator if the development has been closed, completed or abandoned before the one-year limit has passed

and must contain at a minimum the following data:

- (1) Name of blasting company or blasting contractor;
- (2) Location, date and time of blast;
- (3) Name, signature and social security number of blaster;
- (4) Type of material blasted;
- (5) Number and spacing of holes and depth of burden or stemming;
- (6) Diameter and depth of holes;
- (7) Type of explosives used;
- (8) Total amount of explosives used;
- (9) Maximum amount of explosives used per delay period of 8 milliseconds or greater;
- (10) Maximum number of holes per delay period of 8 milliseconds or greater;
- (11) Method of firing and type of circuit;
- (12) Direction and distance in feet to the nearest dwelling, public building, school, church or commercial or institutional building neither owned nor controlled by the developer;
- (13) Weather conditions, including factors such as wind direction and cloud cover;
- (14) Height or length of stemming;
- (15) Amount of mats or other protection used;
- (16) Type of detonators used and delay periods used;
- (17) The exact location of each seismograph and the distance of each seismograph from the blast;
- (18) Seismographic readings;
- (19) Name and signature of the person operating each seismograph; and
- (20) Names of the person and the firm analyzing the seismographic data.

M. All field seismographs must record the full analog wave form of each of the 3 mutually perpendicular components of motion in terms of particle velocity. All seismographs must be ca-

pable of sensor check and must be calibrated according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

#### **§490-AA. Inspections**

The department may periodically inspect a site, examine relevant records of the owner or operator of a quarry, take samples and perform tests necessary to determine compliance with the provisions of this article.

#### **§490-BB. Enforcement and penalties**

The department shall administer and enforce the provisions of this article.

**1. Stop-work order.** The department may order the owner or operator of a quarry that is not operating in compliance with this article to cease operations until the noncompliance is corrected.

**2. Penalty.** A person who violates a provision of this article commits a civil violation and is subject to the penalties established under section 349. Penalties assessed for enforcement actions taken by the State are payable to the State.

**3. Reclamation.** If, after an opportunity for a hearing, the commissioner determines that the owner of an excavation site or the person who was engaged in the excavation activity at the excavation site has violated this article, the commissioner shall direct the department staff or contractors under the supervision of the commissioner to enter on the property and carry out the necessary reclamation. The person engaged in mining or any affiliated person who guarantees performance at the excavation site is liable for the reasonable expenses of this necessary reclamation. The commissioner may use the bond or other security paid under section 490-Z, subsection 13, paragraph F to meet the reasonable expenses of reclamation.

#### **§490-CC. Variances**

An owner or operator must comply with the performance standards in section 490-Z unless a variance from those performance standards is approved by the department. Except when prohibited by section 490-Z, the department may grant a variance from the performance standards in this article if the owner or operator affirmatively demonstrates to the department that the variance does not adversely affect natural resources or existing uses and does not adversely affect the health, safety and general welfare of the public. A variance application must include any fee applicable under section 490-EE. The department shall process the variance application according to chapter 2 and the rules adopted by the department for processing an application. An applicant for a variance under this article shall hold a public informational meeting as described in those rules.

The department shall publish a timetable for responding to variance applications in the same manner prescribed in section 344-B. A variance is not valid unless approved by the department and, if a municipality is the regulator, the municipality. In making its decision on a variance application, the department shall consider comments or information received and the compliance record of the owner or operator. The department shall inform the owner or operator of any significant concerns or issues raised.

**§490-DD. Municipal enforcement; registration**

A municipality may register for authority to enforce this article by adopting and submitting to the commissioner an ordinance that meets or exceeds the provisions of this article. The commissioner shall review that ordinance to determine whether that ordinance meets the provisions of this article and if the municipality has adequate resources to enforce the provisions of this article. If the commissioner determines that the ordinance meets the provisions of this article and that the municipality has the resources to enforce this article, the commissioner shall register that municipality for authority to enforce this article. Immediately upon approval by the commissioner, primary enforcement authority for this article vests in that municipality. The commissioner may not approve an ordinance under this section unless the ordinance requires that any request for a variance from the standards in the article be approved by the commissioner before the variance is valid.

**1. Relation to home rule.** This section may not be construed to limit a municipality's authority under home rule to adopt ordinances regulating quarries.

**2. Optional participation.** This article may not be construed to require a municipality to adopt any ordinance.

**3. Suspension of approval.** The commissioner may act to enforce any provision of this article or suspend the registration of a municipality if the commissioner determines that a municipal ordinance no longer conforms to the provisions of this article or that the municipality is not adequately enforcing this article. The commissioner shall notify a municipality of any such determination in writing. Suspension of municipal registration by the commissioner does not void or in any way affect a municipal ordinance or in any way limit the municipality's authority to enforce the provisions of its ordinance.

**4. Appeal.** A municipality may appeal to the board any decision of the commissioner under this section. Any decision by the board on appeal by a municipality constitutes final agency action.

**§490-EE. Transfer of ownership or operation; review before expansion; fees**

**1. Review before expansion.** Before expanding a quarry beyond an area that exceeds a total of 10 acres of reclaimed and unreclaimed land and before each additional 10-acre expansion, the owner or operator shall notify the regulator of the owner's or operator's intent to expand and must request an inspection. In the same manner as prescribed in section 344-B, the department shall publish a timetable for responding to inspection requests and shall inspect the site within that time period to determine the quarry's compliance with this article and other applicable laws administered by the department. The department may defer an inspection for a reasonable period when winter conditions at the site prevent the department from evaluating an expansion request. The department shall notify the owner or operator of a deferral under this section. Excavation activities may continue after the filing of a notice of an intent to expand. The failure of a regulator to conduct a site visit within a published time period is not a sufficient basis for a stop-work order under section 490-BB, subsection 1.

At the time of filing a notification of intent to expand, the owner or operator shall pay any fee required by this section.

**2. Transfer of ownership or operation.** A person who purchases a quarry that is operated under a notice of intent to comply, as established under section 490-Y, or who obtains operating authority of a quarry that operates under a notice of intent to comply must file within 2 weeks after the purchase or the obtaining of operating authority a notice of intent to comply on a form developed by the department. The new owner or operator may operate the quarry during this 2-week period without having filed a notice of intent to comply if the new owner or operator complies with all standards of this article.

**3. Fees.** The owner or operator of a quarry shall pay the regulator:

**A.** An initial fee of \$250 upon filing a notice of intent to comply under section 490-Y;

**B.** By March 1st of each year, an annual fee of:

**(1)** Three hundred fifty dollars for an excavation from which 2,500 cubic yards or more of material will be extracted during that year; and

**(2)** Fifty dollars for all other excavations. To be eligible for the annual fee under this paragraph, the owner or operator must include with the payment of this fee a signed statement certifying that less than 2,500

cubic yards of material will be extracted during that year;

C. A fee of \$250 for each variance requested under section 490-CC, except for the following:

- (1) A fee of \$500 for a variance to excavate below the seasonal high water table;
- (2) A fee of \$500 for a variance to create an externally drained quarry;
- (3) A fee of \$125 for a variance to waive the topsoil salvage requirement;
- (4) A fee of \$125 for a variance to waive the monitoring requirements for airblasts and ground vibration; and
- (5) A fee of \$250 upon filing a notice of intent to expand under section 490-EE; and

D. A fee of \$250 upon filing a notice of intent to expand under this section.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, the total for all fees paid under paragraphs A and B for one quarry in one calendar year may not exceed \$350.

**Sec. 36. Transition provisions.** A peat mine licensed pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter I, article 6 prior to the effective date of this Act is also considered licensed pursuant to Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter I, article 5-A, as of the effective date of this Act.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 701**

**H.P. 1379 - L.D. 1887**

**An Act to Revise the Salaries of Certain County Officers**

**Mandate preamble.** This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21, two thirds of all of the members elected to each House have determined it necessary to enact this measure.

**Emergency preamble.** **Whereas,** Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** it has become necessary to revise the salaries of certain county officers; and

**Whereas,** it is desired to have these revisions retroactive to January 1, 1995; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §2, sub-§1-B, ¶¶A to D,** as repealed and replaced by PL 1995, c. 500, §1 and affected by §2, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
<u>A. Androscoggin County:</u>		
<u>(1) Commissioners</u>		
<u>(a) Chair</u>	<u>\$6,536</u>	<u>\$6,536</u>
<u>(b) Members</u>	<u>5,595</u>	<u>5,595</u>
<u>(2) Treasurer</u>		
	<u>21,007</u>	<u>21,007</u>
<u>(3) Sheriff</u>		
	<u>30,955</u>	<u>30,955</u>
<u>(4) Judge of Probate</u>		
	<u>12,689</u>	<u>12,689</u>
<u>(5) Register of Probate</u>		
	<u>10,712</u>	<u>10,712</u>
<u>(6) Register of Deeds</u>		
	<u>27,495</u>	<u>27,495</u>
<u>B. Kennebec County:</u>		
<u>(1) Commissioners</u>		
<u>(a) Chair</u>	<u>\$7,438</u>	<u>\$7,662</u>
<u>(b) Members</u>	<u>7,014</u>	<u>7,225</u>
<u>(2) Treasurer</u>		
	<u>9,452</u>	<u>9,452</u>
<u>(3) Sheriff</u>		
	<u>35,906</u>	<u>37,701</u>
<u>(4) Judge of Probate</u>		
	<u>18,210</u>	<u>19,302</u>
<u>(5) Register of Probate</u>		
	<u>23,951</u>	<u>25,388</u>
<u>(6) Register of Deeds</u>		
	<u>25,066</u>	<u>26,500</u>
<u>C. Penobscot County:</u>		
<u>(1) Commissioners</u>		