

Guide to Mines Fee Regulation

Pits and Quarries

Pits or quarries are mines at which mining activities in relation to rock, industrial minerals, limestone, earth, clay, sand or gravel occur.

1. When did the permit fees come into force?

Permit fees became effective April 1, 2015. Fees are charged for applications for pit or quarry permits under the *Mines Act* or amendments to pit or quarry permits. The amount of the fee is based on the maximum annual tonnage of extracted material proposed to be removed in the highest producing year of the permit being applied for.

Operators of low volume pits and quarries, below the set tonnage thresholds in the Mines Fee Regulation, do not pay any fee.

2. What are the fees for?

Fees are charged for applications for new permits and for amendments to existing permits as issued under the *Mines Act*. The amount of the fee is based on the maximum annual tonnage of extracted material proposed to be removed in the highest producing year of the permit being applied for.

Amendments that are administrative or clerical in nature (such as a change of holder address or change in financial institution providing security) are not subject to the fee.

3. When are pit or quarry permit fees paid?

Each time an application for a new pit or quarry permit or an amendment to an existing permit is submitted, and if your operation meets the tonnage criteria set out in the Mines Fee Regulation, you will be required to pay a fee before the application is accepted and processed.

Permit applications will not be processed if payment of permit fees is outstanding.

4. Which pit or quarry operators have to pay the fees?

Irrespective of the tonnage extracted in any one year at a pit or quarry, no permit fee applies in respect of an application for an amendment that, in the opinion of the chief inspector, is merely administrative or clerical in nature. Otherwise, fees are required when an application is submitted for a new permit or for an amendment to an existing permit.

Applicable fees are as follows:

Permit Fees for Pits and Quarries

Column 1	Column 2
Tonnes proposed to be extracted in highest producing year	Permit fee
< 5 000	\$0
5 000 – < 10 000	\$1 500
10 000 – < 20 000	\$3 000
20 000 – < 30 000	\$6 000
30 000 – < 40 000	\$9 000
40 000 – < 50 000	\$12 000
50 000 – < 60 000	\$15 000
60 000 – < 70 000	\$18 000
70 000 – < 80 000	\$21 000
80 000 – < 90 000	\$24 000
90 000 – < 100 000	\$27 000
100 000 – < 130 000	\$30 000
130 000 – < 170 000	\$40 000
≥ 170 000	\$50 000

5. How do the fees work?

When applying for a new permit for a pit or quarry, a Notice of Work must be submitted for authorization with the permit application. The period over which the activities in the Notice of Work are to be undertaken is at the discretion of the applicant.

The tonnage component of the fee is based on the maximum annual tonnage of material proposed to be extracted in the highest producing year of the permit being applied for.

6. If I want to withdraw from the application process can I get a refund of the permit fee?

Refunds will not generally be available upon withdrawal of the application because the permit fee is intended to provide partial cost recovery to the ministry for providing the permitting service. However, there may be circumstances where a refund is appropriate (e.g., where the application is withdrawn before ministry staff begins the application review process).

7. Why are permit fees being charged?

The permit fees are intended to allow the ministry to partially recover the costs of providing its permitting service including application review and referrals.

8. What happens if I don't pay?

Permit applications will not be processed if payment of permit fees is outstanding.