



## CERTIFICATION UNDER THE *DRAFT* SERA STANDARDS

*SERA certification builds upon a growing movement to use resource management standards such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), RainForest Alliance and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), to resolve conflicts. These successful models strengthened the social license to operate within their sector, reducing conflicts in a working environments that were historically contentious and volatile. SERA certification is intended to be similarly transformative for the aggregate industry.*

### **Certification for Existing Operations**

Aggregate sites that are licenced to operate when the *Draft* SERA Standards are released are eligible for SERA certification regardless of their location, subject to meeting the relevant SERA Principles and Core Requirements that bear on compliance, community, respect for First Nations, environmental and water impacts, site stewardship, resource efficiency and traceability.

Licensed operations that obtain SERA certification for above the water table extraction will require further SERA certification for any proposed change to the licence that includes below the water table extraction. The relevant SERA Principles and Core Requirements related to environmental and water impacts will continue to apply. The *Draft* SERA Standards also refer to the need for public involvement in the process to amend the Ministry of Natural Resources Licence.

### **Certification for “New” Operations**

SERA certification offers new aggregate sites the ability to recognize socially and environmentally responsible aggregate practices through their full life cycle. From pre-consultation and footprint design, through to operational practices and rehabilitation, SERA requires annual audits which ensure a site continues to meet SERA’s world-class standards.

SERA certification does not replace or prejudice the outcomes of the government’s regulatory planning and permitting process (including but not limited to *Aggregate Resources Act* and *Planning Act*) but is a complimentary process that certifies sites that recognize the social and environmental expectations of the local community.

**SERA certification offers new aggregate sites the ability to recognize socially and environmentally responsible aggregate practices through their full life cycle.**

Auditors of the SERA certification will assess how a new site measures up against the Standards, specifically the Core Requirements for siting, operational practices and rehabilitation. Certification for new sites may occur before the formal regulatory process is complete, provided that the application has sufficient technical work demonstrating that the siting and pre-consultation requirements of the SERA Standard have been met.



### Obtaining SERA Certification

SERA certification is obtained based on fulfilling the Core Requirements that support the seven SERA Principles. The Core Requirements provide the specific actions that an aggregate site needs to achieve, secure and maintain certification and will be measured against specific Performance Indicators (PI) that will be developed by a balanced group of technical advisors by late 2011.

It is anticipated that between January 2012 and June 2012 field-tests will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of these PIs and the Standards themselves.

### Technical Advisory Committee

The SERA Founding Board will shortly establish a group of technical advisors composed of experts from other jurisdictions and resource management initiatives, representatives from the aggregate industry, environmental and community NGOs. This Committee will be responsible for creating the PIs for the *Draft* SERA Standards and may also assist in the identification and development of implementation guides/directives, as necessary. In keeping with the ISEAL Alliance code of good practice for standard-setting, this Committee will be formed from a balanced group of affected stakeholders.

### Requirements within SERA Certification\*

#### Compliance

- Early engagement of a public advisory committee (PAC) representative of the community and its interests
- Involves PAC in the development of a 'vision' for the life cycle of new aggregate sites
- New operations address siting and footprint design concerns based on the No Go/Maybe/Go Carefully table
- Demonstration of early and ongoing efforts to consult with legally recognized aboriginal communities
- Provide a credible methodology that covers the entire proposed project life, including closure and rehabilitation
- New operations assess Environmental impacts prior to the commencement of any aggregate extraction activities

#### Operation

- Provides benefit to local and affected communities in its hiring and procurement processes
- Meet or exceed SERA Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for site operations with respect to noise pollution, protection of air quality and local traffic concerns
- Compliance with all applicable laws including the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA)
- Applicant periodically issues public site condition reports
- Establish specific time-limits of extraction
- Commitment to adhere to the SERA standards as modified and approved from time to time, through its company mission statement or related public documents

#### Rehabilitation

- Progressive and expeditious completion of final rehabilitation
- Occupied area will be rehabilitated to a state of reasonably acceptable ecological value as defined by SERA
- Rehabilitation and closure plans are developed after having provided affected stakeholders and community an opportunity to provide input, prior to commencing operations

*\*This list is meant to provide general information on the types of requirements included within the Draft SERA Standards. It is not complete and in all instances the Draft SERA Standards provide the final requirements.*