



April 23, 2025

**VIA EMAIL:** [Ministre-Minister@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Ministre-Minister@ec.gc.ca)

[DalhousiePozzolan, PouzzolaneDeDalhousie@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:DalhousiePozzolan, PouzzolaneDeDalhousie@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
Canada

Dear Minister Guilbeault:

**RE: Dalhousie Pozzolan Project**

Please accept this letter from Mi'gmaw'e'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated ("MTI") - an organization that represents the rights and interests of eight Mi'gmaq communities in New Brunswick (Amlamgog (Fort Folly) First Nation, Natoaganeg (Eel Ground) First Nation, Oinpegitjoig (Pabineau) First Nation, Esgenoôpetitj (Burnt Church) First Nation, Tjipôgtôtjig (Buctouche) First Nation, L'nui Menikuk (Indian Island) First Nation, Ugpi'ganjig (Eel River Bar) First Nation and Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation) for consultation and accommodation purposes.

Specifically, we are writing to respectfully request that you, Minister, designate the Dalhousie Pozzolan Project (the "Project") under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*. The Project has not begun, it is still in the planning phase.

Project Description

The proponent of the proposed project is EcoRock LTD. (the "Proponent"). The Proponent contact details are:

EcoRock LTD.  
419D Adelaide Street  
Dalhousie, NB  
Attn: Guy Rousseau, Rejean Carrier, Francis Forlini  
Email:<email addresses removed>

**Mi'gmaw'e'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated**

40 Micmac Rd  
Eel Ground, NB, E1V 4B1

Phone: 506.627.4696  
Fax: 506.627.4605



EcoRock LTD is proposing the project to be located in Heron Bay, The Dalhousie Pozzolan Project, developed by EcoRock Dalhousie Inc., aims to extract and process pozzolan from a deposit in Dalhousie, New Brunswick. Pozzolan can partially replace clinker in cement production, thereby reducing the industry's carbon footprint. The project plans to utilize existing infrastructure, including a quarry, railway, high-voltage power line, and port facilities.

The entirety of the proposed project would be located within the Mi'gmawé'l Tplu'taqnn Title assertion area.

### Project Timeline

- **2024: October:** EcoRock announced plans to establish a steering committee comprising residents, experts, and municipal representatives to guide project development.
- **2025: November-December:** Completion of initial feasibility studies, including assessments of deposit size, quality, and environmental considerations.
- **2026: Mid to Late Year:** Anticipated receipt of necessary permits from New Brunswick's Department of Environment.
- **2027: Early Year:** Commencement of quarry expansion to increase production capacity to approximately 3 million tonnes annually, including 2 million tonnes of pozzolan and 1 million tonnes of construction aggregates.
- 
- **2027: Mid to Late Year:** Initiation of pozzolan extraction and processing operations, contingent upon successful completion of feasibility studies and environmental assessments

### Project Components and Activities:

- **Quarry Operations:**
  - **Phase 1:** Continuation of existing quarry operations to produce construction stone, maintaining current production levels of approximately 55,000 tonnes per year.
  - **Phase 2:** Expansion of the quarry to increase production capacity to approximately 3 million tonnes annually, including 2 million tonnes of pozzolan and 1 million tonnes of construction aggregates. This phase involves reclassifying the quarry as a mine.

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- **Processing Facilities:**
  - Construction of a grinding facility to finely grind extracted pozzolan.
  - Dust capture systems to minimize airborne particles and collect dust for sale as a product.
- **Transportation Infrastructure:**
  - Utilization of existing railway lines for product transport.
  - Enhancements to port facilities to accommodate loading of ships up to 30,000 tonnes for distribution.
- **Environmental and Community Considerations:**
  - Establishment of a 200-meter wooded buffer zone between the quarry and both the Dalhousie Mountain Peak Trail and École Aux Quatre Vents
  - Creation of a conservation area adjacent to the quarry to protect local ecosystems.

#### Regulatory Reviews/Approvals

Under the Impact Assessment Act, we know that certain projects listed in the Physical Activities Regulations, also referred as the “Project List”, undergo federal impacts assessments. While the project extraction and processing fall under industrial activities, they aren’t specifically referred to on the federal list. With that said, we hope this project will still be designated for assessment, as there’s several significant environmental impacts at risk.

On the provincial side, New Brunswick’s Environmental Impact Assessment process requires registration for projects affecting two hectares or more of wetlands. Given this factor, we anticipate the project to undergo the provincial EIA process.

#### Potential Adverse Effects

The Dalhousie Pozzolan Project involves the extraction and processing of pozzolan in Dalhousie, New Brunswick. Considering the potential for significant impacts, including adverse effects to areas within federal jurisdiction – fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, and Mi’gmaq Rights – MTI insists that a federal impact assessment is necessary to ensure thorough and meaningful consideration of these issues.

The project has the potential to cause significant environmental impacts to Mi’gmaq rights including:

Changes to Fish Habitat:

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American Lobster – Lobsters are one of the most culturally and economically important species for Mi'gmaq fishers. They inhabit the Chaleur Bay and are often found in shallow, sheltered areas that could be impacted by sedimentation, pollution, and habitat destruction from the project.

- Run off from operations can lead to sedimentation in the Bay of Chaluer, smothering lobster larvae and reducing the available habitat for adult lobsters.
- Contaminants such as lead, mercury, and cadmium can accumulate in the water, poisoning lobsters directly or affecting plankton and other organisms that lobsters feed on.

Atlantic Salmon is a culturally significant species to the Mi'gmaq. The Atlantic Salmon migrate between freshwater and the ocean to spawn. Their migration routes are highly sensitive to water quality and ecosystem changes.

- The construction and operation of the project will disrupt freshwater habitats.
- Changes to water flow, sedimentation, and barriers in the watercourse could disrupt the natural migration routes of salmon, potentially reducing their ability to arrive to the spawning grounds.

American Eel is also a culturally significant species to the Mi'gmaq. It has been reported that there has been a decline in populations because of industrial activities.

- The dredging activities poses an additional threat to the nursery and feeding grounds of the American Eel. Disruption of the sediment layers can degrade water quality and reduce the availability of food they rely on.

Soft Shell Clams, Bar Clams, Razor Clams, Quahogs, and hard clams are known to the Chaluer Bay. These species are vital to the people of the Mi'gmaq. We know there has been a significant decline and impact to the populations in the area.

- The construction activities proposed will impact the water quality resulting in habitat disturbances and water quality change.

### Species at Risk

There are several species at risk known to be in the area and inhabit or utilize the Chaleur Bay. These species include the Atlantic Salmon, the American Eel, Piping Plover, and the Barrow's Goldeneye.

It is critical that the project undergo a federal Impact Assessment given the presence of these species.

### Migratory Birds

The project area is an important site to migratory birds. The project activities will disrupt nesting sites and feeding areas that are vital to the existences of these species.

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Shorebirds such as Semipalmated Sandpipers, Sanderlings, Yellowlegs, and Whimbrels rely on the Chaleur Bay. Waterfowl, seabirds, and land birds, amongst other migratory birds are also known to the area.

Changes to the shoreline, water quality and project construction would disrupt these species critical feeding and nesting habitats. Cumulative effects and the loss of feeding and nesting sites can have a significant impact on their populations.

### Community Concerns

Community opposition has been well documented, particularly residents from the Gaspé region. These concerns highlight the environmental degradation, irreversible harm to the local ecosystems and the wellbeing of species at risk.

### Lack of Provincial Consultation

The province has not yet initiated proper consultation with the Mi'gmaq regarding the project. This is crucial to ensuring that the impacts of the proposed project are understood and addressed in a way that respects our rights. This warrants a federal IA.

The current provincial EIA process does not sufficiently consider impacts on our Mi'gmaq rights. We need a stronger federal process that ensures Mi'gmaq rights are protected and heard.

The Mi'gmaq are currently excluded from participating and having a seat on the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The lack of Mi'gmaq representation prevents the consideration of the full scope of impacts on Mi'gmaq rights. Given the importance of these considerations, we strongly believe that a federal IA is necessary to ensure Mi'gmaq rights are protected.

The provincial EIA process does not provide funding for a technical review related to Indigenous Knowledge. We are recommending that funding for a technical review be provided through the Impact Assessment Agency (IAA) to ensure that the Mi'gmaq can adequately assess and mitigate impacts to Mi'gmaq rights.

The Mi'gmaq Rights Impact Assessment Framework (MRIA) must be considered and integrated into the provincial EIA process. We would like to reference the province of Nova Scotia and their co-developed process to assess the impacts on the Mi'gmaq Rights. This collaborative approach should serve as best practice and be adopted by other regions. By

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integrating the MRIA Framework, we can ensure that Mi'gmaq rights are fully considered and respected through the assessment process.

### Potential Adverse Impacts on Mi'gmaq Section 35 Rights in New Brunswick

The Mi'gmaq in New Brunswick have inherent and constitutionally protected rights under Section 35 of the Constitution Act. This includes the right to hunt, fish, gather and practice traditional ceremony throughout our traditional territory, including the Chaleur Bay and surrounding areas.

The project may pose adverse impacts to these rights by:

- Affecting the areas near culturally significant marine areas where the Mi'gmaq harvest clams, eel, lobster and other marine species. The disruption to habitat and water quality may affect the exercise of these rights.
- The proposed construction activities will increase industrial activity and possible contamination, which could impact the exercise to traditional hunting, fishing and gathering areas.
- Cumulative effects may add to the existing historical cumulative impacts that have already affected the ability to meaningfully exercise rights due to long history of industrial activity in the region.

MTI urges the IAAC to seriously consider these impacts and undertake a Federal IA to meaningfully address these concerns,

### Requester's Contact Information

Erica Ward  
Impact Assessment Coordinator  
Mi'gmawé'l Tplu'taqnn Incorporated (MTI)  
40 Micmac Road  
Eel Ground, New Brunswick  
E1V 4B1  
Email: <email address removed>  
Phone: <personal information removed>

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Request for Federal Impact Assessment

MTI became aware of the project Given the significance of the potential impacts, MTI respectfully requests that the Minister designate this Project the Impact Assessment Act.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to further engagement on this matter. Please feel free to contact us at your earliest convenience.

Yours in Peace and Friendship,  
<original signed by>

Erica Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
Impact Assessment Coordinator

Cc: MTI Chiefs

Derek Simon, MTI legal  
Dean Vicaire, Executive Director, MTI  
Kristie Halka-Glazier, Energy and Mines Director, MTI  
Eli Larry, Impact Assessment Assistant Coordinator, MTI  
Andrew Mallman, Senior Consultation Anylast, IAAC