

DREDGING AND BLASTING GUIDELINES

Major vs Minor Applications

Applications submitted to the Township of The Archipelago as part of an application to the Ministry of Natural Resources for a work permit to undertake a blasting, dredging or filling will be categorized as ‘Minor’ or ‘Major’ by staff.

- Minor applications are those that:
 - have an insignificant impact on the environment and on the neighbourhood;
 - are considered to be an undertaking involving a relatively minor blast or dredge;
 - provide a benefit specifically to a single property and does not alter existing or potential boat traffic routes for multiple parties.

- Major applications are those that:
 - may have a significant environmental or neighbourhood impact;
 - is considered a complex undertaking;
 - provide access that would benefit multiple properties and/or would potentially alter existing or potential boat traffic routes for multiple parties.

Minor work permit applications can be approved by the appropriate officials in the Planning and/or Building departments. Any such approval/refusal shall be recorded in an appropriate fashion.

Major work permit applications are to make a specific application to Council for their review. The cost of such review will be \$450 if it doesn't require public circulation and \$650 if it does require circulation. Circulation may be recommended by staff or directed by Council and, if possible, will be coordinated with any MNR required consultations. Staff will undertake a site inspection and prepare a report for Council's consideration.

Guidelines

Regardless of whether the application is deemed to be ‘minor’ or ‘major’, it will be evaluated utilizing the following criteria.

Evaluation of projects:

A project’s evaluation can be broken into three sets of guidelines:

- 1) **Project Evaluation Guidelines** - (assessing the merits of an application)
- 2) **Process Guidelines** – (what process should be following in the evaluation)
- 3) **Implementation Guidelines** – (how a recommendation should be implemented)

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

Evaluation Standards

The standard boat for determining navigability has a draft of 2.5 ft.

The standard depth for determining navigability is 3.5 ft.

The depth of water in determining hardship will be based on an average water elevation over the preceding 12 months from the time the application is submitted to the municipality.

For the purposes of determining navigability (as per above) depth will be compared against an average water level of the preceding 12 months.

Criteria

1) Demonstrated Need or Hardship

The applicant should clearly demonstrate why the application is needed and what constitutes the ‘hardship’ for navigation/access.

Assessment criteria may include:

- i) depth of water
- ii) size of boat required for access
- iii) difficulty to navigate channel
- iv) length of channel required?
- v) alternative access routes/docking locations/designs
- vi) does the application appear to be a need or convenience?

In determining Hardship and evaluating ‘need’ consideration needs to be given to:

2) **Impacts to Neighbourhood**

This would be assessed by consideration of:

- i) whether alternate access route creates/reduces traffic impacts to a given area;
- ii) the number of parties benefiting from/ in need of blasting/dredging;
- iii) proximity of proposed dredge/blast to neighbours, their water intakes etc..;
- iv) is the application facilitating development of a lot (i.e. severance);
- v) is the application resulting in increased boating traffic/transient anchorage etc..;
- vi) comments received from neighbours/applicants.

3) **Environmental Impacts**

In general, staff will assess the potential for environmental impacts based on the proximity and scale of the proposal to:

- wetlands
- Fish Habitat

This preliminary assessment will consider the size and sensitivity of these two types of features relative to the scale of the proposed undertaking.

It is understood that the DFO will review and comment on applications which may provide a sufficient environmental review.

Depending on the potential for environmental impacts, staff may recommend and Council may direct that an Environmental Study be undertaken. An environmental impact statement shall, at a minimum include:

1. an assessment of potential impacts at the location of the proposed dredge and/or blast;
2. an assessment of potential impacts of the proposal to surrounding environmental features;
3. recommendations respecting mitigation measures;
4. recommendations respecting potential for successful compensation measures.

Process Guidelines

- 1) Circulation of a 'major' application may be requested at the recommendation of staff and discretion of Council. Circulation timing and distance will be based on the potential for impact, the number of affected residents and the scope of the project.
- 2) DFO comments may be requested prior to Council consideration on 'major' applications.
- 3) Site visit will be undertaken by staff prior to Council consideration

- 4) Staff will review and process minor applications in accordance with these guidelines. Staff will not require neighbouring comments on ‘minor’ applications because of they are considered to be small projects and are not highly technical in nature. Staff will review and provide a report to Council for major applications and on a regular basis will provide a summary report of ‘staff approved/rejected’ projects.

Implementation Guidelines

- 1) The deposit of blast rock will occur in a manner which addresses aesthetic sensitivities. It is understood that the preferred method of depositing waste material is in deep water for larger rock substrate and in a place well back from and hidden from the water. All dredge material that is finer than gravel will be deposited in a location on-land, well back from the water’s edge or as directed by the MNR if requirements are more stringent;
- 2) Pictures of implemented mitigation works (silt screens) will be provided to municipality;
- 3) Any dredging or blasting will result in a channel which is at a minimum 1 metre deep based on a water elevation of 176 m G.S.C.