



Commercial Bluestone Mining Fact Sheet for Landowners with a DEP Conservation Easement



This fact sheet is being provided as a quick reference guide for activities that need Notice and Approval under a DEP Conservation Easement.

Where can I find Commercial Bluestone Mining information in my Conservation Easement Deed?

Commercial Bluestone mining is addressed in Section 4.5 (B) 1 and defined in Section 2C.

When do I need Approval?

When you want to mine Bluestone that will impact an area of more than 10,000 total square feet at one-time.

What is needed when preparing a Bluestone Mining Plan?

Thorough planning of your Bluestone mining operation is important. Just as important, however, is preparing a Bluestone Mining Plan which helps define your project and sets a course of action when conducting activities. Below are the general inclusions that should be in the plan:

- identification of Watercourses, Wetlands, other water resources, and steep slopes,
- location of roads and stream crossings,
- location of areas of exploration and/or extraction (if known),
- identification and location of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be used for reducing erosion, runoff, and stabilizing the site,
- an explanation of how the spoil and/or extracted material will be stored and managed,
- an explanation of how the site will be remediated.

When can I get my Bluestone Mining Plan reviewed by DEP?

- active Bluestone Mines need an approved plan by DEP prior to the time of transfer of the Conservation Easement,
- of course, once you have an easement with DEP, you can submit your plan anytime. We encourage landowners to get their plans approved well in advance of any scheduled mining activities.

What does DEP want to see when considering Bluestone Mining Activities?

Bluestone Mining activities should be planned for, and conducted, so as to avoid impacts to wetlands, watercourses, and riparian areas by:

- avoiding areas of highly erodible soils,
- avoiding riparian buffer areas,
- planning the location of ingress/egress, roads, and stockpile areas before activities begin to avoid steep slopes, erodible soils, and proximity to watercourses as much as possible,

- keeping stream crossings to a minimum and designing them with the most appropriate type of Best Management Practice (BMP) for each crossing,
- obtaining any required permits from New York State, Army Corp of Engineers, local governments, or other agencies,
- using proper BMPs,
- stabilizing the site after extraction is complete.

Why do I need Approval?

Poor mining practices and improper road layout and maintenance can be a source of muddy water that can degrade water quality and impact fish and wildlife habitat. Such occurrences will inevitably be noticed downstream and contribute to poor public opinion of mining. The net result is often public pressure to restrict mining, possibly to the detriment of those interested in sound mining practices.

How should I begin?

Proposals for Bluestone Mining should be reviewed in the following sequence:

- Begin to think about your project considering locations, time frames, goals, and begin to gather maps. Additional copies of the baseline documentation map or other site maps and aerial photos are available from DEP,
- If you need assistance with the planning phase, please contact your DEP Land Steward for a pre-application meeting and site walk,
- Research, and obtain as necessary, the required permits from federal, state, and local agencies,
- Obtain final CE activity review and approval or requests for modifications.

This Fact Sheet is subject to modification – Please refer to your Conservation Easement deed!



Where do I send my application?

**Director of Land Management
City of New York, Department of Environmental Protection
71 Smith Ave, Kingston, NY 12401**

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