

Environmental Protection Agreement Regarding the Port-Daniel-Gascons Cement Plant

2025 Annual Report

Introduction

Section 11.10 of the Environmental Protection Agreement for the Port-Daniel-Gascons Cement Plant (“Agreement”) stipulates that the Environmental Committee must prepare an annual activity report for presentation to the Annual General Meeting of the Mi’gmawei Mawio’mi Secretariat (MMS). This report will then be published on the MMS website.

11.10 Annual Report

The Environmental Committee will prepare an annual activity report to be presented at the MMS Annual General Meeting each year and subsequently published on the MMS website.

This report provides a summary of the main activities for the year 2025.

A — Committee Meeting Schedule

The Environment Committee held three meetings in 2025: on March 18, June 17, and September 23. A fourth meeting, originally scheduled for December 17, had to be postponed and was held on January 6, 2026.

As agreed at the meeting on December 17, 2024, when a meeting cannot be held according to the pre-established schedule, it is immediately rescheduled to another date in order to hold four meetings per year whenever possible.

B – Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP)

Preparatory work for the inventories to be conducted in 2026 as part of the 2026 Biodiversity Management Plan has been completed.

Among other things, the scope of work, methodology, and data collection periods have been defined; the terms of reference, specifications, and other documents required for the request for proposals have been drafted; the budget recommendation for 2026 has been prepared; the process for reviewing and approving the preparatory work, the request for proposals, and the selection of the contractor to whom the contract will be awarded has been defined; and a more precisely defined three-year plan has been developed as part of the ten-year biodiversity management plan.

Surveys will be conducted in two of the four sectors: the quarry and the surrounding areas. They will use a standardized data collection methodology and techniques similar to those used in the 2011–2013 baseline surveys to ensure reliable comparisons, with only the sites and data collection periods differing.

The invitation-only request for proposals is expected to be issued during the first quarter of 2026, including to firms from the three Mi'gmaq communities that can demonstrate the necessary capabilities to carry out the work.

Monitoring Program for Invasive Alien Plant Species and Revegetation

As part of the restoration plan, hydroseeding of plots that are no longer in operation is carried out to cover the permanent storage areas for excavated soil developed during the year.

In 2024, a layer of topsoil ranging from 5 cm to 10 cm was applied to the surface of the area targeted for revegetation that year. Hydroseeding of the area was carried out in 2025, and a follow-up was conducted in late September; photos showed signs of drought. The Maurice-Lamontagne Institute's report on the results of the 2025 follow-up will be presented at the committee meeting in March 2026.

Invasive Aquatic Species Monitoring Program

In 2023, St. Marys Cement began a collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to monitor invasive aquatic species. This collaboration includes the installation of monitoring collectors attached to the marine terminal during the summer months.

In June 2025, St. Marys Cement distributed the Department's newsletter to members of the Environment Committee, detailing the findings of the monitoring conducted in 2024.

Monitoring of Lobster Reefs

Monitoring of the two lobster reefs installed in 2020 at the Port-Daniel-Gascons marine terminal was conducted by PESCA Environnement in 2021, 2023, and 2025, with the following objectives: to verify the stability and overall condition of the reefs; to assess the colonization of the reefs and the surrounding environment by flora and fauna; and to assess the settlement of lobster post-larvae on the central section of the reefs.

The report on the monitoring conducted in August 2025 concluded that the objective of creating two productive, multigenerational artificial reefs for American lobster in Anse à la Barbe Bay had been achieved. The reefs are stable, and no signs of subsidence or siltation in the substrate were observed.

The report was distributed to Committee members following its meeting on January 6, 2026, for their personal use, subject to confidentiality. It concludes the monitoring program for the two lobster reefs.

C — Biomass Project

Although this project falls under the jurisdiction of the Economic Impacts and Benefits Agreement (ERA) Committee, members of the Environment Committee are kept informed of its progress given its environmental impact.

St. Marys Cement has set a goal of reducing the use of petroleum coke in cement production by utilizing low-carbon alternative fuels, such as biomass from forest products and non-recyclable mixed plastics.

During 2025, St. Marys Cement continued the financial evaluation of the project, completed the preliminary steps for the permitting process, and continued negotiations with the MMBC.

D — Rehabilitation of the Caplan–Port-Daniel-Gascons Railroad Section

St. Marys Cement received the environmental authorization certificate from the MELCCFP for the installation and operation of the rail loading facility at its Port-Daniel-Gascons plant. Construction began in 2025, and the rail loading facility

is expected to be operational in the summer of 2026 (shipments took place in January 2026 at a temporary facility).

The St. Marys Cement distribution network uses various combinations of road, marine, and rail transport (the latter two modes have a lower environmental impact than road transport). This facility will reduce the amount of cement transported by truck to the Richmond transshipment facility and slightly increase the volume of cement transported by rail.

E — Mining Claims

St Marys Cement has begun a review of its mining exploration claims to determine which ones it wishes to retain—in which case it must demonstrate activity over the past five years—and whether any can be relinquished. It will provide an update at the March 2026 meeting of the Environment Committee.

F — Communications

A new version of the brochure designed to inform the three Mi'gmaq communities, as well as the cement plant's staff and subcontractors, about the key provisions of *the Environmental Protection Agreement* was distributed to Committee members in April 2025.

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